



WOW: Word Of the Week

Comprehend
December 8, 2021

In recent years, I have returned again and again to the importance of Chapter 1 of the Gospel of John as an Incarnation text that tells the Christmas story in a unique way. Light has come into the world—illuminating the darkness with such power that the darkness cannot stand against the light.

In Jesus Christ, light came into the world, bringing illumination and enlightenment, combatting darkness.

In Jesus Christ and the Incarnation, God's wisdom, God's reasoning and purpose, God's logic arrived. The Greek word *logos* is usually translated as "word," or in Spanish as "word" or "verb." In Jesus, God acted. *Logos* is a profound concept. Now we understand. Formerly everything was senseless, meaningless, did not hold together. In Jesus is coherence, logic, order. Jesus comes and everything makes sense when seen through the new lens of God's penetration of the human dilemma.

What was formerly incomprehensible is now understandable. Do not miss John's statement. When light comes into the world, darkness will never "get it." Darkness cannot combat it or conquer it. Darkness cannot grasp it or comprehend it. In fact, darkness ultimately cannot "stand" the light. Darkness will seek to eliminate light; darkness is the absence of light.

One more interesting observation: the Greeks used the word *cosmos*, meaning order, to describe the world. They called the world orderly, but it was in many ways the epitome of disorder. In Christ, what was formerly disorderly, chaos, becomes orderly, logical, meaningful.

Comprehend. Now I see; now I understand. Grace and truth, amazing grace, "Was blind, but now I see." In the gospel, light is clarified. The gospel is as a prism, making clear the true light. Just as a prism clarifies the component colors of white light, the gospel makes known the truths of God.

Let us give thanks that God has provided us knowledge and insights that allow us to see. Another WOW—comprehend.

The Nativity is more than the birth of a baby. Jesus as a baby is non-threatening. Jesus as a Master is loving and benevolent. Jesus as a Savior is forgiving. Judgment will be just.