

The Word Moved In

A Masterclass on John 1:1–18



The Promise of One Verse

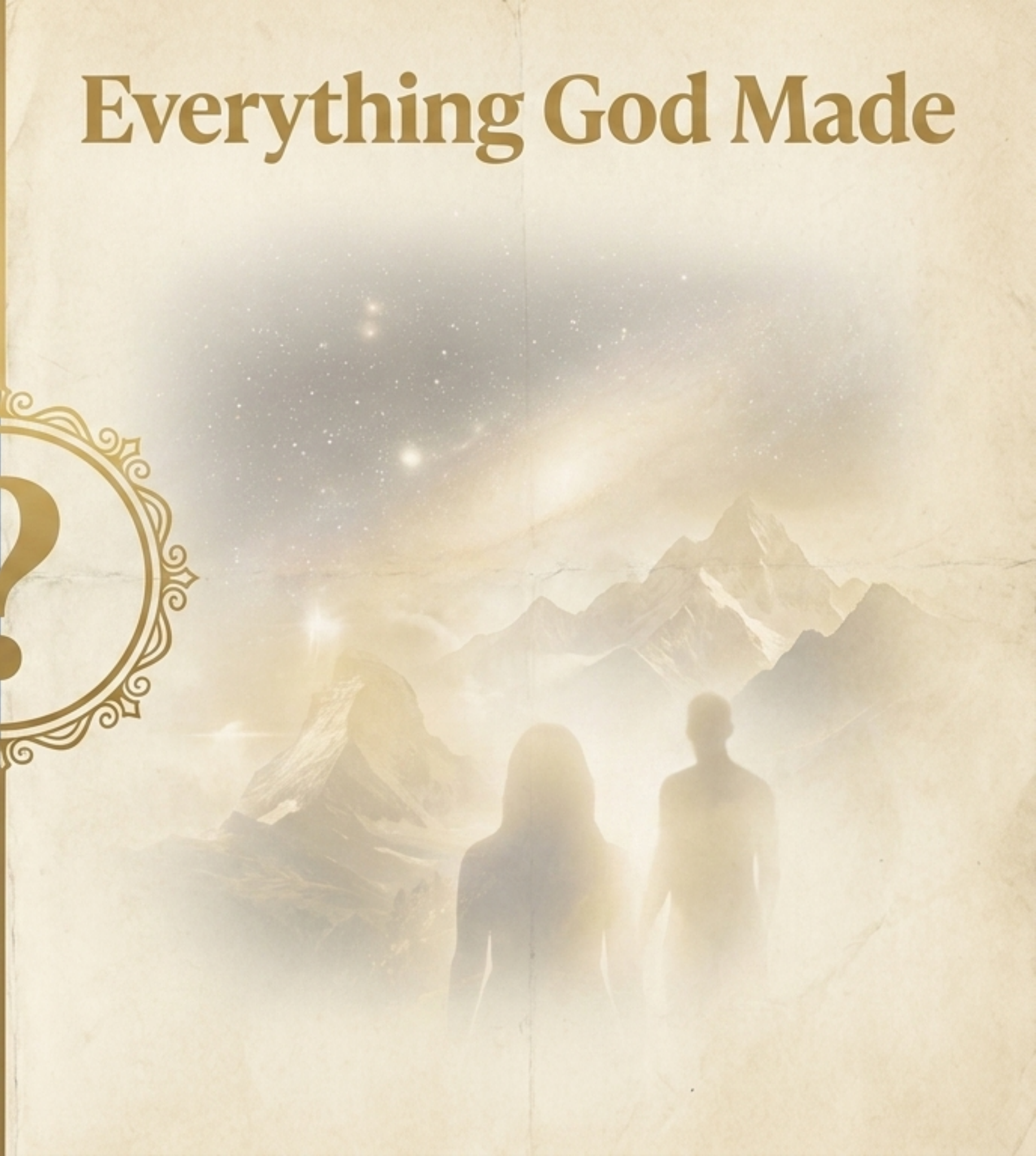
Quiet Confidence

**Ready to answer
the hard questions
at your front door.**

**You get to be useful.
God gets the glory.**

God

Everything God Made



ἐν ἀρχῇ

(en ar-KAY)

In the beginning...

The identical opening words of the Greek Old Testament. John is restaging Genesis.

Genesis 1

God creates by speaking
("Let there be light").

Light separated from
darkness.

Order out of formlessness
(*tohu wabohu*).

John 1

The agent of creation is
"The Word." (Speech is a Person).

"The light shines in
the darkness."

The Word wades into our
disorder to make a home.

The Word that went out from God wasn't
a sound wave. It was a *Someone*.

Movement 1:
He Was Already There

God

Everything God Made

The Word

When the beginning began, the Word already was. The story has no first page.

Movement 2: The Deepest Line in the Universe

ἦν

(ayn)

“Was”

(Continuous existence)

The Word.

