



Lecture 2

The Trinity

John 1:1-19 Wuest

In the beginning the Word was existing. And the Word was in fellowship with God the Father. And the Word was as to His essence absolute deity.² This Word was in the beginning in fellowship with God the Father.³ All things through His intermediate agency came into being, and without Him there came into being not even one thing which has come into existence.⁴ In Him life was existing. And this aforementioned life was the light of men.⁵ And the light in the darkness is constantly shining. And the darkness did not overwhelm it.⁶ There suddenly appeared a man upon the human scene, sent off as an ambassador from God's presence, his name, John.⁷ This man came as a witness in order that he might bear testimony concerning the light to the end that all might believe through his intermediate agency.⁸ That man was not the light. But he came in order that he might bear witness concerning the light.⁹ He, the aforementioned Word, was the light, the genuine light which enlightens spiritually every man as it comes into the universe.¹⁰ In the universe He was, and the universe through His intermediate agency came into existence, and the world of sinners did not have an experiential knowledge of Him.¹¹ Into the midst of His own possessions He came, and His uniquely-owned people did not take Him to themselves.¹² But as many as appropriated Him, He gave to them a legal right to become born-ones of God, to those who place their trust in His name,¹³ who, not out of a source of bloods, nor even out of a desire of the flesh, nor even out of a desire of a male individual, but out of God were born.¹⁴ And the Word, entering a new mode of existence, became flesh, and lived in a tent [His physical body] among us. And we gazed with attentive and careful regard and spiritual perception at His glory, a glory such as that of a uniquely-begotten Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.¹⁵ John is constantly bearing witness concerning Him and calls out aloud, saying, This One is He concerning whom I said, The One who comes after me was in existence before me because He preceded me,¹⁶ for out of His fullness as a source we all received, and grace in exchange for grace.¹⁷ Because the law through the intermediate agency of Moses was given, the aforementioned grace and the truth came through Jesus Christ.¹⁸ Absolute deity in its essence no one has ever yet seen. God uniquely-begotten, He who is in the bosom of the Father, that One fully explained deity.

Note that in the beginning was the Word in fellowship with the Father, it does not say the Son, because the Son (Jesus) had become flesh 2000 years ago. There is a change in the second Person of the Trinity. We need to understand this, **THE WORD (Jesus) ENTERED A NEW MODE OF EXISTENCE, BECAME FLESH AND LIVED IN A TENT (PHYSICAL BODY) AMONG US.**

We believers also live in a tent (our physical bodies). Our real being is spiritual and our physical body is temporary, just as the earthly body of Jesus was temporary. In the same way that Jesus's physical body was transformed into a glorified body after the resurrection, we believers will also be transformed into glorified bodies when Jesus comes to take His church (all Christians) with Him.

For us believers, it is essential to know that Jesus is God's Son, because without Jesus being born of a virgin to live and die for us, we could not have been saved. Jesus, both God and sinless Man, is now seated at the right hand of the Father interceding for us (Romans 8:34). He is our High Priest and through Him we have been saved by the Grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-9).

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Hebrews 4:14-16

Having therefore a High Priest, a great One, One who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us be holding fast our confession.¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who is not able to enter experientially into a fellow feeling with our infirmities, but one who has been tempted and tested in all points like as we are, without sin.¹⁶ Let us be coming therefore with boldness to the throne of grace, in order that we may procure mercy and find grace for seasonable help.

So, in the beginning existed the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit.

Now it is the Father, the Word (Jesus, the Son) and the Holy Spirit.

The Word has always existed, He is the creator of all. God, the Word became flesh.

The Holy Spirit

Just as there was a change in the second person of the Godhead (the Word), likewise there was also a change in the role of God the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit was “on man,” in the sense that He would come and go as He ministered the will of the Father for Israel. After Pentecost, the role of the Holy Spirit changed, He now indwells believers and remains in them forever, now believers are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). Thus, we have the second Person of the Trinity experiencing a change of Person and role and also the third person of the Godhead (the Holy Spirit) changing His role in order to fulfil the plan of redemption. Before the resurrection, Jesus, the man-deity was not seated at the right hand of the Father. This happened when Jesus fulfilled all prophecies, the law and the plan of redemption. Jesus ascended into heaven and the disciples all witnessed Jesus physically ascending into heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:31).

John 15:26-27

Whenever the Counsellor comes whom I shall send to you from the presence of the Father, the Spirit of the truth who from the Father's presence proceeds, that One will testify concerning me.²⁷ And you also are bearing testimony because from the beginning with me you are.

God is outside of time. He is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. God is all powerful, He is everywhere and He is all knowing, not limited by time. Again, we are limited by time until that day when we will become like Jesus and have our glorified body which will be like the body of Jesus after the resurrection. Now we are like Jesus in our spirit, where the Holy Spirit dwells. We are sons and daughters of the living God and as believers we have inherited all the promises of God (2 Peter 1:3-4). We are co-heirs with Jesus (Romans 8:17).

1 John 4:17

In this has been brought to completion the aforementioned love which is in us [produced by the Holy Spirit], which love exists in its completed state, resulting in our having unreservedness of speech at the day of the judgment, because just as that One is, also, as for us, we are in this world.

We see how the three persons of the Trinity depend on each other in their roles.

Luke 23:34

And Jesus was saying, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. And distributing His garments among themselves, they cast lots.

John 17:5-6

And now glorify me, Father, beside yourself, with the glory which I was constantly having with you before the universe existed.⁶ I made known your Name to the men whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and your word they have held to firmly.