John 1:1–18

~ Discover Tyndale's 1526 New Testament by Scribing ~

Welcome to John 1:1–18 from William Tyndale's 1526 New Testament.

- Print these pages
- Copy the passage by hand on the lined pages
- Enjoy connecting with the Word of God as you slow down & write
- See page 3 for more information on scribing & the archaic spelling

1526 Tyndale New Testament
John 1:1-5 in Archaic Spelling

1IN the begynnynge was that worde/ ād that worde was with god: and god was thatt worde. 2The same was in the begynnynge wyth god. 3All thynges were made by it/ and without it/ was made noo thīge/ that made was. 4In it was lyfe/ And lyfe was the light of mē/ 5And the light shyneth ī darcknes/ ād darcknes cōprehēded it not.

1526 Tyndale New Testament
John 1:1-18 in Modern Spelling

1 IN the beginning was that word, and that word was with God: and God was that word. **2** The same was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made by it, and without it, was made no thing, that made was. **4** In it was life, And life was the light of men **5** And the light shineth in darkness, and darkness comprehended it not.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** The same came as a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. **8** He was not that light: but to bear witness of the light. **9** That was a true light, which lighteneth all men that come into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world by him was made: and the world knew him not.

11 He came into his own, and his received him not. **12** unto as many as received him, gave he power to be the sons of God: in that they believed on his name: **13** which were born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor yet of the will of men: but of God.

14 And that word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw the glory off it, as the glory of the only begotten son of the Father, which word was full of grace, and verity.

15 John bare witness of him saying: This is he of whom I spake, he that cometh after me, was before me because he was yer then I. **16** And of his fullness have all we received, even favour for favour. **17** For the Law was given by Moses, but favour and verity came by Jesus Christ. **18** No man saw God at any time. The only begotten Son, which is in the Father's bosom, hath declared him.

Tyndale 1526 New Testament in Authentic Archaic Spelling
https://tyndale.global.bible
Courtesy of The Tyndale Society
tyndale.org

Scribing

~ Write the Words that Changed the World ~

In a world of copy & paste, welcome to the ancient craft of scribing! Reading the Bible can be like driving down the highway, 90 miles an hour. Scribing is like stopping for a picnic in a hidden cove—seeing every detail, savoring the beauty, and in the stillness hearing God's voice speak into your heart.

- Copy the text word for word
- Use a bookmark to keep your place in the passage
- Marvel at a time before spelling rules and dictionaries
- The goal is enjoyment, not perfection—cross out mistakes or use Bic Wite-Out
- Consider taking up scribing as a "Bible hobby," using your regular Bible translation

Archaic Spelling

The first few verses of the passage are in archaic spelling, as it was printed in 1526, followed by the whole chapter in modern spelling. You'll notice that and "God" is often "god" and "Jesus" is "Iesus." Many words end with an "e", and the same word can have different spellings. Contractions are common, Roman numerals are used and a slash (/) is a comma (,).

- God is often "god". To us this is shocking, but it was not out of irreverence. Capitalization conventions were simply not yet settled.
- The letter "i" existed, but "j" was not considered a separate letter. For example, "rejoyce" is "reioyce" and "Jesus" is "Iesus" with a capital "I".
- Many words have two or more different spellings. "It" even has four: "it", "yt", "itt" & "ytt".
- "U" and "V" looked very similar and were used interchangeably. For example, you'll regularly see "vnto" for unto, "haue" for have and "euer" for ever.
- A horizontal line above a letter indicates a contraction. Read it as "the next logical letter," most often "n" or "m." For example, "remissiō" is "remission."
- Numbers appear as Roman numerals, with a "j" for the last "i". For example, Iesus (Jesus) called his ".xij." disciples unto him. Note how the periods distinguish the number from the text.
- Chapters were numbered, but verse numbers absent. The text ran in paragraphs marked by prominent initials. Verse numbers have been added to this passage for ease of reference.

Dive Deeper

William Tyndale Biography (5 min)

From the Scribe to the Press

Gutenberg's Printing Press

Connect

tyndale.org

Tyndale Talks YouTube Channel

Tyndale's Translation in Archaic Spelling

Tyndale 2026 Facebook Group



Continue Scribing from Your Favorite Translation

Hand Write the Bible Facebook Group

John 1:1-18

John 1:1-5 in Archaic Spelling

John 1:1-18 in Modern Spelling