

Names of God from the Bible

46 – The Word

All God's Names are eternal names – so He is still The Word for us today.

Reading: John 1:1-14

I've heard it said that when John, the disciple, the apostle, the 'one' Jesus loved, was a very old man, his students came to him and asked him to write his Gospel. They told John that they had read the others and posed the question: *When did it all begin? Matthew began his Gospel with Abraham; Dr Luke began his Gospel with Adam, so which is right, when did it all begin?*

John closed his eyes, leaned back in his chair and said, *"Go back, way back. Way beyond Abraham and yes, way back – long before Adam ever existed, before time and creation came into being.*

In the beginning was The Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

I am so grateful to John for writing not only his Gospel but all his writings. You see, for me, John answers the question that so many people ask and struggle with? Who is Jesus? The religious leaders of Jesus' day had the same problem. How could Jesus claim to be older than Abraham?

John's reply was basically: Stop looking at what is in front of you and see reality. Stop taking everything at 'face' value. Stop looking at appearances and see the eternal truth standing in front of you – Jesus, the incarnate Word of God.

Yes, Jesus called Himself Son of Man and Son of God, and the Scriptures had prophesied a Son. However, those names were always to be interpreted in the light of the whole Scripture, not just a few.

The reason for the Son was humanity. God knew that to redeem and reconcile humanity, He would have to come as a Baby, as a Son. But that was so, for the first time, we could understand something of who God is, what He is like. He came as a Baby, so that we would not be afraid, so we could look and live, so we could understand His Words. He came as the Son so He would understand all our emotions, threats, challenges, weaknesses and joys.

But The Word was not created at Christmas! The Word was revealed at Christmas. The Word was incarnated at Christmas.

As the words of the great Christmas Hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful* says, "God of God, Light of Light; Begotten not created."

Or as the Nicene Creed expands the thought and helps us understand the enigma: *I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men (people) and our salvation He came down from Heaven, and by The Holy Spirit was incarnate of the virgin Mary, and became man."*

So yes, Jesus the Son, the Word, is older than Abraham and co-eternal with God.

In Hebrew thought, words have power. They are like arrows that leave our lips and accomplish

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what we intend them to do or hit the target. That is why we have so many problems in Western civilisation. We 'throw' words out so often without thinking and it's not until we see the reaction from our hearers that we wish we could start over again or that the words we had spoken were better left unsaid.

In the beginning we read, "*God said...*" And it was not only done but good. In the Proverbs we read that words can produce life or death. Isaiah, under the inspiration of God, said that God's Word would not return to Him void but would accomplish all He planned and purposed.

The Word was present before, during and post creation. He is the Eternal Word, with all the characteristics of God, including His creative and sustaining power. The Word is God; God is The Word. One God.

What does that name mean for us today

Jesus is not just a human being; He is God, the Eternal Word with all its meaning. Ultimate authority, power and majesty. Whatever Jesus said will be accomplished. Heaven and earth will pass away but His Word will last forever.

Prayer

Father, thank You so much for revealing that Jesus is the Eternal Word, that He is God. That He is One with You. Thank You that, consequently, we can trust Him and everything He said. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Genesis 1:1-26
- Isaiah 55:8-11
- 1 John 1:1-10

Questions

1. What difference does knowing Jesus is the Word make to your understanding of who He is?
2. Has Jesus revealed Himself in this way to you? How and when?
3. How careful are you in the way you use words to speak?