

Notes on John 1:4

Compiled by Dustin Smith, PhD

*“In him was life
and the life was the light of people.”*

1:4

John 1:4 indicates that, “In him was life, and the life was the light of people.” This claim, namely that the creative and personified logos of God brings about life and light, also has parallels worthy of examining. Interestingly enough, the Prologue here seems to be drawing upon statements regarding God’s personified wisdom:

- She [Wisdom] is a tree of life to those taking hold of her, and blessed are those holding her fast. (Prov 3:18)
- For he who finds me [Wisdom] finds life, and obtains favor from Yahweh. (Prov 8:35)
- Turn, O Jacob, and take her [Wisdom]; walk toward the shining of her light. (Baruch 4:2)
- For she is a reflection of eternal light (Wisdom 7:26)