D. Fisher
1400 words

FEATURE: "The Word" about Christmas

关于圣诞节的"道"

VOICE: What do logarithms, biology and logic have in common?

对数，生物学和逻辑学有甚么共同点呢？

PROF.:   And how do they fit together with an artisan violin-maker in a tuxedo?

怎么会把它们和一个穿燕尾服的制造小提琴的工匠联系在一起？

VOICE: Thousands of years before Nobel laureates demonstrated that the universe had a

beginning, a precocious[1] book began with the phrase, "In the beginning..."

几千年前在贵族桂冠诗人证明宇宙是有开始的时候之前，一本先知书就以这样的句

子开始，说"起初..."

注 Nobel laureates 疑应为 Nobel laureates 即贵族桂冠诗人，因几千年前没有"谥贝尔"

PROF.:   "In the beginning" appears twice in a very modern ancient book: the Bible.

"起初"，这个句子在一本非常现代的古书 —圣经中出现过两次。

The Bible's first verse says, quote, "In the beginning God created the

heavens and the earth."   End quote. (Genesis 1:1). Another translation says,

"Before anything else existed, there was God."

圣经的第一节记载：「起初, 神创造天地。」(引自创世纪1：1) 另一节则译

成：「在万物存在之前，上帝已经存在了。」

VOICE: In other words, before the material universe began, the creator-God existed.

换句话说，在物质的宇宙开始之前，创造者—上帝已经存在了。

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[1] (advanced for its age, like a 3-year-old who plays the piano like an adult; knowing more than other people living in its century).

PROF.: Yes. Later, when God said, "Let there be light," galaxies obediently began the controlled nuclear reactions that made them luminescent.[2]

是的。之后当上帝说：「要有光」银河系服从地启动了受控制的核反应，使星球成为发光体。

VOICE: You said there were ***two*** "in the beginning" verses. Where is the other one?

您说有两处有"起初"的句子，那么另一处在哪里？

PROF.: The first verse of the Gospel of John says, quote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1).

约翰福音第一节说「太初有道、道与神同在、道就是　神。」(约翰福音1:1)。

註 ("太初" 就是英语 " in the beginning" 即 "起初" 的意思)

VOICE: What did John mean by "the Word"?

约翰用"道"这个词的意思是什么？

PROF.: John wrote in Greek, and he used the "Logos." [LOG-os]. No one word can adequately explain everything it implies.

约翰以希腊文写福音书, 而且他还了用"Logos" 这个词。没有一个字能适当地解释Logos所代表的一切含意。

One dictionary defines *logos* as, quote, "In Greek philosophy, ***reason,*** …constituting ***the controlling principle of the universe***." End quote. Other meanings are: reckoning, account, measure, explanation, description, wisdom, and meaning or significance.

有一本字典这样给 Logos这个词下了定义，它写到 "在希腊哲学中就是**道理**. . .

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[2] (light-producing).

即**宇宙控制原理**。" 其它的意思是估计、帐目、测量、解释、描述、智慧及意思或者意义。

VOICE: Isn't *logos* the root word for biology, geology, psychology and the other "-ologies"?

Logos 是不是生物学 biology、地质学 geology、心理学 psychology 和其它的 "-ologies"？这上英文名词的字根呢？

PROF.: Yes. And for logic.

是的。 它也是"逻辑"logic 这个词的字根。

VOICE: So then *logos* would mean ***study*** or ***knowledge*** -- as biology is the study or knowledge of life.

这样 Logos 可以解释为**研究**或**知识**—如生物学是关于生命的研究或知识。

PROF.: That's only part of what the ancient Greeks had in mind.   One described the ***Logos*** as the ***wisdom that steers the universe.*** One lexicon lists more than 100 meanings.

