

# BIBLICAL EVIDENCE FOR THE DEITY OF CHRIST

## John 1:1-4

In the beginning (en arche) = refers to the beginning of time – creation (Gen. 1:1)

- En arche is used in the Septuagint to translate “in the beginning” from the Hebrew in Genesis 1:1.

Was (eime) = is in the imperfect tense describing past continuous action. In other words when creation took place the Word was already in existence.

- This depicts Jesus as possessing the incommunicable attribute of eternity.
  - Isaiah 9:6, Micah 5:2
  - Verse 3 declares Jesus Christ as Creator.

The Word was with God (1) = literally face-to-face, as equals.

The Word was God (Theos en ho logos). = This translation is demanded by this Greek structure.

- Heretical groups for centuries have twisted the meaning of these four Greek words. They say because Theos (God) is not preceded by the definite article it should be translated “the word was divine” thus watering down the force of the statement saying the word possessed some of the qualities of God. Others say it should be translated “the word was a god.”
- The absence of the definite article before Theos does no such thing. The absence of definite article before Theos is found 4 other times in this immediate context, verses 6, 12, 13, and 18 and is not translated “a god” in any of them, not even in the “New World Translation.”
- In this text Logos has the definite article showing it to be the subject of the sentence. Theos is a predicate nominative describing the nature of the Word. In light of the rules of Greek grammar, “the Word was God” is the only correct way to translate the text.

“He was in the beginning with God.” (2) = Restating His eternal existence.

Verse three describes Him as the Creator, another incommunicable attribute of God.

- Colossians 1:16

In Him was life (4) = life must be understood in its fullest sense, both physical and spiritual.

- He is not only the Creator of all physical life (1:3) He also sustains all life.
  - Col. 1:16-17, Heb. 1:2-3a)
- He is the source of all spiritual life as well.
  - John 3:14-16, 3:36, 6:40, 11:25-26, 20:31

#### Other Scriptures Declaring Jesus to be God.

- Matthew 3:3 (Isaiah 40:3)
- Romans 9:5
- 1Corinthians 2:8 (psalm 24:10)
- Philippians 2:6
- Colossians 2:9
- Titus 2:13
- Hebrews 1:8 (Psalm 45:6)
- 2Peter 1:1
- Revelation 17:14, 19:16 (Deuteronomy 10:17)

#### Jesus Claimed to be God

- Matthew 12:8 (Leviticus 19:3)
- John 8:52-58
- John 10:27-30
- John 17:5
- Revelation 1:8, 17-18