

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

July 24 Eccles 1-4
July 25 Eccles 5-8
July 26 Eccles 9-12
July 27 Song of Sol 1-8

July 28 Isaiah 1-4
July 29 Isaiah 5-8
July 30 Isaiah 9-12
July 31 Isaiah 13-17

Comparing the BEGINNINGS – JOHN 1

As John begins His Gospel account about Jesus, he starts not with the birth, but with the eternal existence of Jesus Christ. John's words form an interesting parallel to the Genesis account of creation. John demonstrates from the beginning of his book that Jesus was the agent of creation from the beginning of time. Jesus is the "Word" (*Logos*) of God made flesh to dwell among us and display God's glory. He is one with the Father, because He was the Word who was with God in the beginning and who also was God.

Notice the following parallels by matching up the underlined words of the same color in each passage. And just for fun, I threw in Hebrews 1 which seems to carry many of the same thoughts.

Genesis 1

- 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- 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.
- 3 Then God said, "Let there be light; and there was light."
- 4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

John 1

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
- 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
- 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Hebrews 1

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 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. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

John wants his readers to see that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is really a continuation of God's creation and salvation work from the beginning of time. John doesn't state the purpose of His Gospel until the end--in John 20:30-31 he writes:

*30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;
31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*

But that purpose can be seen clearly from his first four verses, and even clearer in John 1:9-14 as he summarizes his prologue: