

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

Beginning, in Greek is used not to signify a fixed starting point, take for instance

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.

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.

ⁱBeginning - (Gr. ἀρχῇ)

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. ἀρχῇ)

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

ⁱⁱⁱwas - (Gr. ἀρχῇ)

ⁱⁱⁱwith - (Gr. ἀρχῇ)

^{iv}All things - (Gr. ἀρχῇ)

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'."

⁴ In Him was lifeⁱ, and the life was the lightⁱⁱ of men.⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

⁴ ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴⁱ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶςⁱⁱ τῶν ἀνθρώπων.⁵ καὶ τὸ φῶς ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ φαίνει, καὶ ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν.

ⁱlife - (Gr. ζωή) **St. John Chrysostom** For the word Life here refers not merely to the act of creation, but also to the providence (engaged) about the permanence of the things created; it also lays down beforehand the doctrine of the resurrection, and is the beginning of these marvelous good tidings. Since when life has come to be with us, the power of death is dissolved; and when light has shone upon us, there is no longer darkness, but life ever abides within us, and death cannot overcome it.

ⁱⁱlight - (Gr. φῶς) **St. Augustine of Hippo** For this follows: and the life was the light of men; and from this very life are men illuminated. Cattle are not illuminated, because cattle have not rational minds capable of seeing wisdom. But man was made in the image of God, and has a rational mind, by which he can perceive wisdom. That life, then, by which all things were made, is itself the light; yet not the light of every animal, but of men. Wherefore a little after he says, That was the true light, which lights every man that comes into the world. By that light John the Baptist was illuminated; by the same light also was John the Evangelist himself illuminated. He was filled with that light who said, I am not the Christ; but He comes after me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. John 1:26-27 By that light he had been illuminated who said, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Therefore that life is the light of men.

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 was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

⁴ ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴⁱ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶςⁱⁱ τῶν ἀνθρώπων.⁵ καὶ τὸ φῶς ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ φαίνει, καὶ ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν.