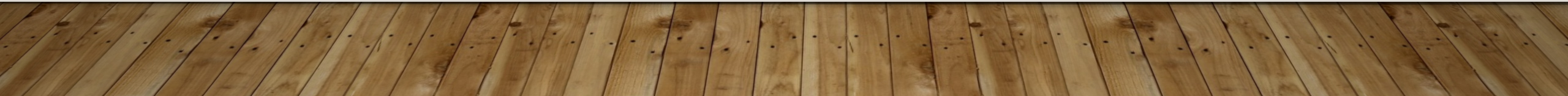


GOSPEL OF JOHN - PROLOGUE (1:1-18)

“IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD ...
AND THE WORD WAS GOD”

APRIL 24, 2023



DOUBLE STORY - STORY OF JESUS STORY OF COMMUNITY

- Story of the Johannine Community - John 9; 12:42; 16:2
 - “We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; question him.” (9:21-23)
 - “Nevertheless, many, even among the authorities, believed in him, but because of the Pharisees they did not acknowledge it openly in order not to be expelled from the synagogue. For they preferred human praise to the glory of God.” (12:42)
 - “I have told you this so that you may not fall away. They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God.” (16:1-2)

DOUBLE IDENTITY CRISIS TEMPLE AND SYNAGOGUE

- Lost of Temple (destroyed by Romans AD 70)
- Lost of Synagogue
 - Synagogue Prayer - “Eighteen Benedictions” Blessing and Curses
 - “For the apostates let there be no hope. And let the arrogant government be speedily uprooted in our days. Let the Nazarenes [Christians] and the Minim [heretics] be destroyed in a moment And let them be blotted out of the Book of Life and not be inscribed together with the righteous. Blessed art thou, O Lord, who humblest the proud.”

PROLOGUE - JOHN 1:1-18

- Structure
 - Preexistence (vv. 1-2)
 - Creation (vv. 3-5)
 - Witness of John the Baptist (vv. 6-8)
 - Reaction to the Word (vv. 9-13)
 - Word Became Flesh (vv. 14-18)

PROLOGUE - BACKWARDS AND FORWARD

- Retrospective - backwards to the beginning
 - OT allusions and echoes
- Prospective - forward to the rest of the Gospel
 - Life, Light, John the Baptist, Witness

BACKWARDS TO OLD TESTAMENT CREATION

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”
(1:1, 5)
- Genesis 1:1-3
 - “In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth—and the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters—Then God said: Let there be light, and there was light...”

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GENESIS 1 TO SIRACH 24 TO JOHN 1

WISDOM (SOPHIA) AND THE WORD (LOGOS)

Wisdom of Ben Sira (Ecclesiasticus, “Church Book”)

- “Wise instruction,...I have written in this book— I, Jesus Ben Eleazar Ben Sira...” (175 B.C.)
- Preexistent Wisdom, Word and Creation (24:1-7)
 - Wisdom Speaks - “In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth” (v. 2)
 - Origin from God” (“From the mouth of the Most High I came forth,” v. 3)
- Wisdom and Word sought a resting place (24:7, John 1:9-11)
 - “Among all these I sought a resting place. In whose inheritance should I abide?”

INCARNATION OF WISDOM AND WORD - SIRACH 24 AND JOHN 1

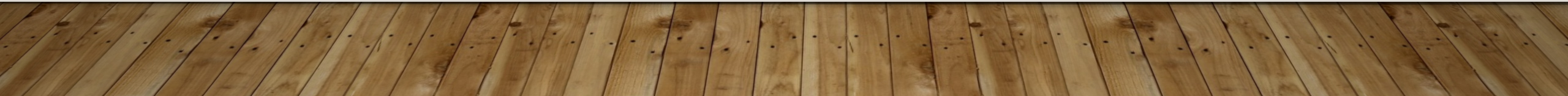
- “Incarnation” of Wisdom (vv 8-12)
 - Sirach: "Then the Creator of all things gave me a commandment, and the one who created me assigned a place for my tent. And he said, Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.'
 - John—“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (v. 14)
- Wisdom = Torah (vv 23-29)
 - Sirach—“All this is the book of the covenant of the Most High God, the Law which Moses commanded us as a heritage for the community of Jacob
 - John (vv. 16-17):
 - “From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

