



John 1:1-18 The Prologue and its Poetry

(My mostly literal and therefore awkward translation. Version 2)

The Rev. Jim Clark

¹ In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was toward God,
and the Word was God.

²This One [the Word] was in the beginning toward God.

³ All things through him came into being,
and apart from him came into being not even one [thing].
That which had come to be ⁴ in him was life,
and the life was the light of humanity.

⁵ And the light in the darkness shines [on],
and the darkness it not holds back [[overtakes, seizes, controls, overcomes]].

⁶There came a man, having been sent from God, whose name was John; ⁷ this one came to be a witness in order that he might bear witness to the light, in order that all might believe through him. ⁸ Not was that one the light, but in order that he might bear witness to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens all humanity, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ In the world he was,
and the world through him came into being,
and the world did not recognize him.

¹¹ To his own he came,
and his own people did not receive him.

¹² But to all who did receive him,
he gave to them authority children of God to become.

[That is] to those who believe into his name, ¹³ who not out of blood and not out of the will of flesh and not out of the will of man, but out of God were begotten.

¹⁴ And the Word flesh became
and made his dwelling in us,
and we have seen his glory,
glory as the one and only [son or begotten] from the father,
full of grace and truth.

(¹⁵ John bore witness concerning him and cried out saying, “This one was whom I told you; ‘the one who comes after me ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.’”)

¹⁶ For out of the fullness of him
we have all received
even grace upon grace.

¹⁷ For the Law through Moses was given, grace and truth through Jesus Christ came. ¹⁸ God
no one has seen ever; the one and only begotten God who exists into the bosom of the Father, that
one has explained [[revealed, disclosed]] him.

Parentheses () indicate the grammar of the text

Single brackets [] indicate something implied in the text

Double brackets [[]] indicate an alternate translation