International Bible Study Commentary



Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

The Greatest Communicator

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1). Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Creation and the Bible reveal God is the Greatest Communicator. When God began to create the heavens and the earth, we read the first words God spoke in Genesis 1:3, "Let there be light." The light shined in the darkness and God separated the darkness from the light, and God saw that the light was good (see Genesis 1:3-4). The heavenly host heard and saw all God did in the creation of the world. God spoke real words that could be understood, and the results of His words could be seen as God created. God communicates clearly with us, and the Bible reveals the first words God spoke. In the Bible, we learn what God's words accomplished as God created from the beginning. Throughout the Bible, we learn that God is good, God always does what is good, and God does what He says.

Through the Apostle John, God revealed that Jesus Christ is the Word of God and the Creator God. In John 1:1-4, we learn: "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 came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people." Jesus Christ, the Word of God, created all things in the beginning. The light and life in the world came by, in, and through the words and works of Jesus Christ before He became a man and lived among us. Jesus Christ came into the world as the light of the world so human beings could see how He perfectly fulfilled the words of God. In John 8:12, Jesus promised: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." In John 7:16-17, Jesus amazed the crowds when He declared, "My

teaching is not mine but his who sent me. Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own." Jesus Christ, the Word of God, communicated what God intended to do through Him, and the heavenly host and human beings saw God do all that God intended and said through His Son. They heard God declare what He would do; and as in the beginning, they saw that everything Jesus did was good, and He did what He said. When Jesus Christ came, He revealed more about God by His words, His works, and His presence. All God intended to do and did through Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh, was good and will remain good for God's children forever.

During the creation of the world, the heavenly host saw and heard the very words of God and they saw the good and perfect achievement of all God said. God is the Greatest Communicator, and God is a Good and a Perfect Communicator. When Jesus Christ came into the world, human beings also saw Jesus do all things well. Human beings and the heavenly host saw how Jesus, the Word of God, achieved what God had promised to do through the Messiah He promised to send when He spoke through the prophets. The Gospels in the New Testament communicate what Jesus said and did. In the New Testament, we see Jesus. In human flesh, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came as the Greatest, the Good, and the Perfect Communicator. For this reason, among others, God the Father commanded: "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5).

In the Old Testament, God revealed how sin entered a good world and what God planned to do about it. In the New Testament, God more fully communicated how He would take away sin through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. In John 1:29, we read the words of John the Baptist about the primary purpose of Jesus: "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John's words may be the most important words for the world and for us that John the Baptist ever spoke. Jesus takes away sin. Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit those who receive and accept Him as their Lord and Savior. Someday. Jesus will take away the sin of the world.

One of the most comprehensive descriptions of how the Word of God makes God the Greatest Communicator and Creator can be found in Hebrews 1:1-4. "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs." As the author wrote his letter, as I copied his words for you to read, and as you read his words, the powerful Word of God, Jesus Christ, sustained the author and still sustains us and our whole world. The Word of God keeps the world in existence momentby-moment. In Colossians 1:15-17, the Apostle Paul wrote of Jesus: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Jesus gives us life, and Jesus keeps us alive moment-by-moment. His followers will happily live with God forever.

From the Bible, we learn what God communicated to the heavenly host and eventually to us when God created the world with, by, and through the Word of God. We learn how God created a good world, how sin and evil entered this good world, and how God takes away the sin of the world and our sins through the Word of God. Because God communicates through creation, through the words and works of Jesus Christ, and through the whole Bible, we know the cause of all life's ills (the world's sins and our sins). We know the cure for sin (the grace of Jesus Christ and faith in Jesus Christ). In John 14:26, Jesus promised all who follow Him: "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." The Greatest Communicator is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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