

**1. John and the *Logos*:**

“In the beginning was the Word (Gk. *Logos*)  
And the Word (*Logos*) was with God  
And the Word (*Logos*) was God.

John 1:1 (NHEB)

- John leaves us with a paradox. The *Logos* is both with God, which implies separate, but also is God. He doesn’t attempt to explain the paradox but wants us to sit in the tension.

**2. Greek Concept Behind the Word Logos:**

- The Greek concept behind Logos was not a new idea with John. The conceptual use of Logos had been around for 600 years at John’s writing.
- What is new is that John is connecting the word Logos to Jesus.

**3. Jesus is the “Word:”**

- We can study Jesus as the “Word” in three different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
  - Hebrew word for “word” = *dabar*
  - Aramaic word for “word” = *memra*
  - Greek word for “word” = *Logos*

**4. Bible Dictionary** – A good Bible dictionary is very helpful for understanding the many ancient concepts being expressed in the Bible.

- *Anchor-Yale Bible Dictionary* (ABD)
- *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (TDNT)
- *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*

**5. Background of Greek *Logos*:**

- The root of Logos is the verb, *Leg*:

To gather	Narrate
Count	Speak
Recount	Say

- From these verbs emerge clusters of nouns:

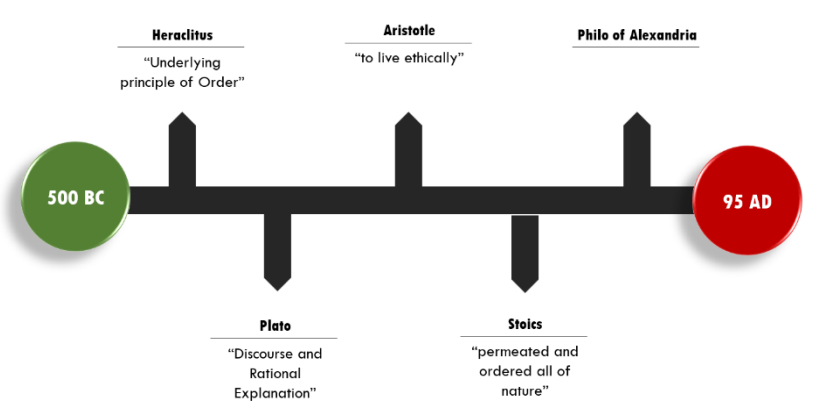
Verb - <i>Legō</i>	
Gather, count, recount	Narrate, speak, say
Noun - <i>Logos</i>	
Computation	Speech
Measure	Saying
Ratio	Narration
Proportion	Word

6. From the Anchor Bible Dictionary (vol. 4) pg. 348 – *Logos* as a principle that orders:

“Logos can mean the process by which both computations and explanations are produced.”

“In this context, Logos refers to the process of human reasoning, human rationality and more broadly the rational principle of the universe.”

7. Historical Timeline of Logos up to John’s Gospel:



8. John 1:1-5 fights nicely along with the Greek concept of Logos:

9. **Resource:** From LOGOS to TRINITY: *The Evolution of Religious Beliefs from Pythagoras to Tertullian* – Marian Hillar