

THE PROLOGUE OF JOHN'S GOSPEL: CHIASTIC STRUCTURE

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

4 What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, HE GAVE POWER TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

A) The Word with God (vss. 1-2)

B) Role in creation (vs. 3)

C) Gift to humankind (vss. 4-5)

D) Testimony of John (vss. 7-8)

E) The Word enters the World (vss. 9-11)

F) Through the Word, we become God's Children (vss. 12-13).

E') The Incarnation (vs. 14)

D') The Testimony of John (vs. 15)

C') Gift to humankind (vs. 16)

B') Role in redemption (vs. 17)

A') The Son at the Father's side (vs. 18)

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”
as the prophet Isaiah said.

THE ORIGINAL OPENING OF JOHN’S GOSPEL?

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a **witness** (μαρτυρίαν) to (ἵνα) **testify** (μαρτυρήσῃ) to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to **testify** (μαρτυρήσῃ) to the light.

¹⁵John **testified** (μαρτυρεῖ) to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”

¹⁹This is the **testimony** (μαρτυρία) given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”
as the prophet Isaiah said.