

**Col 1:15-20** And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, <sup>20</sup> and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

## 2 Similar Passages

### John 1:1-18

1-2 In the beginning was the Logos, and the Logos was with God, and the Logos was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God

- a. In the Beginning – 3 important beginnings
  - Gen 1:1 in the beginning that had no beginning – Jn 1
  - 1Jn 1 – from the beginning of the incarnation
  - Col 1:18 – the beginning of the eternal RFG in resurrection bodies
- b. The Logos – the force & structure from which all existence is rooted.
  - The energy that spawned the universe & the design structure that holds it all together is a person, not an impersonal, accidental force

<sup>3</sup> All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

- c. Creator of **all things** – nothing exists apart from His creating work
  - By Him, through Him & for Him – heaven/earth, visible/invisible, angels

<sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. <sup>6</sup> There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but *came* that he might bear witness of the light. <sup>9</sup> There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

- d. Source of eternal, spiritual life = spiritual light that dispels the darkness

- He offers life to the dead & light to those in darkness to see truth & reality
- John/Baptist pointed to the life/light/truth, Jesus is the life/light/truth

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

e. He made the world & its people didn't know Him when He came

**Jer 17:5-6** *Thus says the LORD, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup> "For he will be like a bush in the desert And will not see when prosperity comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant.*

<sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, <sup>13</sup> who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- f. He came to His own people but they didn't know Him & rejected Him
- In spite of the historical emphasis on the coming Messiah, they missed it
  - They were looking for an entirely different kind of Messiah
  - Whoever did receive Him by believing in Him was given eternal life

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- g. The logos became flesh – deity took on humanity, joined with humanity
- Hypostatic Union – Undiminished deity & true humanity in one man forever
  - The root cause & cohesion of the universe is not only a person instead of an impersonal force, He became a human being so that we could share His every moment & move forever.

**15** John bore witness of Him, and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" <sup>16</sup> For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

- h. The realized reality of grace & truth compared to the shadows of the ML.
- The ML was also grace – an undeserved gift designed to expose our need
  - The Shadow Works exposed our sin and the Promises revealed His promises

<sup>18</sup> No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

- i. Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God whom no one has ever seen
  - God is a spirit Jn 4:24 – invisible spirit being
  - No one has seen God as a spirit 1Jn 4:12
  - Jesus manifested deity – exegeted – explained, exemplified, revealed

### Hebrews 1:1-3

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in *His* Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the ages.

- a. Last days – we have been in the last days since the coming of Christ
  - The culminating days as God is wrapping up this phase of history.
  - These passages blow out both ends of linear time, reaching billions of years into EP and projecting us into our eternal future.
  - Understanding who He is and our permanent connection to Him & His exciting, adventurous future gives us an exciting hope for our future
- b. Appointed Heir of all things – placed in the position to inherit – in His humanity
  - We share His fabulous wealth & His exciting future forever
- c. He made the ages (aions) – GS designed structure of angelic & human history
  - Dispensations unfold the revelation according to His perfect timing

<sup>3</sup> And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

- d. Radiance of His essence – transfiguration where His essence shined through
  - Radiance – to emit brilliant light, to reflect brilliance
  - Glory – outward display of God's incomparable essence
- e. Exact representation – character: stamped engraving of likeness of subject
  - A coin with the King's likeness stamped on it used as money
- f. Holding all things together – holding them up in His hands like Atlas
  - His thoughts as the Logos speaking powerful words causing the laws of the universe to remain constant until the time for it to burn up

3 When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;

g. Accomplished the earthly mission & returned to heaven to sit by His Father