

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

SUNDAY SCHOOL

07/03/2022

The Creating Word Becomes Flesh

John 1:1 – 14

Section Review

Partners in a New Creation

The Word: The Agent of Creation

- **June 2022 – God Delivers and Restores**
Isaiah encourages the captives in Babylon of their deliverance from captivity and the promise of future restoration to a better state than they were before, and a forward look to the salvation of the entire world through Jesus Christ

07/03/2022

Background

- The Gospel of Mark is considered the oldest. Over 75% of Mark's content can be found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, forming what is known as the 'synoptic Gospels' because of how they mirror each other
- The Gospel of John stands out from the others as its own narrative and gives the strongest proclamation of Jesus' divinity
- The Gospel of John was written by the Apostle John, whom Jesus instructed to care for His mother Mary when He left (**John 19:25-29**)

07/03/2022

Background

- The Apostle John also became the leader of the Church in Ephesus
- During the reign of Roman Emperor Domitian, John refused to worship him and because of his testimony of Jesus Christ, he was exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation
- It is widely believed that John is the only Apostle that died of old age and not of martyrdom

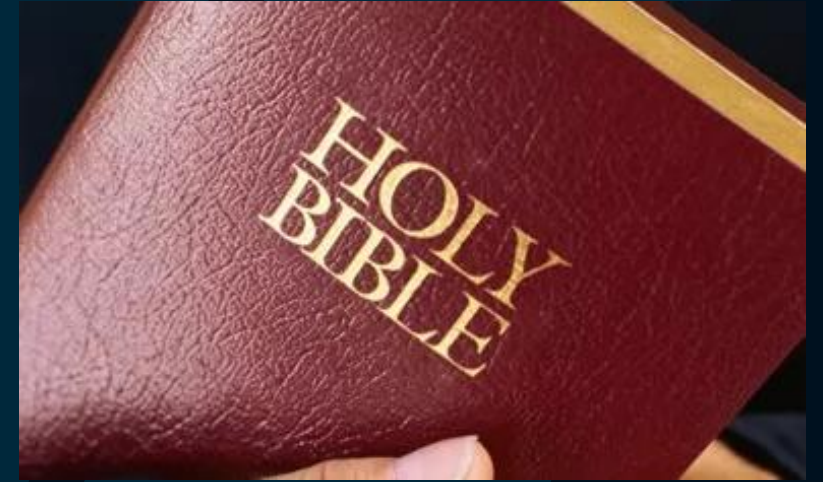
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Lesson Text

The Eternal Word

JOHN 1:1 – 5 (NKJV)

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 nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not ^[a]comprehend it.



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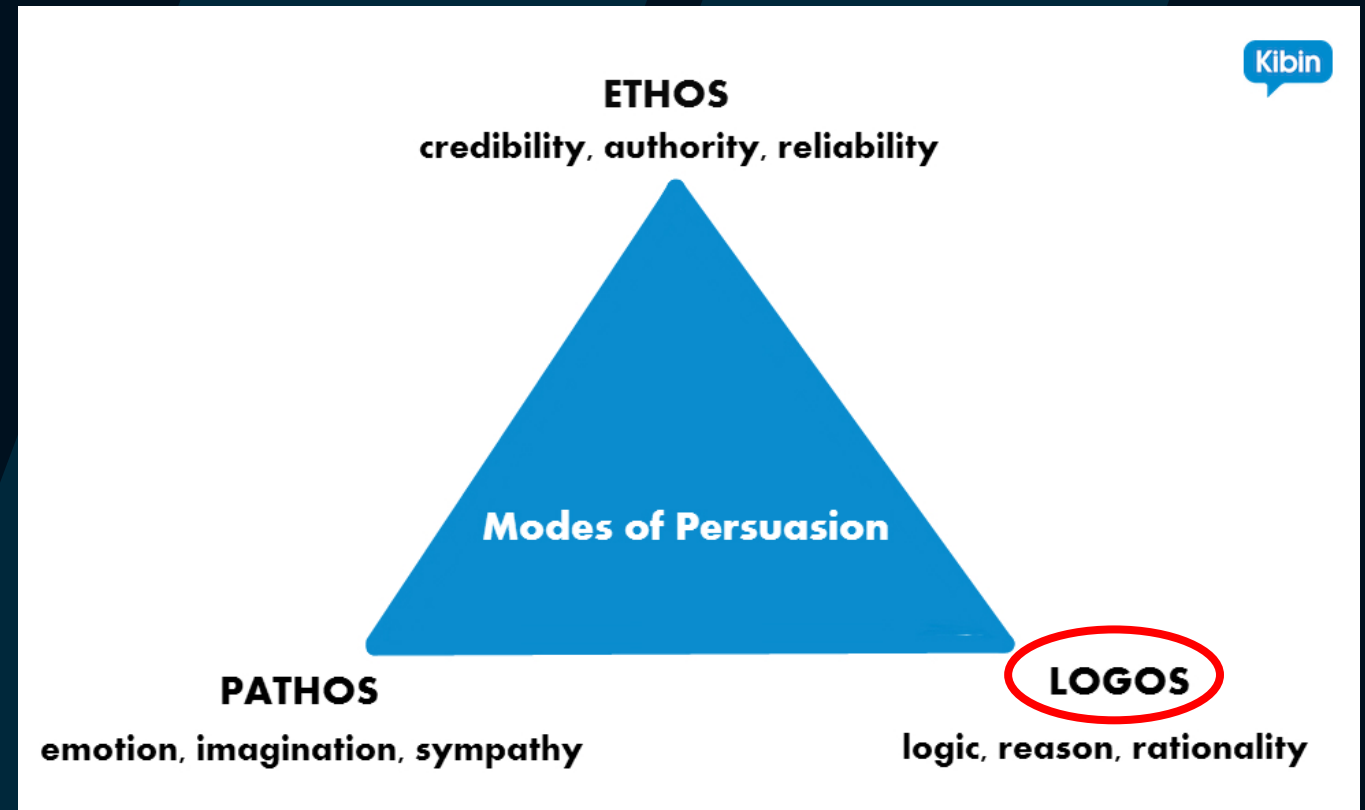
Commentary: Logos

