

# Christ the Logos

## Does God speak to us beyond the Bible?

Is there anything of value to a Christian in other faiths, religions and philosophies? Does God speak through them too, perhaps? Or is the Bible the only book that God speaks to us through?

Fortunately, John answers all those questions for us in his use of the word “Logos” to describe Jesus. Logos was a good word because in first century religion and philosophy it was a widely-used and much-loved concept for explaining one’s theories on the universe and the divine. Mention the word “Logos” in conversation with Jews or Gentiles in John’s day and most people would know what you were aiming at. Few would find the term objectionable.

But imagine being in John’s shoes and having to explain where Jesus fits in. Surprisingly, at first glance, he calls Jesus a Logos too, lumping Jesus in with all the other Logoses floating around at the time. But it’s brilliant because it slips Jesus into the fray without causing a ruckus. Jesus was a Logos? “No problem” said the Greeks, who loved the idea of an eternal, divine Logos at the helm of the universe. “Most acceptable” said the scholars of the Hebrew Bible, who loved the mention of their beloved Logos - the “Word of God” - in Scripture. And “Splendid!” said the Jews, who loved their picture of the Logos as the divine Wisdom and supreme Creator of everything. Everybody, it seems, was happy with Logos!

Was John using Logos, then, to get nods of approval, or was he up to something else? It was both. The nods were useful because at the mention of the word “Logos,” Jew and Greek alike would immediately conjure up a familiar picture in their minds of an irresistible force steering the universe through space and time, carrying us all along inside.

John, therefore, was talking to a captive audience, because Jews and Greeks alike were spellbound by the concept of a Mind at the centre of the universe, eternal and divine, controlling and holding everything together. Logos was like the “higher power” we talk about today, where it’s as close as you can get to calling something God, without actually saying God!

And John wasn’t timid about calling Jesus such a Logos either, and in terms people understood the Logos to be, too. The Logos in **John , Chapter 1**, “[was with God in the beginning](#),” “[Through him all things were made](#),” and “[In him was life](#)” - all acceptable phrases when describing Logos to a first century audience. Lots of nods of agreement.

But just as John's audience is nodding knowingly, and Jews and Greeks are exchanging smiles of mutual affection in their shared love of the Logos, John delivers a hammer blow in **John 1:14**, shattering their first century image of the Logos forever. And all it takes is four words: "The Word became flesh."

The great Mind at the centre of the universe was a person?! How could that be? How could the divine Rational Principle and eternal Cosmic Reason, the incomparable Sophia Wisdom and the supreme "Word of God" in Scripture, be said to have actually "lived for a while among us"?

But that's what John was saying. The great mysterious Logos was trotting around on earth as a human being, whose "glory" you could see with your own eyeballs. And, what's more, this Logos spoke. On the one hand that was acceptable to people because Logos meant "word" in the sense of a communicating link between the human and the divine. But John's Logos was communicating staggering things between the human and the divine, things like "grace and truth" that only Jesus the Logos could communicate, because Jesus was "the one and only Son, who came from the Father."

The only real, observable form of the Logos, then, was speaking with all the authority of God. He wasn't just another Logos voice on the same level as all the other voices communicating between the human and the divine. He was THE voice. He wasn't just "a" word, he was "THE" word.

To begin with, then, John had people nodding their heads with approval at his use of their beloved Logos, but only to draw them in for the bombshell, that Jesus was the the one and only Word of God, the only true and accurate expression of the divine, the Logos of all Logoses. Every concept and idea of the Logos rattling round Jewish and Gentile minds was completely taken up in Jesus Christ. He was all of what they thought the Logos was. He, and he alone, fulfilled the role of the Logos in all its meaning and intent.

So John made sure Jesus didn't get lumped in with all the other Logoses doing the rounds, and he certainly made it clear that Jesus wasn't just another voice "speaking words of wisdom" like your average Beatle, Buddhist or mystic, because it was only through Jesus that God was communicating grace and truth.

Does God speak to us beyond the Bible, then? John answers that for us in his use of the word Logos, because when it comes to communication between the human and the divine, God has already spoken all the grace and truth we need through *his* Logos, Jesus.

Is there anything of value to a Christian, therefore, in other faiths, religions and philosophies? John answers that for us, too. Their word is not THE Word. Their Logos is

not THE Logos. There's only one true Logos through whom God spoke to humanity, and that was Jesus Christ. And it's all there for us in his word, THE word, the Bible.