

It is always a joy to open the Word of God together, line by line and verse by verse, allowing the Scriptures to speak directly to our hearts. When we turn to the opening verses of the Gospel of John, we are immediately met with profound, foundational truths about who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish.

Let's read together from the Gospel of John:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." (John 1:1-5)

Stepping back to observe the infinite mind of our Creator is truly awe-inspiring. The physical universe reveals a depth and intricacy that far exceeds anything human wisdom could design. When we examine the cosmic descriptions throughout Scripture alongside modern scientific concepts, we are left marveling at the mystery of creation.

Consider a hologram: illuminated by natural light, it appears as nothing more than a blurred, two-dimensional image. But when struck by a laser, that same surface reveals a vivid, three-dimensional reality. Scripture functions in much the same way. To an unregenerate heart, the Bible can seem confusing or obscured. Yet, when a believer approaches the Word through the illuminating light of the Holy Spirit, the text springs into focus—revealing deeper layers of divine truth the more it is read.

The Bible is a remarkable book. It is simple enough for a child to grasp its central message, yet so profound that a scholar can spend a lifetime studying it without ever exhausting its depth.

Historical Old Testament scribes believed the Scriptures contained profound, embedded truths—even regarding how God structured space-time and the universe. Whether their specific interpretations were fully accurate is less important than what their reverence reveals: a conviction that the knowledge God has provided in His Word is limitless.

We see a compelling parallel to this infinite depth in the natural world. In mathematics and physics, there are fundamental values known as dimensionless constants. These are pure, unitless ratios that remain constant regardless of human systems of measurement. The most familiar example is Pi ($\pi \approx 3.14159$), which defines the unchanging relationship between the circumference and diameter of a circle.

There is a second dimensionless constant that you may not have encountered unless you have spent time in advanced mathematics or physics: the number e , which forms the base of natural logarithms. Mathematically formally identified around the era of the Reformation, e carries a value of approximately 2.71828. In calculus, e possesses the unique property where its rate of growth equals its own exact size at any given moment. Because of this, it is woven into the very fabric of nature—appearing in wave mechanics, electrical theory, quantum physics, and even the distribution of prime numbers.

Now, consider the two foundational creation passages in the entire Bible.

First, we look at Genesis chapter 1, verse 1:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."— Genesis 1: 1

In the original Hebrew text—where every single letter historically doubles as a numerical value—if you take the total number of letters multiplied by the product of those individual letter values, and divide that total by the number of words multiplied by the product of the word values, the mathematical result yields the value of Pi accurate to four decimal places.

When we turn to the New Testament and examine the parallel creation passage in the Gospel of John, we see something equally staggering:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."— John 1:1

If you take the original Greek text of Gospel of John chapter 1, verse 1 and apply that exact same mathematical formula, the result yields the value of e accurate to four decimal places!

To discover these two universal constants embedded within the very mathematical architecture of Genesis chapter 1, verse 1 and Gospel of John chapter 1, verse 1—written thousands of years before modern science formalized these concepts—shatters any idea of human coincidence. It points directly to a divine Author who stands outside of our physical time domain.

This reality reminds us that our physical universe is not the ultimate reality, but a temporary tapestry crafted by a far greater, divine Reality. God's written Word reflects the exact same signature as His physical creation.

As the writer of Hebrews declares:

"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."— Hebrews 11:3

Practical Application

This profound truth ought to settle our anxious hearts today. The same sovereign God who calculated the fundamental constants of the cosmos and inspired the precise structure of Holy Scripture is the very One holding your life together right now.

When your circumstances feel uncertain or the world around you seems chaotic, you do not have to live in fear. You can anchor your soul on the unshakeable reliability of God's Word. The God who designed the cosmos down to the smallest mathematical ratio is the God who cares for you personally.

A Challenge for Believers

My challenge for you as a follower of Jesus this week is to let this truth deepen your reverence for the Scriptures. Don't treat your Bible like an ordinary book or let it sit on a shelf gathering dust.

