

John 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The same was in the beginning with God.

Analysis

This verse reinforces the eternal pre-existence of the Logos with emphatic repetition. The Greek phrase 'houtos en en arche pros ton theon' (οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν θεόν) literally reads 'This one was in the beginning with God.' The demonstrative pronoun 'houtos' (this one) points back to the Logos, emphasizing personal identity rather than abstract concept. The imperfect tense 'en' (was) again indicates continuous past existence without beginning point. The preposition 'pros' (with, toward) describes face-to-face fellowship—eternal communion between distinct persons sharing divine nature. This verse guards against two errors: that Christ had a beginning (Arianism) or that Father and Son are identical (Modalism). The Logos is eternally distinct yet eternally with God.

Historical Context

John writes to audiences familiar with both Jewish Wisdom literature (where Wisdom exists with God from eternity—Proverbs 8:22-31) and Greek philosophical concepts of the Logos as divine reason. By asserting the Logos was 'with God' in the beginning, John claims more than philosophical principle—this is personal, relational being. The repetition from verse 1 employs Hebrew parallelism, reinforcing truth through restatement. Early church councils at Nicaea (325 AD) and Constantinople (381 AD) would cite such texts establishing Christ's eternal deity against Arian denials.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does the eternal fellowship between Father and Son reveal about God's essential nature as relational?
2. How does the Logos being 'with God' while also being God inform our understanding of the Trinity?

Interlinear Text

οὗτος	ἦν	ἐν	ἀρχῇ	πρὸς	τὸν	θεόν
The same	was	in	the beginning	with	G3588	God
G3778	G2258	G1722	G746	G4314		G2316

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