



In the
beginning

In the beginning.....

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth....Then God said....Genesis 1.1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.....John 1.1

Clearly meant to be read together



In the beginning.....

- Often focus more on redemption than creation
- Move swiftly to ... “and the word became flesh and lived among us”
- John emphasises the Word of God in creation *and* redemption

In the beginning.....

Why do we not talk about creation?

- removed from nature in our daily lives
- separation of consumption from production
- order everything on line
- earth as commodity
- nature as recreation



In the beginning.....

Why do we not talk about creation?

- Biblical narrative in a “scientific” world
 - Bible stories cannot tell us how things began
- Biblical literalism
 - if it is true it must mean what it says.
- What is truth?

The power of the Word.....

Words are powerful & convey truth in many ways

- describe
- express value, meaning and purpose
- create vision
- establish and maintain relationships
- the pen is mightier than the sword!



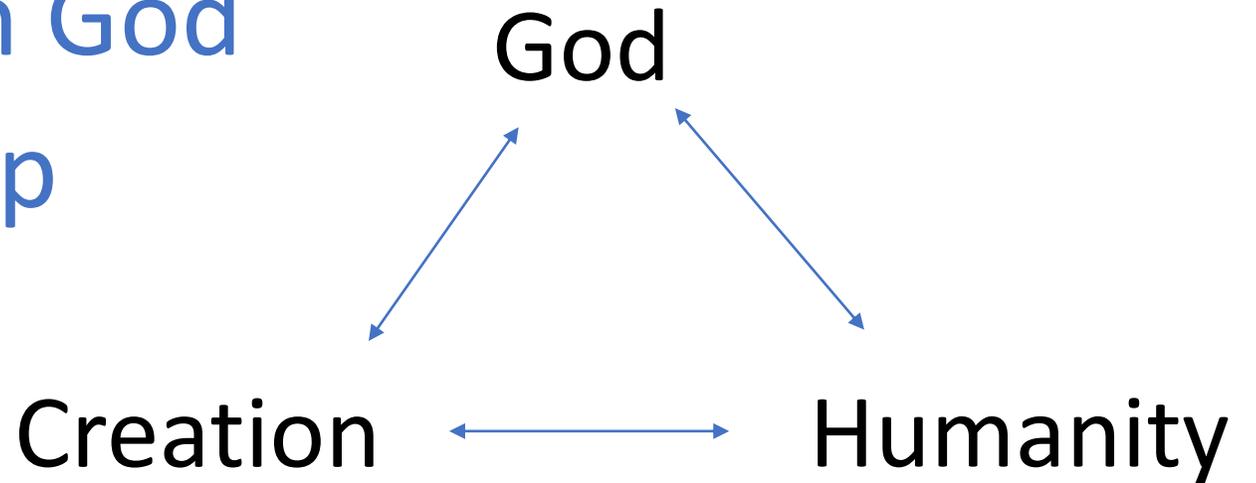
All things come from God

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. Jn1.3

Creation depends upon God

A triangular relationship

Space within God for
the other



God and Creation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.....John 1.1

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. Jn1.3

God self-limits in creation

Natural world is sacred

but it is not the divine

Incarnation is also self limiting

Self-limitation in exploiting the world



Matter matters to God

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. Jn1.3

Value of creation not:
in its usefulness to us
or for itself
but because it is God's

Creation reflects the glory and nature of God



The Light of Life

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Jn1.4-5

Freedom of creation - evolution

Moral freedom – light and dark

There are choices to be made

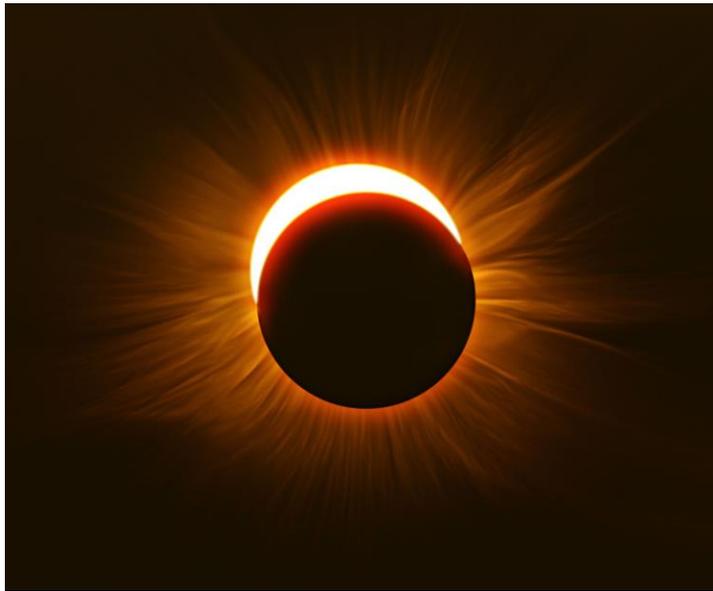
Wider than consumer choice

Hope



The Eclipse of God

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. Jn1.10-11



Alive in God's world but not alive to God
When God is removed from the triangle:

- Exploitation
- The widening gap between rich and poor
- Injustice
- Unaccountable

Light for the World

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. In 1.9

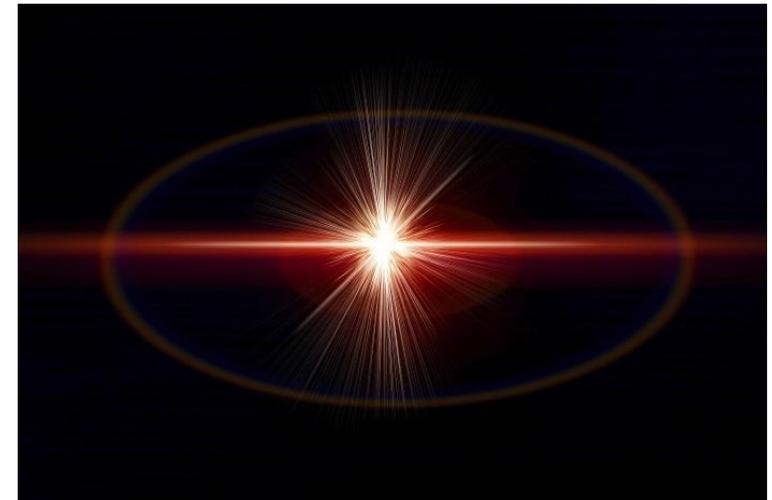
John offers us a different story

The Word of God in creation

The Word of God among us

The Word of God as light in the darkness

See the world of God and each other through Jesus



Light for the World

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. Jn 1.9

- Instead of management – co-operation & interdependence
- Instead of despair – compassionate love, mercy & hope
- Instead of greed – generosity, self-restraint & service

The present focus on self and “value” for me

The gospel focus on neighbour and common good



God in the midst of us

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, Jn 1.14

Creator God among us at our genetic level

For John the glory is:

in the creation and the light of life

in the sacrifice of the cross

Resurrection hope – not a quick fix



In the beginning.....

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, Jn 1.12

Children respect what the Father loves

See in creation the face of God

Use words wisely and well

Hold a Kingdom/creation vision

Live intentionally