那是古代希腊人所想到的仅有的一部份而已。有人把 logos 描述为驾御宇宙的智慧。有一个词典把 logos 列出超过 100 个意思的解释。

VOICE: I'm encountering a problem. Christians believe the Bible was inspired by the all-wise God who created everything "in the beginning." If John was writing under God's guidance, why didn't he select a word that was clearer and less ambiguous? 3

我遇到一个难题。 基督徒相信圣经是起初创造宇宙万物全能上帝启示的。如果约翰是在神的指引下写福音书, 为什么他选择这么不明确和无棱两可的词 Logos 呢？

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3 (having more than one possible meaning; able to be interpreted so many ways).

PROF.: I think John and God deliberately chose that word. After all, they wanted to describe someone who is bigger and more complex than human words can describe. When John used the word *Logos,* he was referring to Jesus Christ. He was explaining that Jesus was the ***infinite creator-God*** -- who not only steered the universe but [who] had made it.

我想约翰和上帝是仔细考虑选用那个词的, 因为他们要描写一位比人类语言所能描写得更伟大和复杂的。 当约翰用 Logos 这个词时, 他是指耶稣基督。他解释耶稣是无限的创造者－上帝— 祂不仅驾御整个宇宙，并且创造了宇宙。

VOICE: I see your point. No small, easily-defined word would even begin to explain the Infinite God.

我明白你的意思。没有简单容易定义的字能够解释那无限全能的上帝的。

PROF.: Right. German writer Johann Wolfgang Goethe [GAIR-tuh] de-scribed the problem in *Faust.* Trying to find an adequate way to translate "In the beginning was the *Logos,*" Goethe wrote:

是的。德国作家 Johann Wolfgang Goethe 用 Faust 来描写这个问题。试图找寻一个令人满意的方法来翻译"太初有道"，Goethe写到：

" 'In the beginning was the ***Word*** 4 -- alas! 5

" '太初有道' —"道"是很难表达它的含意！

The first line stops me -- How shall I proceed?

这第一行就使我停下来, 我该怎样继续下去呢？

'The Word' cannot express the meaning here –

"道" 不能表达它的意思

I must translate the passage differently,

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4 (Please use the word your Bible uses for "Word" in John 1:1).

我必须用不同的方式来翻译它，

If by the Spirit I am rightly guided.

我会被圣灵正确地指引.

PROF.:   Once more[6] -- 'In the beginning was the ***Thought*** –

再试一次 －'太初有思想 '—

Consider the first line attentively,

仔细地考虑第一行

Lest hurrying on too fast you lose the meaning,

唯恐过于匆忙 使你失去原意

Was it then ***Thought*** that created all things?

是不是思想创造了所有的一切？

Can Thought make Matter? Let us try the line[7]

思想能够制造物质吗？ 让我们再试一下第一行

Once more, -- 'In the beginning was the ***Power***[*]

再试一次，—'太初有权力'

This will not do -- even while I write the phrase

这不通顺－甚至当我写这个句子的时候

I feel its faults -- oh, help me, Holy Spirit,

我感到它是错误的—啊！圣灵，帮助我，

I'll weigh[8] the passage once again, and write

我会再一次重新考虑 这个句子， 并写下来

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[5] (an exclamation of sorrow or regret; he is unhappy that the word "word" doesn't carry the idea adequately).

[6] (one more try).

[7] (attempt to translate the line).

[8] (evaluate, rethink).

Boldly, -- 'In the beginning was the *Act.* ' "

大胆地，—'太初有行动'"

VOICE: "The Thought," "the Power" and "the Act" were three ways Goethe attempted to translate "the *logos,*" or "the Word." He realized no word -- or no river of words -- could define the Infinite God.

Goethe曾试用三种方法去翻译 "the logos" 和 "the word" 即 "思想"、"权力" 和 "行为"。他承认没有一个字或一堆字可以定义无限全能的上帝。

PROF.:   *Logos* also had **mathematical** meanings -- including computation, proportion, ratio and formula. The *logos* root appears in modern words such as "**log**-arithm."

