

# The King of Glory

(Who is this King of Glory?)

1 John 1:1-4

Reading: John 1:1-14

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Psalm 24 presents a tremendous scene. All of heaven looks on in anticipation as a man approaches the gates of heaven.

**Psalm 24:7-8**

**Lift up your heads, O gates,  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
That the King of glory may come in!  
Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord strong and mighty,  
The Lord mighty in battle.**

This is an incredible scene. A Man approaches the gates of heaven. But, wait! No man has ever gained access to heaven by his own merit. Sinful men and women can never hope to enter heaven by their good deeds.

Oh...But, the man in Psalm 24 is no ordinary man. The Man who approaches the gates of heaven is the God-man. This is Jesus, the Son of God (divine) and Jesus, the son of Mary (made in the likeness of men). The Man that we see in Psalm 24 is God in flesh. Jesus is the only man who "who knew no sin". He is the only Man who ever completely fulfilled the Law. He is the only man who fully obeyed the Father's will. He is the only one who ever demonstrated the perfect righteousness of God in his earthly life.

The gatekeeper of Psalm 24 cries out, "Who is this King of glory?" That is what I want to focus on this morning. Who is Jesus? We listened to the reading of John 1:1-14 a few moments ago. This morning, I want to examine 1 John 1:1-4.

**READ 1 John 1:1-4**

**What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.**

In the next few moments I want us to consider the...

**Pre-existence of Christ, ....the  
Personal Experience of John, .... and the  
Promise of the Gospel**

Who is this King of glory?

John tells us that He is the pre-existent Christ.

**1. The pre-existence of Christ.** (The pre-existence of Christ means that Jesus existed before the Incarnation)

The pre-existence of Christ means that Jesus existed before He was born of the virgin, Mary. Who is this King of glory? Isaiah met the King of glory. Isaiah began his ministry some 700 years before the birth of Christ. But Isaiah saw this King of glory in all His majesty. This is what Isaiah witnessed...

**Isaiah 6:1-4**

**In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said,**

**"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts,  
The whole earth is full of His glory."**

**And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.**

Who is this King of glory ? The king of glory who appeared to Isaiah is none other than Jesus. We know that Isaiah saw Jesus seated on the throne, surrounded by glory because, in John 12:41, the apostle explains the passage in Isaiah...

**John 12:41**

**These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him.**

But Jesus existed long before the time of Isaiah. John tells us that Jesus existed before the foundation of the world.

**1 John 1:1-2**

**What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life. And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—**

John says, "What was from the beginning (of the Creation)...which was with the Father (for all eternity past)". When John writes, he uses the verb "was" in the imperfect tense. That is important. This is why...

According to [ancientgreek.pressbooks.com](http://ancientgreek.pressbooks.com),

"In the Greek conception, the IMPERFECT tense is essentially the PRESENT tense shifted back into the past. In other words, the IMPERFECT was conceived of as a state of existence, or an action that was still going on in the past"

That means that Jesus existed as God forever in the past. There was never a moment when Jesus did not exist as God. I wish I had the mental capacity to comprehend this.

Our lives are built on time. The rhythm of a 24-hour cycle is engrained in every thought and every action. We set an arrival time when we go places. We designate a beginning time for activities, like a Sunday morning service. We set our alarm clocks to awake at a certain time. We look into the future and we plan events (within the limits of time). We cannot live without the pressure of time.

How do we process in our minds the truth that God had no beginning ? Although Jesus, the human, was born in Bethlehem and had a beginning, Jesus - God - has always existed. I can't comprehend it. By faith I believe it.

When John uses the word "beginning", does he want us to think back to Genesis 1:1?

**Genesis 1:1**

**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

It is obvious that John had Genesis 1:1 in mind when he penned:

**John 1:1-3**

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.**

Who is this King of glory? He is the Creator of all.

**Genesis 1:2**

**The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.**

Have you ever experienced complete darkness? I have been in several caves. I have been in several mines. It is always a bit unnerving when someone says, "Let's turn out all the lights". I don't feel comfortable in absolute darkness. In the beginning, there was nothing but darkness.

**Genesis 1:3**

**Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.**

You probably know the **Sequence of Creation**:

**Day 1 - Light, day and night**

**Day 2 - Water divided into 3 parts; water above, the atmosphere, and water below**

**Day 3 - Land, sea, plants, trees**

**Day 4 - Sun, moon and stars**

Consider this question:

If God did not create the sun until Day #4, what was the source of light on Days #1-3? The answer: glory! Glory? The Psalmist asked, "Who is this King of glory?" He is the One who brings light to the world. He is the One who drives away darkness. How do I know that God was the light? How do I know that for 3 days of Creation, Jesus was the light of the world? I know what happened in the past, because Scripture tells us what will happen in the future...

**Revelation 22:5**

**And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.**

**Revelation 21:23**

**And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb (Jesus).**

Who is this King of glory? He is the One whose glory will light heaven for all eternity.

## 2. John's personal experience

Have you ever had an experience in which you could not understand something? No matter how hard you tried, you simply could not get it. You may have been discouraged. You may have been frustrated. Then, all of a sudden...the fog clears away and you get it. You understand it.

EX: I remember a day when I was a high school senior in math class. The teacher wrote an extremely difficult problem on the board. Then she challenged the class by saying something like, "Let's see who can solve the math problem first". 20-some students went to work. Silence permeated the room. There was only an occasional scratch-scratch of pencils working. I began to apply the rules that we had learned. If this is true that has to be true. Then this over here must be this. I don't remember the problem. But I do remember the moment that I solved the problem. All of a sudden, it made sense. I had the answer. My hand shot up. The teacher asked everyone to stop. She instructed me to go to the board and solve the problem. Yes - I was proud that I got the answer. But I remember even more the exhilaration of the precise moment when (as we say)... "the light came on".

I wonder how John felt when the light came on. He had walked with Jesus for 3 years. He saw miracles. He heard His teaching. He was there when Judas betrayed Him. He was present at the trial. With Mary at his side, He watched Jesus die. And then he watched them bury his Lord. And then, with the other disciples he hid.

### John 20:19

**So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."**

As John writes this first epistle, he has to think back (just like I did) to the moment when it all made sense. Jesus was no longer the Teacher. Jesus was no longer the Healer. Jesus was the King of glory!

### 1 John 1:1-3a

**What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also...**

From his own experience, John concluded that Jesus is...

## A. The Word of Life

Note: In John 1, he only identifies Jesus as "the Word". Now he calls Jesus, "the Word of life". What changed?

The word in the Greek for "word" is "logos". Logos is the Greek term which means...

LOGOS = "word," "reason," or "plan", in Greek philosophy and theology, the divine reason implicit in the cosmos, ordering it and giving it form and meaning."

Everyone in that day would understand what the word "logos". It communicated the idea of the power or the person behind creation. John wanted his readers to know that Jesus was with God, He was there when Creation began, and being God, he made everything.

So, why did John change "the Word" to "the Word of life"? We don't know. He didn't add a parenthesis in which he clearly explained, "This is what I mean". So, we have to do the best we can to bring out a reasonable and biblical meaning. Here is what I think. For John, "the Word" represented the One who was behind all of creation (Jesus). I think John is trying to tell us that "the Word of life", still One who creates, is the only one who can give meaning and significance to life - for us - as believers.

I ask this question many times. You have heard me ask it before. I ask it again. How does the unsaved person deal with life without Jesus?

John is the only Gospel writer who takes us back to the glory that Isaiah saw. John is the only Gospel writer who records these words of Jesus for us...

#### **John 10:10**

**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (NASB)**

**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (NIV)**

**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (KJV)**

**The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. (NLT)**

Jesus gives the believer that which is needed to break out of a "mere existence". Life for the believer is more than just going through a daily routine. No. The believer knows that in every moment, in every word, in every action he has the possibility of bringing glory to the King of glory. And that raises life for the believer above a routine. That gives the believer purpose, meaning, and significance.

I don't know much about Luther Green Presley. But I know this. He encapsulates the idea of Jesus as "the Word of Life" in this song....

#### **I'd rather Have Jesus**

**I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold.  
I'd rather be His than have riches untold  
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or land.  
Yes. I'd rather be led by His nail pierced hands**

**Than to be the king of a vast domain and be held in sins dread sway.  
I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today**

**I'd rather have Jesus than worldly applause.  
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause  
I'd rather have Jesus than world-wide things.  
I'd rather be true to His holy name**

Who is this King of glory ? John tells us (from his personal experience) that He is....

## **B. The Eternal life**

### **1 John 1:2**

**and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life...**

Note: John does not say that Jesus gives us eternal life. John does not say that Jesus made eternal life available through His resurrection. No. John says, "Jesus IS the eternal life".

John Gill says that Jesus is "eternal life" "...because he has everlasting life in himself; as he is the living God, and because he has eternal life for all his people. Not only the purpose and promise of it are in Him, but the thing itself. And it is in His power and gift to bestow it on all the Father hath given to Him. And to them He does give it. The beginning of it lies in the knowledge of Him, and the consummation of it will be in the lasting vision and enjoyment of Him."

### **John 10:11, 18**

**"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep....No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."**

The King of glory is eternal life.

The last thing we should see in verse 2 is, Jesus is....

## **C. The Divine life**

### **1 John 1:2-3**

**...which was with the Father and was manifested to us— what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also...**

This is the third time John repeats the verbs - "see, heard, proclaim". Jesus is the Word of Life and Jesus is eternal life because He is God. John seems determined to make sure the reader understands his experience. Once - we touched Him. Once - we looked on Him. Twice - we heard Him. Three - we have seen Him. And now, for the second time John says, "He was manifested to us". John goes back, maybe 60 years, in his memory to the day when he, Peter and James went with Jesus to a mountain top.