Set aside deliberate time every day this week to open the Scriptures with a heart ready to listen. Approach God's Word with wonder, knowing that every word, every letter, and every line is intentionally placed by the Spirit of God. Trust that the God of cosmic detail has every single detail of your life fully in His hands.

The Self-Existent Creator

In these opening words, John introduces us to two overarching themes that weave throughout his entire Gospel: Life and Light.

When John writes that "in Him was life," he uses the Greek word *zoe*, which refers to spiritual, eternal life, rather than mere physical existence (*bios*). Jesus possesses life in Himself. In theology, this is known as self-existence—having no beginning, relying on nothing outside of Himself to exist, and deriving His life purely from within His own divine nature. Only God is self-existent. Therefore, John establishes from the very first verse the absolute deity of Jesus Christ.

This truth sets the Creator apart from all of creation. Everything in our universe falls into the category of "becoming." Creation changes, ages, and depends on external sources to sustain it. But God does not change. There was a point when the physical universe (space-time) did not exist, but there was never a point when God did not exist.

This foundational truth is anchored in the very first verse of Holy Scripture:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."— Genesis 1:1

Because this truth establishes God's absolute ownership over His creation, it is often the most heavily resisted by those who reject Him. To eliminate the truth of creation is an attempt to eliminate the Creator, leaving people to live according to their own desires without accountability. Yet the Scriptures make it clear: Jesus is the eternal, self-existent Being through whom all things were made, and in Him alone is the source of all life.

The Nature of Real Life

Life is man's most important asset. To lose physical life is a tragedy, but to lose spiritual life is a catastrophe. In the Gospel of John, the apostle affirms that in the absolute ultimate sense, true life is found only in Jesus Christ. Both our physical existence and our spiritual life come directly from Him. Jesus, who declared Himself to be the source of life, is also the light of men.

In the Scriptures, light is consistently used as an emblem of God's truth, holiness, and presence. Darkness, on the other hand, denotes death, ignorance, sin, and separation from our Creator. The prophet Isaiah foresaw the glorious coming of salvation when he wrote that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Matthew records the fulfillment of that prophecy when Jesus began His earthly ministry. Throughout John's Gospel, the word life appears repeatedly because Jesus came into our broken world for one primary purpose: to impart eternal, spiritual life to sinners who were spiritually dead in their transgressions.

To really grasp this glorious reality, we have to journey back to the beginning to see how God designed us and where humanity fell.

In Genesis chapter one, verse twenty-seven, the Word of God says:

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

This single verse reveals our foundational design specifications. We were intentionally crafted in the image of God. He designed us in His image so that we could fellowship with Him and experience the very quality of life that He experiences. Jesus expressed this divine desire when He said in John chapter ten, verse ten:

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

God's abundant life isn't about material wealth or earthly ease; it is a life transformed from the inside out. Apostle Paul describes the dynamic outworking of this divine life in Galatians chapter five, verses twenty-two and twenty-three:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

We were created to experience this rich, spiritual life that only God provides. But when we distrust God, that trust is broken, and separation occurs. To be separated from God is to be separated from the very source of life itself. A person living apart from God isn't truly living; they merely exist physically, completely devoid of spiritual life. When Adam disobeyed God in the Garden, he experienced immediate spiritual death (separation God the source of life), the seed of physical death was planted, and that fallen state was passed down to all of humanity.

In Genesis chapter two, verse seven, the Scriptures record:

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

With this divine breath, man became a unique creation. Only human beings are made in the image of God with a spiritual capacity to know Him. The word for breath in the Hebrew text is *ruach*—a word that echoes the very sound of breathing—and it is the exact same word used for Spirit, just as *pneuma* is used in Greek. God brought man to life by placing His own breath, His Spirit, within him. Man did not evolve; he was specially created by the direct, intimate act of God breathing life into him.

