

## THE STRUCTURE OF JOHN'S PROLOGUE

John West

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the **Word**,  
and the **Word** was with God,  
and the **Word** was God.

The Word reveals God

<sup>2</sup>**He** was in the beginning with God.

<sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into being.  
What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life,

Creation theme

and the life was **the light** of all people.

<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

Witness to the light

<sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to **the light**,  
so that all might believe through him.

<sup>8</sup>He himself was not the **light**,  
but he came to testify to the **light**.

The true **light**,  
which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;  
yet the world did not know him.

**Word made world**

<sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own,<sup>o</sup>  
and his own people did not accept him.

**World rejects**

<sup>12</sup>**But to all who received him,**  
**who believed in his name,**  
**he gave power to become children of God,**

**Those who receive**

not of blood  
or of the will of the flesh  
or of the will of man,

**Not of the world**

but who were born, of God.

**Born of God**

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Glory / Light  
Witness

<sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out,  
"This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me  
because he was before me.'")

<sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

<sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Creation theme  
Fulness/grace/truth  
(link to new birth)

<sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God.  
It is God the only Son,  
who is close to the Father's heart,  
who has made him known.

The Son reveals God

<sup>10</sup> ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἦν,  
καὶ ὁ κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο,

in the world he-was  
and the world through him was-made

καὶ ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔγνω.

and the world him not did-know  
into his own he-came

<sup>11</sup> εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθεν,

and his own him not did-accept

καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον.

<sup>12</sup> ὅσοι δὲ ἔλαβον αὐτόν,

to those but received him

**ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν τέκνα θεοῦ γενέσθαι,**

**he-gave to them power children of-God to-become**  
those who-believed in the name of-him

τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ,

<sup>13</sup> οἳ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων

who not from blood

οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκὸς

not from will of-flesh

οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρὸς

not from will of-man

but from God he-was-born

## PROLOGUE / Relationship to John's Gospel

### **The Word is God / reveals God**

3:31 The one who comes from above. 4:34 to do the will of him who sent me. 5:17-23 My Father is always at work  
6:25ff Bread of life from heaven discourse. 7:14ff Teaching from God. 8:19ff Know me, know my Father. Identity of Jesus. 10  
Good Shepherd (Father knows me, I Him). 12:44ff see the one who sent me (also 13:20). 14 I in /Father/in me 14:24 these word  
snot my own. 15 Vine relation of disciples to Father and Son. 16:28 I came from the Father. 17:6 I have revealed you (v25 I  
know you).

### **Gives Life/The light of the world / glory, grace and truth. Contrast with law given by Moses**

2:11, 3:19 Light has come, those who live by the truth. 3:24 Ceremonial washing. 4 Samaritan woman living water / where to  
worship. 5:21, 24ff Gives life. 5:44 glory. 5:46 Moses. 6:25ff Bread of Life. 7:19ff Moses & Sabbath 7:37ff Rivers of water. 8:1-11  
Woman caught in adultery. 8:12 Light. 8:32 Truth will set you free. 9 Blindness/seeing. 10:28 Gives eternal life. 11 Lazarus.  
12:46 Come in as light. 13:31-32 Son glorified. 14 Way Truth Life. 14:15ff Spirit of truth (also 16). 17 Prayer to be glorified (v3  
eternal life)(v16 your word is truth). 18:37-38 Pilate and truth.

### **Witness and testimony (Signs)**

1 Disciples follow, Nathanael. 2 Sign: Water to wine. 2:18-19 Jews seek sign. 2:22ff John B. 4 Samaritan woman witness  
4:43ff Heals officials son. 5:1-14 Invalid healed. 5:31ff Testimony. 6:1-14 5000 fed 6:16-24 Walk on water 8:13 Pharisees chal-  
lenge testimony. 9 Man born blind. 10:22ff Testimony of the signs (v40 John B). 11 Lazarus. 15:26-27 Spirit & disciples to testify.  
19:35 the man who saw it testifies. 20 Resurrection. 21:24-25 This is the testimony of the disciple

### **Those who receive/believe. Power to become children of God**

2:11, 2:22, 3 Nicodemus (3:16) 3:35 Whoever believes 4:39-42 Samaritans believe. 5:24ff. 6:60ff Those not believing (& 7:1-13)  
9 Blindness/seeing 10 Good Shepherd (v42 many believed) 11 Martha believes 12:37ff Belief and unbelief. 14 Believe me. 16:30  
-32 Belief and scattering. 17:20 Prayer for those who will believe. 18 Denials of Peter. 19:35 testifies so you may believe. 20:8  
Disciples saw and believed. 20:24ff Thomas' unbelief/belief. 20:30 Jesus did many other things.

**John 11:45** Begins the movement towards the cross.

### **Other themes**

**Water:** 1.baptist, 2.ceremonial, wine, 3.water and blood, 4.well, 5.pool, 6.walk on, 7.rivers/Spirit 9.wash mud, 13.wash disciples,  
19.blood & water

**Spirit:** 7:37-39, 15:26-16:14