The Greek word for "manifest" is - phaneroó – "to make manifest or visible or known what has been hidden or unknown, to manifest, whether by words, or deeds, or in any other way"

When Jesus became flesh, His glory was masked. According to Paul, in Philippians 2, "He was made in the likeness of men". If Jesus stood in a crowd of 1,000 men, other than His physical appearance, He would be just like any other man; He hungered, He thirsted, He felt emotions.

But, on the mountain top, this is what happened...

### **Matthew 17:1-2**

**Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.**

Who is this King of glory? He is Jesus. Isn't it interesting that John is the only Gospel writer who does not tell this story? He experienced it first-hand. But he doesn't include it in his Gospel. This King of glory was manifested. Something that was previously unknown was unveiled. And the 3 disciples were able to see just a glimpse of His glory. Just like a dimmer switch can intensify the lumens of a fixture - Jesus temporarily turned up His glory for the 3 disciples to see. God, in glory, was manifested in human flesh. And they fell on their faces.

Who is this King of glory? He makes available to all who believe in Him ....

### **3. The Promise of the Gospel.**

#### **1 John 1:3**

**...what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

So much was lost at the Fall. Adam and Eve chose their own way - the way of sin. And the consequences of that decision have been devastating ever since. Adam and Eve walked with Jesus in the Garden. They enjoyed perfect fellowship with the King of glory. But once they had sinned, they were driven out of the Garden. Once they sinned, the intimate fellowship that they enjoyed with God was broken. Here is the promise of the Gospel - through faith in Jesus Christ, the King of glory, in this life, a degree of that fellowship with the Creator can be regained. Some of the intimacy that God intended can be restored. But, one day, in heaven, perfect fellowship with God will once again be ours to enjoy.

The first thing John says about fellowship is that...

#### **A. Fellowship is for a community**

##### **John 1:3a**

**...what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us**

Fellowship is ours to enjoy with one another. God intends for believers to unite in a community that focuses on biblical doctrine and mutual encouragement.

But John also says that we can have...

#### **B. Fellowship is with God**

##### **1 John 1:3b**

**...and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

The level of intimacy that we enjoy with God now - in this life - is pretty much in our power to control.

#### **Anne Graham Lotz**

**God is a gentleman. He won't force His way into your life or insist on helping when you don't seem to want it or even push Himself into your situation. He waits for you to ask before He intervenes....God is standing by. Yes, He is. But He may be waiting for your call. So call Him. Cry out, now. Use the words - Jesus, help me. - Wounded by God's People**

These are the words from one of my father's favorite hymns...

**I Come to the Garden Alone**

**I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses,  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses  
And He walks with me and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am his own;  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known**

**4. Concluding Remarks.**

What an experience for John! To know Jesus face to face. This creates a problem. John is not relaying second-hand information. Everything John says is based on personal experience. So what happens when someone says?

"It's not fair. Of course, he believed. He saw Jesus. He touched Jesus. He heard Jesus. If I had the same experiences, I'd would believe, too"

Let's deal with that objection.

1. Have you ever heard of an individual named Judas? Personal experience provides no guarantee that someone will believe?

2. Herod asked Jesus to perform a miracle. Would a miracle guarantee that the unbeliever will believe? After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Pharisees conspired to kill both Lazarus and Jesus. Irrefutable evidence is no guarantee that someone will believe.

Abraham had no evidence when God promised that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in heaven.

**Genesis 15:6**

**Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.**

Belief is a matter of the heart.

**Hebrews 11:1**

**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**

**Hebrews 11:6**

**And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.**

**John 20:29**

**Jesus said to him (Thomas), "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."**

**I want to send you home this morning with a word of encouragement.**

We started by reading 2 verse from Psalm 24. Let's end with Psalm 24. The first time Jesus approached the gates of heaven, He was alone. He had just ascended to heaven and would be seated at the right of God, the Father.

But, Psalm 24 tells us that Jesus, the King of glory, will one day approach the gates of heaven again.

**Psalm 24:9-10**

**Lift up your heads, O gates,  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
That the King of glory may come in!  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
He is the King of glory.**

What is a host? It's a lot of people. Who are these people? It's you and me. It's the Church on the day of the Rapture. We'll be caught up in an instant to meet Jesus in the clouds. We cannot enter heaven on our own merit. But, we can and we will enter because we have been washed in the blood of the Lamb.

***What A Day That Will Be (second verse)***

***What a day that will be,  
When my Jesus I shall see,  
And I look upon His face,  
The One who saved me by His grace;  
When He takes me by the hand,  
And leads me through the Promised Land,  
What a day, glorious day that will be.***