ἐγένετο

(eh-GEN-eh-toh)

“Became” /

“Came into being”

All created things.

Movement 3: Distinct Enough for Relationship



God did not create humanity because He was lonely.
He created us out of fullness, to share a fellowship
that was already burning before the first star.

Movement 4: The Monotheist's Dilemma

The Shema

Hear, O Israel:
the LORD our God,
the LORD is one.

John 1:1

θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος
(the-OS ayn ho LOH-gos)
...was God.

Ⲛ ⸮ ⲁ

Everything God is, the Word is. Not a second, smaller god.
For John, there are only two options: monotheism or idolatry.
He wrote what he wrote.

The Doorstep Objection

“

Doesn't the Greek actually say the Word was 'a god'?"

”

The answer requires no panic, no bluffing, and no changing the subject.

~~The Word was THE God.~~

Fails: Collapses the Father and the Son into one person.

~~The Word was divine.~~

Fails: Sells Him short. Godlike, but not God.

The Word was God.

Precision: Drops the 'the' to describe His nature. Full deity. Real distinction.

John's intentional Greek. A perfect balance.
The Word is fully God, but distinct from the Father.

The Gospel of John

Chapter 1

The Word was God.
(The Author's Declaration)

Chapter 20

My Lord and my God.
(Thomas's Confession)

The entire book runs between these two confessions.
That is not a grammar accident. That is design.

Alexandria, 318 AD: A Catchy Heresy



Arius begins teaching:
*“There was when he
was not.”*

False teaching rarely arrives looking sinister. It arrives hummable. The Son was reduced to the greatest creature God ever made.

The Council of Nicaea (325 AD)

ὁμοούσιος

(ho-mo-OO-see-os)

Of the exact same essence.

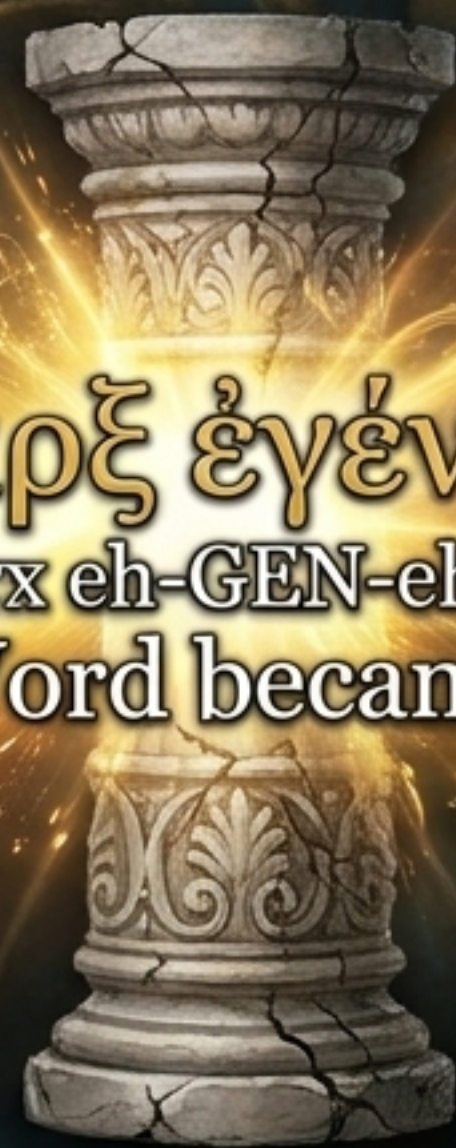
Begotten, not made.

The bishops looked at John's two verbs (was and became)
and drew the line exactly where John drew it.

Movement 5: *The Crossed Threads*



Was



σὰρξ ἐγένετο

(sarx eh-GEN-eh-toh)

The Word became flesh.

The verb He refused for thirteen verses, He now hands to Himself. The eternal One took on a beginning.

The Glory Moves into the Neighborhood



ἔσκηνωσεν

(es-KAY-no-sen)

‘Pitched His tent’ / ‘Tabernacled’

The glory that Moses could only survive by hiding in a rock now walks in sandals, full of grace and truth. It lets people touch it.

The Great Exchange

The Son of God becomes human...



John 1:12 - The right (*exousia*) to become children. No one is a grandchild of God.

...so that humans could become children of God.

The Greek Academy



Logos as an 'It'.

Logos as an 'It'. A rational, cold principle holding the universe together. It will never know your name.

John's Gospel



Logos as a 'Him'.

A Person who gets hungry, weeps at tombs, and bleeds for you.

John out-claims the philosophers. He doesn't borrow their idea; he dwarfs it.

God Descending

1. He was in the beginning.

2. He was with God.

3. He was God.

4. He became flesh.

Every other religion sends humanity climbing. The Gospel is God descending. You never have to cross a distance for God that He hasn't already crossed for you.



My Lord and my God.

God explained. Grace and truth in a face.