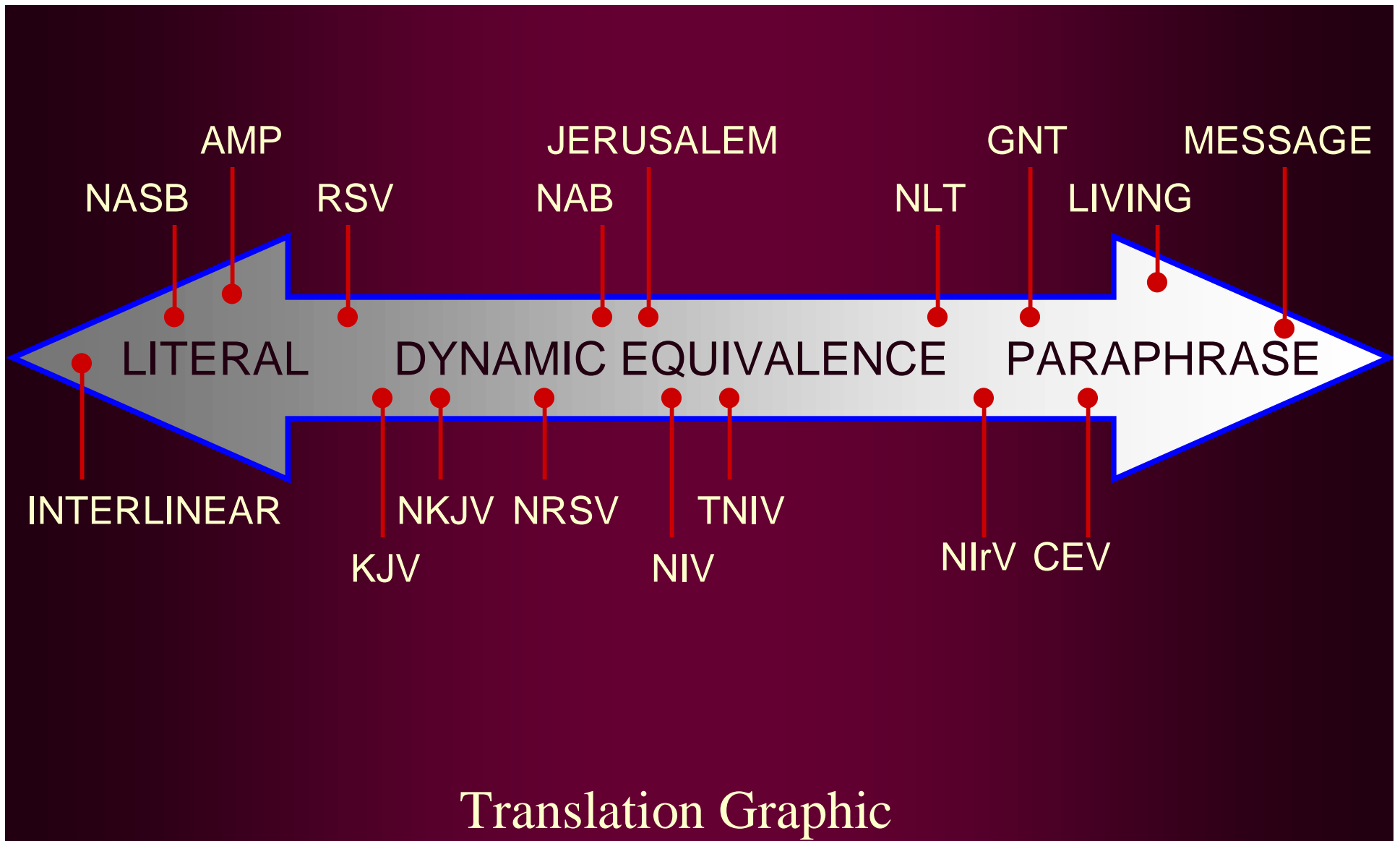


The Gospel of St. John

John 1:1-4

www.azwalker.com/john

L. Walker



(John 1:1-18 NIV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} He was with God in the beginning. {3} Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. {4} In him was life, and that life was the light of men. {5} The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. {6} There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. {7} He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. {8} He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. {9} The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. {10} He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. {11} He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. {12} Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - {13} children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

{14} The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. {15} John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" {16} From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. {17} For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. {18} No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

How to Study the Bible

1. Pray. Don't neglect, overlook, or minimize this very important step. (Psalm 127:1)
2. Use consistent literal interpretation: grammatical, historical, contextual. Base your interpretation on the actual words in their ordinary meaning. Don't go beyond the facts. Don't overlook any facts either! Sometimes the clear meaning is right in front of our face.
3. Don't try to read too much into an analogy, parable, metaphor, or allegory. When Jesus is talking about the four groups of seeds that the sower spread and the various ground it fell upon, don't get carried away by how the soil was conditioned or that birds are evil, etc. Take the story at plane face value.