God then placed man in a perfect environment with clear boundaries. In Genesis chapter two, verses sixteen and seventeen, we read:

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'"

The Tree of Life was provided in the Garden to sustain eternal communion with God, and praise God, Revelation tells us that the Tree of Life awaits believers in the heavenly Paradise. But what about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?

Some people incorrectly view that second tree as a trap or a "temptation tree" placed there by God. But the Scriptures are crystal clear on this point. In James chapter one, verse thirteen, we are told:

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."

God did not place that tree there to entice Adam and Eve into sin. Rather, He placed it there to give humanity a genuine choice. Love and trust cannot be forced; for genuine love to exist, there must be the freedom to choose. The tree symbolized God's ultimate authority and sovereignty. By commanding them not to eat from it, God provided Adam and Eve with the opportunity to actively choose to trust Him, obey His authority, and enjoy His life throughout eternity.

Furthermore, many people read God's warning—"in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"—and view it as an angry threat, as if God were saying, "If you disobey Me, I will strike you down." But that misses the loving heart of the Father entirely. God was not threatening Adam; He was lovingly warning him of the natural, inevitable consequence of distrust and disobedience. Because God is the sole source of life, turning away from Him inherently results in death. To reject the Source of life is to step into spiritual darkness.

In His incredible grace, God grants each of us a physical lifetime to make the most critical decision of our existence: whether or not we want Him in our lives. We need to choose carefully, because our eternal destination hinges on this decision.

In Hebrews chapter nine, verses twenty-seven and twenty-eight, the Word reminds us:

"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many."

When our physical life on this earth ends, every single one of us will stand before Jesus Christ. If we have surrendered our hearts to Him and received His free gift of salvation by grace through faith, we will be welcomed into His joyful, eternal presence. But if a person continually chooses to reject Jesus, God will ultimately grant them what they have chosen: an eternity of absolute separation from Him, His light, His love, and everything good that originates from His character.

In closing, John chapter 1, verse 5 states:

And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. (John 1:5)

Light's nature is to shine and dispel darkness. Darkness is almost personified in this verse: darkness is unable to overpower light. By this, John summarized his Gospel record:

1. Light will invade the dominion of darkness.

2. Satan the ruler and his subjects will resist the light, but they will be unable to frustrate its power.
3. The Word will be victorious in spite of opposition.

Practical Application for the Believer

If you have put your trust in Jesus Christ, you have passed from spiritual death into eternal life! The Spirit of God—that same ruach—indwells you today.

1. Abide in the Source: Since Jesus is your life, stop seeking spiritual fulfillment in the dry wells of the world. Spend time daily in His Word and in prayer, yielding to the Holy Spirit so that His fruit—love, joy, peace, and self-control—can flow naturally through your daily walk.
2. Walk as Children of Light: You live in a world shrouded in spiritual darkness. Let the light of Christ shine through your actions, your words, and your integrity at work, at home, and in your community.

A Challenge for Our Daily Walk

My challenge for you this week is simple: examine where you are placing your trust. Are there areas in your life where you are subtly choosing self-reliance over trusting God's authority? Identify one area—whether it's a decision at work, a struggle in a relationship, or an anxious worry about the future—and explicitly surrender it to the Lord. Choose to trust His divine boundaries and His loving word above your own desires.

An Invitation to Receive Life

If you are reading this today and you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, understand that God loves you deeply. You may be physically breathing, but deep down, you know there is a spiritual emptiness inside—a separation from the God who designed you. You cannot earn His favor, and you cannot fix your sin on your own.

The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ took the penalty of your sin upon Himself when He died on the cross, and He rose from the dead so that you could be forgiven. God offers you the gift of eternal life today. He will not force Himself upon you; the choice is yours.

If you want to step out of spiritual darkness and enter into abundant, eternal life, turn from your sin (i.e., repent) right now and place your faith in Jesus. Pray in your heart: *"Lord Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner separated from You. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. Today, I turn from my sin and put my trust in You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive me, cleanse me, and fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Teach me to walk with You. Amen."*

If you made that decision today, welcome to the family of God—your true life has just begun.