

Luke's Preface: An Orderly Account (c. 5/4 BC)

Luke 1:1–4

1 Now many have undertaken to compile an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,
2 like the accounts passed on to us by those who were eyewitnesses and servants of the word from the beginning.
3 So it seemed good to me as well, because I have followed all things carefully from the beginning, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,
4 so that you may know for certain the things you were taught.

John's Preface: The Word Became Flesh (c. 5/4 BC)

John 1:1–18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God.
2 The Word was with God in the beginning.
3 All things were created by him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.
4 In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind.
5 And the light shines on in the darkness, but the darkness has not mastered it.
6 There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John.
7 He came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him.
8 He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light.
9 The true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
10 He was in the world, and the world was created by him, but the world did not recognize him.
11 He came to what was his own, but his own people did not receive him.
12 But to all who have received him—those who believe in his name—he has given the right to become God's children
13 —children not born by human parents or by human desire or a husband's decision, but by God.
14 Now the Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We saw his glory—the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father.
15 John bore witness of Him, and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'"
16 For we have all received from his fullness one gracious gift after another.
17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ.
18 No one has ever seen God. The only one, himself God, who is in closest fellowship with the Father, has made God known.

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