- *"And the Word(logos) became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."*
 - Psalm 33:6
- The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Old Testament. "logos" is used in the place of 'Word' each time it refers to words from God (e.g. "the Word of the LORD")
- To Jews – particularly Hellenistic Jews (Jews who speak Greek and have adopted some Greek culture, the translation goes beyond merely meaning 'word' but it is a reference to God Himself

07/03/2022

Commentary: Logos, Ethos, Pathos

- The Greek philosopher Aristotle relied heavily on persuasion to make his arguments. He divided the means of persuasion into 3 these 3 appeals
- The point of each appeal represents ultimate representation or source of that appeal (i.e. divine quality)



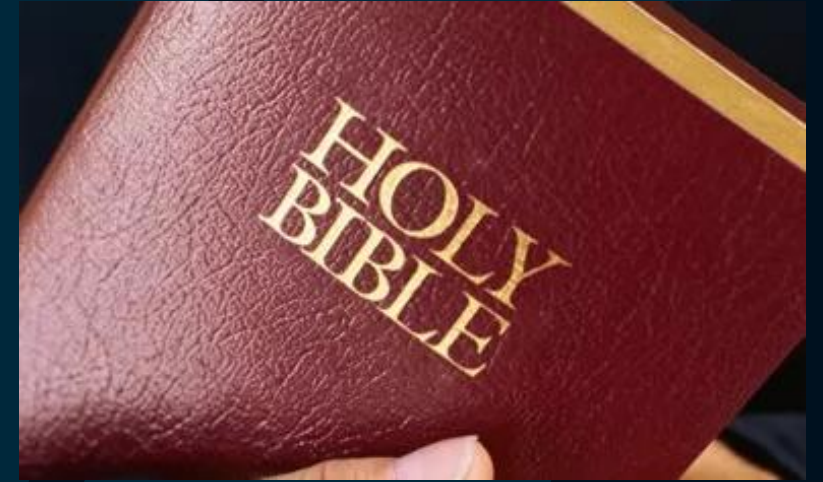
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Lesson Text

John's Witness: The True Light

JOHN 1:6 – 9 (NKJV)

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ⁹ That^[b] was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.



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Commentary: Jesus is Light

- The word “light” appears 6 times in today’s passage. The term is used to reflect different aspects of God’s expectation in us:
- **Light as Love(agape)**: Can we love as God loves?
- **Light as Truth**: The light that helps us grasp the reality of who God is and who we are in Him. The light that helps us find meaning and fulfillment? The light that helps us live successfully on the Earth and with others
- **Light as Power**: The light that empowers us to become like Him and to affect the world for Him
- **Light as Grace**: The light helps understand that how we come to Him is of His design, not ours

