

THE WORD MADE FLESH

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (John 1:14)

THE WORD

The Holy Spirit uses the term "word" in different ways throughout the Bible. When he says the "word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12), he is speaking of God's Word, the Bible.

But "the word" may also refer to the way God created the universe: "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made. . . . He spoke, and it came to be" (Psalm 33:6,9). That is God's creating word.

At the beginning of John's gospel, however, "the Word" is used in a rare and special way. It is the name for the second person of the Godhead. We know him better by the name the angel gave him, "Jesus"; or his title, "the Christ"; or his work, "Savior." But when John calls Jesus "the Word," he is reaching back before our Savior was conceived by the Holy Spirit or born of the virgin Mary. In fact, John is taking us back before the world was created into what we might call eternity past.

Why? Before the creation of the world, Jesus is true God. Although he is distinct from God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, he is one God together with them. That is why the evangelist tells us earlier that "the Word was God" and "through him all things were made."

John uses "word" just the way we use it today. If we want to have a conversation with somebody, we might say, "May I have a word with you?" In the course of that conversation, our friend reveals to us the secret thoughts of his heart with words we can understand.

Before the world began, God the Father also had thoughts hidden deep in his heart. He had thoughts about how he would make the world. He also had plans to save the entire family of Adam and Eve after they fell into sin. If he had kept all these thoughts to himself, we would have been lost forever!

But Jesus is called "the Word" because he is God's conversation with us. From eternity, he has had his ear against his Father's heart. When he came to earth, he revealed to us the hidden thoughts of the Father's heart in a language we could understand.

Today if anyone wants to know the deep mysteries of God's heart, Jesus' words are written in plain language in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

**Prayer:**

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky, we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page, a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age. Amen. (CW 279:1)

**Bible Reading:**

Matthew 5, 6