


IN THE BEGINNING



In the beginning God
created the heavens and
the earth.

Genesis 1:1

“IN THE BEGINNING”

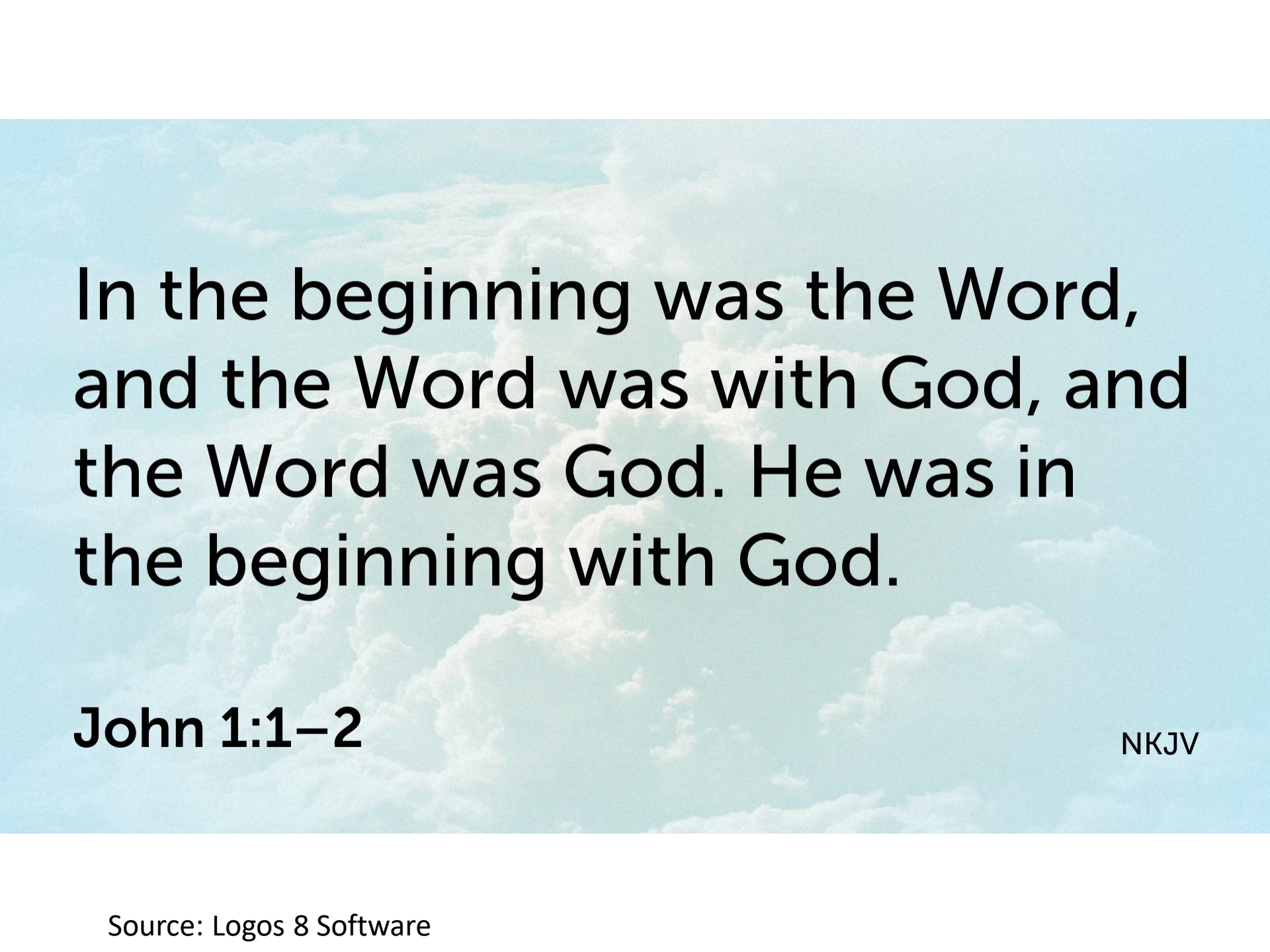
Bereshyit

בְּרֵאשִׁית

“The Head of
the House”

Beit = House בֵּית

Rosh = Head רֶאשִׁית



In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was in
the beginning with God.

John 1:1–2

NKJV

The WORD – The “Memra”

מֵאֲמַר

(*Memer, or ma'amar*)

Aramaic word meaning: word, command, appointment.

אֵמְרָה

'*imrah, or 'emrah (em'-raw)*

Root word meaning commandment, speech, or word. Equivalent of *logos* (λογος) in the Greek.

The Targums (Aramaic translation of the Hebrew Scriptures) changed all references of God speaking to man to the Aramaic word -

Memra

Use of Memra

The word *memra* is used in every instance of an appearance of God to men or God speaking to a man. This use of the *memra* rationalized every appearance of God to man.

For example, in [Genesis 3:8](#), "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden",

- The Targums replace the phrase "the LORD God" - יהוה אלהים (*YHWH elohim*) with ימרא (*memra*, spelled mymra or mimra).
- Masoretic: וישמעו את-קול יהוה אלהים, (*wayisme-u et-qol yhwy elohim*), "So heard they the voice of YHWH Elohim." In the Hebrew here, YHWH Elohim is underscored.
- Targummim: ושמעו ית קל מימרא, (*usme-u it qol mimra*), "So heard they the voice of *memra*", or "They heard the voice of the Word." In the Hebrew here, *memra* is underscored.
- **Source: Information is from *The Targummim of the Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project*.**

Memra – 1st Century

- Jewish sages of the 1st Century ascribed Six attributes to the Memra:
 1. The *memra* is individual and yet the same as God
 2. The *memra* was the instrument of creation
 3. The *memra* was the instrument of salvation
 4. The *memra* was the visible presence of God or Theophany
 5. The *memra* was the covenant maker
 6. The *memra* was the revealer of God

The Memra and Yeshua

- Yeshua – The Creator and the Word
 - Memra: John 1:1-5; 14
 - *logos* (λογος)
 - Creator: Colossians 1:13-20

John attributes all attributes of the Memra to Yeshua

1. The *memra* is individual and yet the same as God ([John 1:1](#)- "and the Word was with God, and the Word was God").
2. The *memra* was the instrument of creation ([John 1:3](#)- "All things were made by Him" and [John 1:10](#)- "the world was made by him").
3. The *memra* was the instrument of salvation ([John 1:12](#)- "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name").
4. The *memra* was the visible presence of God or Theophany ([John 1:14](#)- "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us").
5. The *memra* was the covenant maker ([John 1:17](#)- "For the law was given by Moses, and grace and truth came by Jesus Christ").
6. The *memra* was the revealer of God ([John 1:18](#)- "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him").

Days of Noah

“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” (Matthew 24:37-39)

Days of Noah (Genesis)

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only **evil** continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.
(Genesis 6:5-8)

Days of Noah

- **Wickedness** - רָעָה (ra ah): evil, depravity (a sinking to a state of low moral standards and behavior)
- **Evil** - רָע (ra) – contemptible, reprobate
- **Sorry** - נָחַם (nacham /naw·kham/): repent, regret
- **Grieved** - אָצַב (atsab /aw·tsab/): hurt, pain, distressed, filled with grief, to suffer, to toil with pain
- **Destroy** - מָחָה (machah /maw·khaw/): wipe out, annihilate, blotted out
- **Grace** - חֵן (chen /khane/): favor, good-will
 - Psalm 23:6 – **Follow** - רָדַף (radaph /raw·daf/): **Pursue**
 - Ephesians 2:1-10