Logos也有数学的意义 一包括认算 computation、 比例 proportions、 比 ratio 和 公式formula, 在近代的文字中Logos的字根出现在像 "log-arithm" 对数这个词中。

Famous Greek mathematicians such as Pythagoras and Euclid used the word *logos.* In a 1976 book entitled, *Logos: Mathematics and Christian Theology,* Prof. Granville C. Henry, Jr. [GRAN-vil HEN-ree, man's name] analyzed how mathematicians had unknowingly developed the word *logos* in ways that made it more suitable to describe Jesus Christ.

著名的希腊数学家如 Pythagoras 和 Euclid 曾用过 Logos 这个字。在1976年 一本书取名为《Logos：数学与基督教神学》，Granville. C. Henry 教授曾经分析， 为甚么数学家会在无意中发现 Logos 这个字，使它更适合描述耶稣基督。

For example, Euclid's mathematics contain the implied assumption, quote, "...that it is **one system.**"

例如 Euclid 的数学就包括一种必然包含的假设说："它是一个系统"。

VOICE: Since mathematicians understood logos was a unified, harmonious system, logos was a good word to describe the one true and living God.

自从数学家了解到 Logos 是一个统一的和谐的系统, Logos 是一个好字用来描写真实和活生生的神。

PROF.:   Yes. Another assumption about mathematics is, quote, "...that it is ***discovered*** and ***not created*** " [by the mathematician].

是的。关于数学的另一个假设是说 "***...***它是被数学家发现的, 但并不是被创造的。"

           Mathematicians don't ***make up*** [9] the rules of mathematics...

数学家没有造出数学的规则。

VOICE: ...Like "a straight line is the shortest distance between two points."

...好像 "在兩点之间，直线是最短的距离。"

PROF.:   Right. Mathematicians don't invent rules; they discover them.

对的。数学家并不发明规则, 但他们发现了这些规则。

VOICE: That would make *logos* an ideal word to communicate that Jesus the Son of God is not a man-made fantasy, but a reality who can be discovered.

那会使得 Logos 是一个理想的字用来形容上帝的儿子耶稣不是人造的幻想，而是一个真实的可以被人发现的。

PROF.:   Good point!

这一点说得好!

           Prof. Henry also points out that Euclid used the word *logos* in the sense that modern mathematicians translate as "ratio" or "proportion."

Henry 教授也指出 Euclid 使用 Logos 这个字的意思, 在现代数学家们翻译为 "比率" 或 "比例"。

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[9] (invent, imagine).

VOICE: Those words are similar to what Einstein said he saw in nature. Didn't he speak of "proportion" and "elegance"?

这些字好像爱因斯坦曾经说过，他在大自然中看到的，他有没有读到过"比例"和"文雅"的问题？

PROF.:   Yes. In fact, those words led Einstein to some of his best ideas.

是的。事实上，这些字曾带领爱因斯坦思考出一些他最好的主意。

VOICE: What do you mean?

你是甚么意思啊？

PROF.:   When Einstein examined mathematical descriptions of how earlier scholars thought the universe worked, he didn't find any computational errors.   But he spoke of, quote, "some strangeness in the proportion." End quote.   Pre-Einstein ideas of the universe lacked elegance or symmetry.[10]   So he worked out theories and formulas that revealed nature in a more balanced, elegant way.

在爱因斯坦研究早先的学者，思想像宇宙是怎样工作而做出的数学描述中，他没有找到任何计算上的错误。但是他说到：「在比例上有些奇怪」。在爱因斯坦之前，人们对宇宙的看法缺少文雅和对称 。所以他研究出来一些原理和公式，以一个更平衡和文雅的方式来显示大自然。

VOICE: In other words, Einstein wanted a system that would ***go beyond being factually correct,*** and would contain the added dimension of ***being beautiful?***

换句话说，爱因斯坦所要的，不只是在事实上正确的系统，而且还要有附加的美丽？

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[10] (regularity, balance and harmony in arrangement.   It is derived from Greek words meaning Òmeasured togetherÓ or Òsame measure.Ó For example, a human face is symmetrical if the left and right sides of the face are Òmirror imagesÓ of each other Ñ if both eyes are the same, both cheeks the same, etc.).