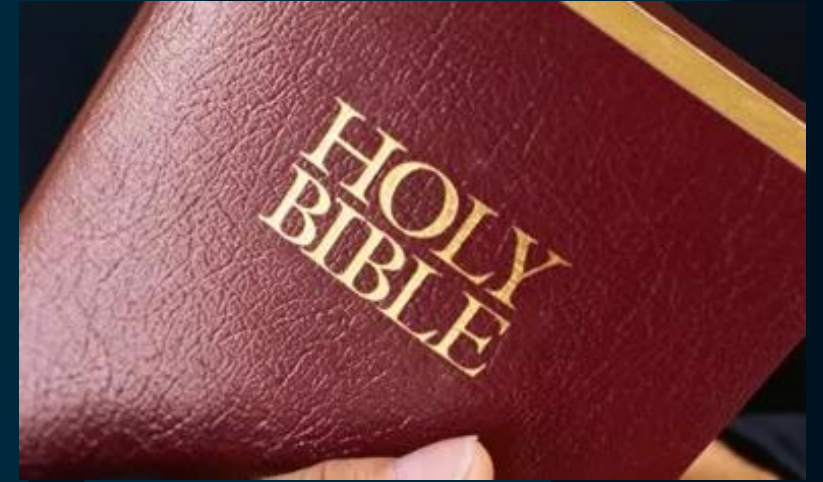
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Lesson Text

John's Witness: The True Light

JOHN 1:10 – 12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His ^[c]own, and His ^[d]own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the ^[e]right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:



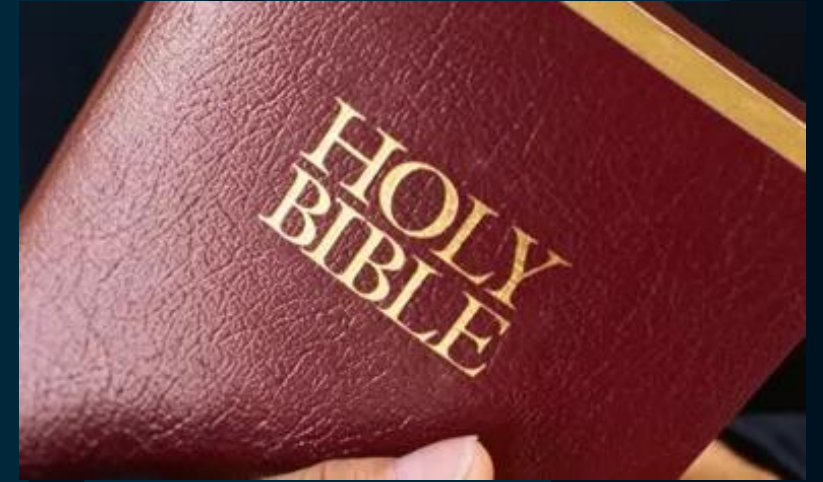
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Lesson Text

The Word Becomes Flesh

JOHN 1:13 – 14 (NKJV)

¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.



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Commentary: Under Grace

- Living under grace acknowledges that there is nothing that we can do to save ourselves – not our ancestry or the family we belong to, not our works, or even our own desire
- We must receive what has been given to us
 - Accept
 - Believe
 - Confess
- Because Jesus dwelt among us, He could fully understand our condition and the remedy

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Commentary: Expectations

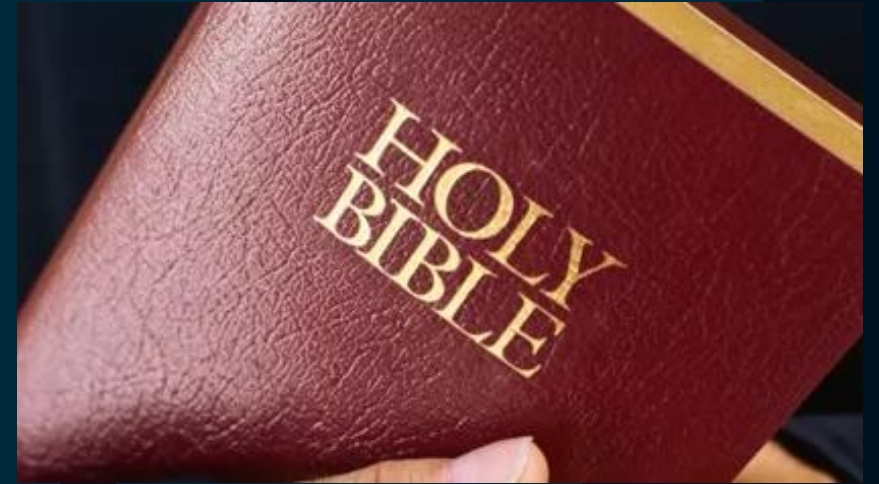
- Our expectations and biases can greatly affect how we receive information or people
- Because Jesus did not come to conquer Rome militarily, many doubted in who He was
- *"And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." – John 1:46*
- **But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." – Mark 6:4**

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Scripture References



Refer to Scriptures

Church School Creed & Benediction

CREED

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a **Christian**
Every Christian a **worker**
Every worker **trained**
A worker that **will not be ashamed**
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

BENEDICTION

We have come
We have studied
We have learned
So until our next coming together
To study God's word
May His rich blessings reside with you
And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN