Two Scenes which Summarize the Person and Work of Jesus Christ (1:1-18)

1. The Word Enters His Creation (vv.1-13)
   1. The Pre-existence of the Word (vv.1-3)
      1. His Identity (vv.1-2)
         1. He existed eternally (“In the beginning the Word was already existing”)

*Why is He called the Word?*

*Just like God’s spoken word in the OT, so The Word…*

1. *Fully and perfectly images the character of God the Father*
2. *Is God’s sent revelation to mankind*
3. *Was the ultimate and decisive agent in creation*
4. *Is the one who will finally and completely execute God’s decrees of salvation and judgment*
   * + 1. He existed in an intimate relationship with God the Father (“…with God”) (cf. 1:18)
       2. He existed as fully God (“the Word was God”)

*“The construction the evangelist chose to express this idea was the most concise way he would have stated that the Word was God and yet was distinct from the Father.” (Daniel Wallace)*

* + 1. His Creatorship (v.3)
       1. His role as the Father’s agent in creation (“through Him all things were made”) (cf. Heb. 1:2; Col. 1:15-16; 1 Cor. 8:6)
       2. His role as creator of all created things (“And not even one thing which has been made was made apart from Him.”)
  1. The Revelation of the Word (vv.4-9)
     1. Prefigured in creation (vv.4-5)
        1. In the first creation, His life overflowed into physical light; and in His incarnation, He would become light that reveals the life of God (v.4)
        2. As with the first creation, so in the incarnation of the Word, the darkness cannot “grasp” the light (v.5)
           1. It cannot overpower or stop it.
           2. It cannot grasp or comprehend it.
     2. Announced by John the Baptist (vv.6-8)
        1. John’s ministry pointed back in time to the one who existed before Him, and forward to the one who has now arrived into the time and space of humanity (vv.6-7)
        2. John’s purpose was that *all* would believe on the basis of his testimony (v.7)
     3. Invaded the world (v.9)
        1. By the *True Light* (v.9a) – the ultimate light and fulfillment of all previous lights (cf. Prov. 6:23; Jn. 5:35)
        2. By the inescapable light (“shines on all mankind”) (v.9b)
  2. The Responses to the Word (vv.10-13)
     1. Rejection by His own (vv.10-11)
        1. The world did not know its creator (v.10)
        2. The world (especially the Jews) did not *receive* its owner (v.11)
     2. Reception by those born from God (vv.12-13)
        1. It is faith-filled receiving (“received…believed…”)
        2. It is a God-produced response (“…born of God…”)
        3. It is an identity-transforming gift (“authority to become children of God”)