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Short Study 005: The Creative Word

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Read John 1:1-14.

Of the four Gospels, that of John had the greatest emphasis on the deity of Christ. From the start, he introduces Jesus as *The Word*. Along with all the books of the New Testament, John's Gospel is translated from the Greek. The word John used for *Word* (no pun intended) was *Logos*. A Greek thinker on reading this would understand this to mean *the divine thought* which upholds the universe - the principle behind all existence. A Jewish reader would be reminded of the Genesis account of Creation, where the spoken word of God ("God said ….") brought things into being. Notice how verse 2 speaks about the *Logos* in creation. Read Genesis 1:1-27 and count how many times "God said" occurs before every act of creation. See also Psalm 33:6.

Thus, by using this expression John immediately linked Greek and Jewish readers, but notice how the concept develops:

(i)   The *Logos* existed *in the beginning* (v1) =   He was pre-existent.

(ii)   He was *with God* (v1)
                        = He is supernatural.

(iii)   He *was God* (v1)
                                = He is divine.

(iv)   He *became flesh* (v14)
                = He was incarnate.*

How does this compare with Hebrews 1:2 and who is this verse referring to?

To think about: What does this tell about who Jesus is?

To dig deeper: Read a Bible Dictionary, Bible Encyclopaedia or Lexicon on the word *Logos* (note: you will probably find it as a sub-division under "Word").

* Embodied in human form.