

John's writings confute the Gnostic contention that matter *qua*<sup>1</sup> matter is evil and therefore one cannot conclude that ὁ λόγος, Who is God cannot also become flesh.<sup>2</sup> (pp. 3–4)

25. Philo was known as the Jewish Plato and his philosophical ideas were popular during the Incarnation of Jesus.
26. Philo was a student of Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, and the Stoics. Stoicism, founded by Zeno in the fourth century B.C., stressed virtue and ethics and was an amalgam of ideas held by Zeno, Plato and Aristotle and later reflected in the writings of the early Church Fathers.
27. John writes his Gospel during the time these ideas were popular in the Roman Empire and during the incipency of Gnosticism which challenged the doctrines of the Church Age.
28. John recognized the advance of Gnostic theory as an enemy of the Word and chose his Gospel as a vehicle to address some of its doctrines beginning with chapter one, verse one.

John himself has been charged with gnostic tendencies; but the truth rather is that to him Gnosticism must have been the more hateful and have seemed the more dangerous because its conceptions were at some points the caricature of his own. In it he saw the real Antichrist, the "spirit of error," giving fatally misleading solutions of those problems which the human mind can never leave alone, but regarding which the one true light is the historic Christ. Gnosticism had lost all historical sense, all touch with reality. It moved in a world of sheer mythology and speculation; history became allegory; the incarnate Christ a phantasm. John took his stand only the more firmly upon historical fact, insisted the more strenuously upon the verified physical reality of the Incarnation. In many of its adherents Gnosticism had lost almost completely the moral sense; John the more vehemently asserts the inviolable moral purity of the Divine nature and of the regenerate life which is derived from it.

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<sup>1</sup> *qua* ~ in the capacity of.

<sup>2</sup> Randolph O. Yeager, *The Renaissance New Testament: John 1:1–4:54* (Woodbridge, Va.: Renaissance Press, 1979), 3–4.

Gnostic dualism had set God infinitely far from men as transcendent Being; John brings God infinitely near to men as Love; and sweeps away the whole complicated mythology of gnostic emanations, aeons, and archons, by his doctrine of the Logos, coeternal and coequal with the Father, incarnate in Jesus, through whom humanity is made to participate in the very life of God—the life of all love, purity, and truth.<sup>3</sup>

29. Mythology, speculation, allegory, and emanations are concoctions of heathen or the benighted who through intellectual arrogance conjure in their own mind those things that reside beyond human perspicacity.
30. The human mind is quite capable of understanding those things related to the natural world, but forbidden to grasp the ideas that reside in the omniscient mind of God.
31. Yes, man is equipped with the ability to think, evaluate, draw conclusions, and establish the truths that reveal themselves in the mechanics of divine creation.
32. Homo sapiens are the only creatures equipped with the capacity for language and its ability to process abstract thought, an idea expressed by a neuroscientist, Dr. Richard F. Thompson:

Language is the one species-typical behavior that sets humans completely apart from all other animals. All languages, from English to obscure dialects, have the same degree of complexity and similar general properties. It is as though humans came into the world equipped with a well-elaborated, complex, and biologically determined language system. In short, it would seem that we may have speech and language centers in the brain that are in some ways predetermined or preprogrammed.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Robert Law, "Johannine Theology," in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, gen. ed. James Orr (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 3:1697.

<sup>4</sup> Richard F. Thompson, *The Brain: A Neuroscience Primer*, 2d ed. (New York: W. H. Freeman and Co., 1993), 389, 391.

33. More precisely put, the only species to which God desires to communicate is the human race. And what He desires to communicate is His absolute truth. His dictation to the writers of both Testaments called the Bible is the end result of that effort.
34. More succinctly, Revelation resulted in Inspiration from which the spiritual believer may be Illuminated for Animation.
35. Fulfilment of these prophecies is introduced by John as he describes the Messiah as ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο - "the Word became flesh," but His physical entry into earthly arena of the Invisible War is expressed by others.
36. Luke records the annunciation to Mary by the archangel Gabriel:

**Luke 1:26** - Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

**v. 27** - to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

**Luke 1:30** - The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

**v. 31** - "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus [ true humanity ].

**v. 32** - "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High [ undiminished Deity ]; and the Lord God [ God the Father ] will give Him the throne of His father David [ the royal line ];

**v. 33** - and He will reign over the house of Jacob [ refers to the Jewish people ] forever [ anticipates future death and resurrection ], and His kingdom will have no end [ and extend into the Eternal State ].

**v. 34** - Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

**Luke 1:35** - The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.”

37. These prophecies by Gabriel bring the prophecies from the Tanakh into the New Testament and serve to corroborate one another.
38. The fulfillment is recorded by Luke in chapter 3, a passage with which you are surely familiar but if you were then benighted here is the link:
39. [http://www.joegriffin.org/Pages/ClassArchiveSubject.aspx?SeriesID=TG09&ClassNumberStart=15&ClassNumberEnd=29&Subject=The+Annunciations%3a+Joseph%2c+Mary%2c+%26+the+Virgin+Birth+%e2%80%a2+The+Concept+of+Freedom+by+the+Founding+Fathers+\(2009\)](http://www.joegriffin.org/Pages/ClassArchiveSubject.aspx?SeriesID=TG09&ClassNumberStart=15&ClassNumberEnd=29&Subject=The+Annunciations%3a+Joseph%2c+Mary%2c+%26+the+Virgin+Birth+%e2%80%a2+The+Concept+of+Freedom+by+the+Founding+Fathers+(2009)) See lessons 28 and 29.