How to Study the Bible [2]

4. As Tim Ruchtli always reminds me, let's let scripture interpret scripture. What he means is that scripture does not contradict itself (read that God does not contradict Himself). Look at other related texts if the understanding is not obvious. I like to look up lots of cross-references.
5. Never let your interpretation rest on a single point. If your interpretation is based on the exact translation, meaning, tense, or position of a single word, be careful.
6. Understand what is orthodox, what has been revealed over hundreds of years to the community of believers - the church. Research the great catechisms: Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechism, Heidelberg Catechism, and yes, even the Catechism of the Catholic Church (be careful).

How to Study the Bible [3]

7. Get yourself a good study Bible from a reputable source and use those notes and commentaries as your good starting point. I have found both the NIV Study Bible and MacArthur's Study Bible are both good references. Remember what Martin Luther said though, "When the angels want a good laugh they read the commentaries."
8. If you have original language references, use them to help clarify words that differ in various translations. I usually always defer to the expert team of translators over my own skills, but why not look and learn? Just be careful.

John 1:1-4

{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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. {4} In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (ESV)

{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 apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. {4} In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. (NASB)

John 1:1-4

{1} IN THE beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. {2} He was present originally with God. {3} All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being. {4} In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men. (Amplified Bible)

Cross References

John 1:1,2

- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.
- John 5:18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.
- John 17:5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.
- John 20:28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Cross References [2]

John 1:1,2

- Luke 5:20-21 And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
- Romans 9:5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.
- 2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Cross References [3]

John 1:1,2

- Philippians 2:6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
- Colossians 2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
- Titus 2:13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (1 Thessalonians 4:16 - Jesus appears)
- 2 Peter 1:1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:
- Revelation 19:13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

Cross References [4]

John 1:1,2

- Revelation 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
- Revelation 1:17-18 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

John 1:3

- Isaiah 44:24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,
- Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Cross References [5]

John 1:3

- John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.
- 1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

John 1:4

- Psalm 36:9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light. John 5:26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Supremacy of Christ

• Hebrews 1:2-8 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?

Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

John 1:1

{ 1 } In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (ESV)

{ 1 } IN THE beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. (AMP)

I also like to look at other languages for hints...

Jean 1:1 Au commencement était la Parole, et la Parole était avec Dieu, et la Parole était Dieu.

Juan 1:1 (El Verbo hecho carne) En el principio era el Verbo, y el Verbo era con Dios, y el Verbo era Dios.

Johannes 1:1 Im Anfang war das Wort, und das Wort war bei Gott, und das Wort war Gott.

Lexicon / Concordance for Jhn 1:1

Information on Stephens' Textus Receptus (1550)

1 εν αρχη ην ο λογος και ο
λογος ην προς τον θεον και
θεος ην ο λογος

English	Strong's	Greek (Root form)	Tense
(Click on any item below for Concordance)			
in	[1722]	εν en	
the beginning	PHR. [746]	αρχη arche	
was	[2258]	ειμι en	TENSE
the Word,	PHR. [3056]	λογος logos	
and	[2532]	και kai	
the Word	PHR. [3056]	λογος logos	
was	[2258]	ειμι en	TENSE
with	[4314]	προς pros	
God,	[2316]	θεος theos	
and	[2532]	και kai	
the Word	PHR. [3056]	λογος logos	
was	[2258]	ειμι en	TENSE
God.	[2316]	θεος theos	

Information on Westcott-Hort (1881) with NA Variants

1 εν αρχη ην ο λογος και ο
λογος ην προς τον θεον και
θεος ην ο λογος

Our Predecessor's Conclusions

Nicene Creed: (*traditional wording*)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,

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John 1:2,3

- {2} He was in the beginning with God. {3} All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:4

katalambano (καταλαμβάνω) - is that a cool Greek word or what? It means to take, grasp, apprehend, lay hold of, comprehend, come upon, attain, find, overtake, or obtain. Some translate it as "overcome, conquer, or extinguish." Others translate it as "comprehend or understand." Larry's translation would probably read, "and the darkness just didn't get it."

- {4} In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- Criteria for life: criteria: motion, reproduction, consumption, growth, stimulus response

John 1:4

“The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light (*hope, understanding, and revelation*) to everyone.” (NLT – italics added)

Questions

- Why did Jesus have to be God and why is it that many do not *want* Him to be? (1 John 2:2; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 1:18)
- Is the deity of Christ Biblical (list of scriptures provided)?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of God? (John 1:1,14; Luke 1:35; Matthew 26:63-66; John 19:7; Hebrews 1:3; John 17:12)