

In the Beginning

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God. ² The Word was with God in the beginning. ³ All things were created by him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵ And the light shines on in the darkness, but the darkness has not mastered it. ⁶ A man came, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that everyone might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. ⁹ The true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was created by him, but the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, but his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who have received him—those who believe in his name—he has given the right to become God’s children ¹³ —children not born by human parents or by human desire or a husband’s decision, but by God.

¹⁴ Now the Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We saw his glory—the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father.

¹⁵ John testified about him and shouted out, “This one was the one about whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is greater than I am, because he existed before me.’” ¹⁶ For we have all received from his fullness one gra-

cious gift after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. The only one, himself God, who is in closest fellowship with the Father, has made God known.

John 1:1-18 (NET)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation,
¹⁶ for all things in heaven and on earth were created in him—all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers—all things were created through him and for him.
¹⁷ He himself is before all things and all things are held together in him.
¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church, as well as the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he himself may become first in all things.
¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son
²⁰ and through him to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross—through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Colossians 1:15-20 (NET)