

The Word

Don Johnson

- The eternal Word
- The spoken Word
- The written Word

Old Testament Theophanies

(pre-incarnate manifestations of God's Word)

Gen 3: "8Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden"

2 Kings 19: "35That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men."

Dan 3: "25He [Nebuchadnezzar] said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods. ""

1 Kings 19: "12And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice." (God's spoken Word can be gentle.)

The Eternal Word

- Jesus came into existence at the incarnation
- John 1: "1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning. 3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made... 14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."
- Col 1: "16For by him [Christ] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."

The Word of the Lord (occurs 229 times)

Gen 15: " 4Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.""

Num 3: "16So Moses counted them, as he was commanded by the word of the LORD."

1 Kings 6: "11The word of the LORD came to Solomon"

2 Kings 1: "17So he died, according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had spoken."

Jer 2: "1The word of the LORD came to me"

Hag 2: "20The word of the LORD came to Haggai"

The Eternal Word (2nd Person of Trinity)

Matt 1: "23" The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us."

Philippians 2: "5Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

God's Creative Word

Science has no explanation for the origin of mass/energy
Steven Hawking (6/7/10 20/20): "I want to know why the universe exists, why there is something greater than nothing."

LAW of conservation of mass and energy says Universe's 3×10^{55} g or 3×10^{68} joules is constant

"And God said, 'Let there be ...' and there was." Gen 1

Mass can be converted to energy, and vice-versa
(1 gram equivalent to 90,000 Gjoules = 2700 MWHrs)

Hiroshima A-bomb converted 6.4 mg of nuclear mass
4,400,000 bombs equivalent to 1 ounce

1 drop of water equivalent to 10 bombs

All yearly US residential power from a bowling ball's mass

Amazing Power of God’s Spoken Word

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Gen 1:1

“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” Heb 11:3

“All things were created by him and for him.” Col 1:16

God is omnipotent, “easily” converting His power

(Conversion: $931 \text{ MeV/amu} = 9 \times 10^{13} \text{ j/g} = 2.6 \times 10^7 \text{ kWh/g}$)

Can of soda yields 1 million homes’ energy for 1 year

“The voice of the Lord is powerful” Ps 29:4

“And God said, ‘Let there be ...’ and there was.” Gen 1

God's creative word in Hiroshima bomb energy equivalents:
520,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

God’s Sustaining Word

“His work has been finished since the creation of the world.” Heb. 4:4

“The Son is...sustaining all things by this powerful word.” Heb. 1:3

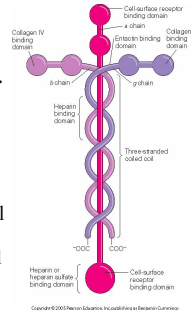
“By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire ... the elements will be destroyed by fire.” 2 Pet 3:7-10

The repulsive forces in a nucleus “should” make it explode

(“gluons” are proposed as a solution)

“In him all things hold together.” Col 1:17

Laminin protein assemblies are integral parts of the structural scaffolding in almost every tissue of an organism.



God’s Written Word

2Tim 2: “¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

Heb 4: “¹²For the word of God is living and active.”

Luke 1: “²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.”

Josh 1: “⁸Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.”

2 Tim 3: “¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Neh 9: “³They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshipping the LORD their God.” (stand for the reading of Psalm 119)

Psalm 119 Some of “Your Word”

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

28 My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.

37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

74 May those who fear you rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your word.

81 My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word.

89 Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

101 I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

114 You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

133 Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.

158 I look on the faithless with loathing, for they do not obey your word.

169 May my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word.

172 May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.

“Word” Conclusions

The Word of God has several meanings

- The 2nd person of the Trinity – the eternal Word
- The “verbal” interaction of God – “and God Said”

His Word creates and sustains

- God’s message to (and through) His prophets
- The written Word to His people – “¹⁷Take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Eph 6)

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching...” (2 Tim. 3:16)

(PDF handout of presentation is available at donjohnson.faithweb.com)