THE BOOKFOLIO

I AND MY FATHER
ARE ONE

THE WORD WAS GOD

SAGA 1 • JOHN 1



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SAGA 1 — THE WORD WAS GOD

All Scripture is from the King James Version. The words of Jesus are printed in red.

A new series of sagas about who Jesus is: Christ is God — one God — and the Father is the Father, the Son is the Son, and the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit.

THE KEY VERSES

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

"And the Word was made 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."
— JOHN 1:14

THE SAGA — THE WORD WAS GOD (JOHN 1)

Come back with me. Back before Bethlehem. Back before the manger, before Mary, before Abraham. Back before there was a sun to rise or a sea to roll. John does not start his book with the birth of Jesus. He starts before the beginning of everything.

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

Church, I want you to notice what John is saying. The Word did not begin. The Word already was. He was not alone, and He was not less than God. He was with God — and He was God. Everything you can see, and everything you cannot see, came through His hands:

> "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." — JOHN 1:3

And in Him there is life — and that life is a light for men:

> "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." — JOHN 1:4-5

The Light came into a dark world. The darkness could not understand Him, and the darkness could not put Him out. Then God sent a man named John — John the Baptist. John was not the Light, and John said so himself. John was a witness. His whole job was to point at the Light and say, "There He is." That is still the job of every witness today: we do not shine for ourselves. We point at Him.

The One who made the world stood in the world He made — and the world did not know Him. He came to His own

people, and His own people would not receive Him. But some did. And to every person who received Him, He gave a gift no man can give:

> "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" — JOHN 1:12

Then came the wonder no one could have dreamed. The Word became a body. God came close enough to touch. Men walked with Him, ate with Him, heard Him, and saw His glory with their own eyes:

> "And the Word was made 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." — JOHN 1:14

Down at the river Jordan, John saw Jesus coming toward him through the crowd. John lifted up his voice so that everybody there could hear him:

> "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." — JOHN 1:29

And John told what he had seen at the baptism — heaven opened, and the Spirit of God came down like a dove and stayed on Jesus. Then John finished his witness with the plainest words a man can say:

> "And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God." — JOHN 1:34

JESUS IN THIS SAGA

Jesus is not just in this saga. Jesus IS this saga. The Word John is talking about is Jesus — from the first line to the last.

He did not begin in Bethlehem. Bethlehem is where He came to us — but He was already there before the beginning, with the Father, and He was God. He is not a man who became a god. He is God who became a man.

Everything was made by Him. Think about that. The hands that made the stars are the same hands that were later nailed to a cross for us. And He came in flesh for a reason — so that we could see the Father. No man has ever seen the Father at any time. But the Son, who is close to the Father's heart, has shown Him to us:

> "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." — JOHN 1:18

So if you want to know what the Father is like, look at Jesus. And the gift He gave then, He still gives now: to as many as receive Him, He gives power to become the sons of God.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS SAGA

Watch where the Holy Spirit stands in this chapter. He does not pass by like a wind and disappear. He comes down — and He stays.

God gave John a sign before it ever happened. God told him: the Man you see the Spirit come down on, and remain on — that is the One. So when John baptized Jesus and saw it with his own eyes, John knew exactly who He was. Hear John's own record:

> "And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." — JOHN 1:32-33

The Spirit resting on Jesus is heaven's proof of who Jesus is. And notice one more thing: the same Jesus the Spirit remained on is the One who baptizes with the Holy Ghost. The Spirit did not come to point at Himself. The Spirit came to show us Jesus — and He stayed on Him, so there could be no mistake.

THREE AND ONE

Now stop, and look at John 1 slowly. Three Persons stand in this one chapter — and there is only one God.

THE FATHER

"The Word was with God." From the very beginning, the Son was with the Father — Person with Person, face to face, before anything was made. The Father is the Father. The Son is in His bosom: close to His heart (John 1:18).

THE SON

"The Word was God." The Son is not a second god, and He is not a smaller god. He is God — the same one God — and He was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). The Son is the Son: truly God, and truly come in a body.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit descended from heaven like a dove, and He remained on the Son (John 1:32). The Spirit is His own Person. He comes down, He rests, He bears witness — and everything He does shows us Jesus.

Three Persons. One God.

Not three Gods. Not one Person wearing three faces. The Father is the Father, the Son is the Son, and the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit — and they are one.

THINK ABOUT IT

Jesus asked His disciples a question. It is a question He still asks every one of us today:

> "But whom say ye that I am?" — MATTHEW 16:15

Peter answered Him:

> "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." — MATTHEW 16:16

1. Now it is your turn. Who do YOU say that He is? Do not answer quick. Sit with it. Then write your answer on the journal page — in your own words, from your own heart.

2. If the Word already was before the beginning, can Jesus be only a good man who lived and died? What does "the Word was God" do to that idea?

3. John said he was not the Light — he was only a witness, pointing at the Light. Who in your life needs you to point at Jesus, the way John did?

4. The Spirit did not only visit Jesus for a moment. He remained on Him. What does it mean for you that the Holy Spirit comes to stay with God's people — not just to visit, but to stay?

CARRY THIS WITH YOU TODAY

Carry John 1:1 with you today: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Before your day began, Jesus already was. Before your trouble began, He already was. And He was God — so nothing in this day is bigger than Him.

JOURNAL

Who do YOU say that Jesus is? Write it in your own words. Then write what it means to you that He was God before the beginning — and that He came close enough to touch.



ABOUT THIS SAGA

Before there was a world, before there was a beginning, the Word already was. He was with God, and He was God. Then He came close — the Word was made flesh, and men saw His glory with their own eyes.

This is the first saga of a new series. It walks into John 1 slowly: the Word before the beginning, the Light coming into the world, John pointing at the Lamb, and the Holy Spirit coming down to stay on Jesus.

This book is Saga 1 of "I and My Father Are One," a new series of sagas about who Jesus is: Christ is God — one God — and the Father is the Father, the Son is the Son, and the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

— JOHN 1:1 (KJV)

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