

Bible Workshop: Readers' comments

Regarding John 1:1-18, I would like to offer a suggestion regarding an alternative "beginning" (see "Information", [June, p. 239](#)). In what follows, quotations are from John 1:1-18 unless stated otherwise.

In Isaiah 43 we read: "thus saith the LORD That created thee, O Jacob, and He That formed thee, O Israel . . . every one that is called by My name: for I have created him for My glory" (vv. 1,7). The nation of Israel began at the burning bush in Horeb, when 'the Word' revealed to Moses that Memorial Name (Ex. 3). Moses understood its purpose: "Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of Thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which Thou hast made for Thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which Thy hands have established.

The LORD shall reign for ever and ever" (15:17, 18). Jeremiah later declared: "A glorious high throne *from the beginning* is the place of our sanctuary" (17:12).

"The Word" was then "with God", and when later the people assembled at Horeb, "the Word was God" speaking in person and saying, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me" (Ex. 20:1, 3), because, "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made". But the people could not receive that Word direct from the Lord (Ex. 20:19), so that Word was "made flesh, and dwelt among" them in the person Moses, who prefigured the coming of a greater prophet (Deut. 18:15-19).

When Moses asked to see, and was shown, the glory of that Memorial Name, which is "full of grace and truth", the Lord placed him in a cleft of the rock (Ex. 33:22). "The only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father . . . declared" the glory of that Name to his disciples (Jno. 17:26).

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