

Thus one may see the other Evangelists with great exactness giving the account of our Saviour's genealogy in the Flesh, and bringing down step by step those from Abraham unto Joseph, or again carrying up those from Joseph to Adam. But we find the blessed John not caring to be over-studious about these, but with a most fervent and fire-full motion of intellect endeavouring to lay hold of those very things that are above human mind, and daring to explain the unspeakable and unutterable Generation of God the Word. For he knew that the glory of God hideth speech, and greater than our idea and utterance is the God-befitting dignity, and hard to utter and most difficult of unfolding are the properties of the Divine Nature.

But since there was no slight disturbance in regard to these things amongst them that had believed, and the ill of the scandal thereof was consuming like a plague the souls of the simpler (for some drawn away from the true doctrines by their prattle imagined that the Word was then barely called to the beginning of Being, when He became Man), those of the believers who were wiser being assembled and met together, came to the Disciple of the Saviour (I mean this John) and declared the disease that was pressing upon the brethren, and unfolded to him the prattle of them that teach otherwise, and besought that he would both strenuously assist themselves with the illumination through the Spirit, [10 and stretch forth a saving hand to those who were already within the devil's meshes.

The disciple grieving then over them that were lost and corrupted in mind, and at the same time thinking it most unnatural to take no forethought for those that should succeed and come after, betakes himself to making the book: and the more human side, the genealogy of the legal and natural Birth according to the flesh, he left to the other Evangelists to tell at fuller length; himself with extreme ardour and courage of soul springs upon the prattle of those who are introducing such things, saying, IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD. [11

JOHN

ΙΩΑΝΝΗΝ

Recalls
Genesis... "In
the beginning
God created...
Genesis,
speaks of first
creation in
Adam, who
brought sin
and death into
the world,
Christ is the
second Adam,
new creation
in him, who
brings
redemption
and new life.

In the beginningⁱ was the Wordⁱⁱ, and the Word was withⁱⁱⁱ God, and the Word was^{iv} God.² He was in the beginning with God.³ All things^v were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγοςⁱⁱ, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸςⁱⁱⁱ τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν^{iv} ὁ λόγος.² οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν θεόν.³ πάντα^v δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν. ὃ γέγονεν.

logos, (Logos is analogous to the Wyrd, Way, Tao, Law etc. Greek: "word," "reason," or "plan") plural logoi, in ancient Greek philosophy and early Christian theology, the divine reason implicit in the cosmos, ordering it and giving it form and meaning.

ⁱBeginning - (Gr. ἀρχή)

St. Basil the Great, Hexameron - "The beginning, in effect, is indivisible and instantaneous. The beginning of the road is not yet the road, and that of the house is not yet the house; so the beginning of time is not yet time and not even the least particle of it. If some objector tell us that the beginning is a time, he ought then, as he knows well, to submit it to the division of time — a beginning, a middle and an end. Now it is ridiculous to imagine a beginning of a beginning. Further, if we divide the beginning into two, we make two instead of one, or rather make several, we really make an infinity, for all that which is divided is divisible to the infinite..."

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 2 - "For the intellect, having ascended to 'the beginning', enquires what 'beginning'; and then finding the 'was' always outstripping its imagination, has no point at which to stay its thought; but looking intently onwards, and being unable to cease at any point, it becomes wearied out, and turns back to things below. For this 'was in the beginning,' is nothing else than expressive of ever being and being infinitely. As Paul also declared, when he said, Having neither beginning of days, nor end of life Hebrews 7:3; by this expression showing that He is both without beginning and without end. For as the one has no limit, so neither has the other. In one direction there is no end, in the other no beginning."

St. Cyril of Alexandria, Homily 2 - "There will then be no beginning of beginning, according to exact and true reasoning, but the account of it will recede unto the long-extended and incomprehensible. And 12 since its ever-backward flight has no terminus, and reaches up to the limit of the ages, the Son will be found to have been not made in time, but rather invisibly existing with the Father: for in the beginning was He. But if He was in the beginning, what mind, tell me, can over-leap the force of the was? When will the was stay as at its terminus, seeing that it ever runs before the pursuing reasoning, and springs forward before the conception that follows it?"

ⁱⁱWord - (Gr. ἀρχή)

St. Justin Martyr, The First Apology - "Himself, who took shape, and became man, and was called Jesus Christ"

ⁱⁱⁱwas - (Gr. ἀρχή)

ⁱⁱⁱwith - (Gr. ἀρχή)

^{iv}All things - (Gr. ἀρχή)

St. Irenaeus, Against Heresies (Book II, Chapter 2) - "Now, among the 'all things' our world must be embraced. It too, therefore, was made by His Word, as Scripture tells us in the book of Genesis that He made all things connected with our world by His Word. David also expresses the same truth [when he says] 'For He spoke, and they were made; He commanded, and they were created'."