EXOD 33:18-20 — THEOPHANY ON MT. SINAI

MOSES AND JESUS

“Then Moses said, “Please let me see your glory!” The Lord answered: I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim my name, “Lord,” before you; I who show favor to whom I will, I who grant mercy to whom I will. But you cannot see my face, for no one can see me and live.” (Exod 33:18)

“...because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father’s side, has revealed him.”
(John 1:17-18)



READING THE PROLOGUE

PREEXISTENCE AND CREATION

- Preexistent Word and Creation
 - Preexistence of Logos/Word (vv. 1-2)
- Creation (vv. 3-5)
 - All creation through the Logos
 - Creation: Life, Light
 - Conflict: Light vs. Darkness

PROLOGUE: JOHN THE BAPTIST

- Witness to the Word by John the Baptist (vv. 6-8, 15)
 - John's Role
 - Not light
 - Witness to the light
 - “All might believe through him...”
 - “This was he of whom I said, ‘The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’ ” (v. 15)

PROLOGUE

REACTION TO WORD IN THE WORLD (VV. 9-13)

- True light (vv. 4-5) in the world
- World created by the light/logos
 - World did not recognize/know the light
 - Its own did not know/recieve the light
- Whoever received - children of God
 - Receive = believe in him (his name)
 - Children of God: not human but divine begetting

PROLOGUE

WORD BECAME FLESH (VV. 14-18)

- True Light in the World = Logos = Life = Light (vv. 1-5) God's only Son (v. 14)
 - Became flesh
 - John's witness (v. 15) to preexistent light
 - Glory: full of grace and truth
 - Fulness = grace in place of grace (v. 16)
 - Grace of Torah through Moeses
 - Grace and Truth through Jesus Christ
- God made know = Fullness of Grace/Glory

FORWARD - PROLOGUE OR OVERTURE

“LIFE”

- Life (John 1:4)
 - John 3 - Jesus and Nicodemus
 - Born again-Believe in the Son of Man = eternal life (3:15)
 - Theological Reflection (3:16-21, 31-36)
 - God sent his only son
 - Might have eternal life
 - No condemnation but salvation
 - Father loves the Son
 - Believe in the Son have eternal life

PROLOGUE OR OVERTURE

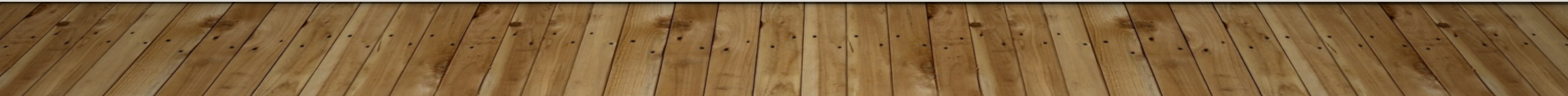
“LIFE”

- Life (John 1:4)
 - John 5:26-29 - Father/Jesus source of Life
 - Father has life in himself
 - Son also has life in himself
 - Son can give life
 - Living Water (John 4) and Living Bread (John 6)

FORWARD - PROLOGUE OR OVERTURE

“LIGHT”

- Light & Judgment (John 3:19-21; 8:12; 12:35-36, 46)
 - “And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.” (3:19-21)
 - Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (8:12)



FORWARD - PROLOGUE OR OVERTURE

“JOHN’S WITNESS”

- John is not the light but witness to the light (1:8-9)
- John’s witness
 - John is not Messiah, Elijah, the prophet
 - Witness to the Coming One (1:27)
 - Behold the Lamb of God (1:29, 35)

FORWARD - PROLOGUE OR OVERTURE

“JESUS IN THE BOSOM OF GOD”

- Jesus and God
 - “No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father’s side (Greek, *kolpos*), has revealed him.” (1:18)
- Jesus and the Beloved Disciple
 - “One of his disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was reclining at Jesus’ side (Greek, *kolpos*)” (13:23)
 - Beloved Disciple (BD)
 - BD & Peter at Jesus’ arrest (18:15); BD & Jesus Mother (19:26), BD & Peter racing to Tomb (20:2), BD recognizes Jesus (21:7). BD as disciple of John Baptist (1:35–40)