PROF.: Yes. Einstein recognized that the universe is more than merely a functional mechanism. It has a finesse of style.

是的。爱因斯坦认为宇宙不仅是一个具有功能的机械装置。它还有完美的形态。

Einstein's universe is not the work of a mechanic, but of an artisan.

爱因斯坦的宇宙不是出自于技师的手，而是出自于雕刻艺人之手。

VOICE: Explain the difference.

请解释一下他们的区别。

PROF.: God wasn't content merely to make the universe work, and to leave greasy fingerprints. Instead, he gave his creation an elegant finesse -- like a violin maker in a tuxedo!

上帝对于仅仅使宇宙能够工作，但却留下油腻的指纹是不满意的。取而代之, 祂给于祂的创造物一个优雅完美的形态, 好像一位穿着燕尾服的小提琴工匠。

VOICE: So when John wrote about Jesus Christ being the *Logos,* he was saying Christ was the one who created the universe with elegance and finesse.

所以当约翰把耶稣基督描写成 logos 时，他说基督是那位用优雅和完美来创造宇宙的神。

PROF.: Yes. The scholars who translated the Gospel of John had to select a word to try to convey all the rich complexity of the ideas implied in the Greek word, *Logos.* They chose the word "Word." [11]

是的。那些翻译约翰福音的学者们必须选择一个字, 来概括所有包含在希腊字 Logos 中丰富、复杂的意义，他们选择了"The word" "道"这个字。

VOICE: Because Christ was the one who communicated God's message and demonstrated who God is.

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[11] (Please insert the word that the Bible in your language uses for Òword Ó in John 1:1.

因为基督是传达上帝信息和证明谁是上帝的那一位。

PROF.: Yes. The Apostle John wrote about Jesus, quote:

是的。门徒约翰写了有关基督的事迹:

SOUND: ECHO BEHIND READING

阅读时背后的回声

PROF.: "In the beginning was the Logos,[12] and the Logos was with God, and the Logos was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." (John 1:1-3).

「太初有道，道兴神同在，道就是神。这道太初与神同在，万物是藉着祂造的；没有一样不是借着祂造的。」（约翰1:1-3）

SOUND: ECHO OUT

回声停止

VOICE: So those verses tell what Jesus was doing before he came to earth.

所以这些圣经章节告诉我们，在耶稣来到世界之前，祂已经做成的那些事。

PROF.: Yes. Several verses later John summarizes the third of a century when Jesus lived in a human body on Earth:

是的。在这面的一些章节里，约翰总结了耶稣以人的形像生活在世界上的那三分之一世纪。

SOUND: ECHO BEHIND READING

阅读时所发的回声

PROF.: "The Logos became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and

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[12] (Because todayÕs discussion shows that *Logos* has deeper meanings than merely Òword,Ó I suggest using *Logos* in these verses. However, if you believe this would not be acceptable, please quote these verses the way they appear in the Bible in your language).

truth.   ...No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known." (1:14 & 18).

「道成了肉身，住在我们中间，充充满满地有恩典，有真理。我们也见过祂的荣光，正是父独生子的荣光。. . . 从来没有人看见神，只有在父怀里的独生子将他表明出来。」(约1:14 & 18)。

SOUND: ECHO OUT

回声停止

VOICE: As I read the rest of the Gospel of John this week, I noticed the amazing ways Jesus proved he was the "Word," the "Power" and the "Act" of God. He walked on water, he healed a man born blind, and he raised a dead friend back to life.

VOICE: 这个礼拜, 当我读到约翰福音的其它章节时，我注意到耶稣使用惊人的方式, 来证明祂就是上帝的"道"、"权柄"和"行动"。 祂在水面上行走、 祂使一位生来就双目失明的人治好以及祂使一位死去的朋友起死回生。

PROF.:   Yes. John explains that Jesus' actions in the Gospel of John were, quote, "signs." End quote. (John 2:11). In other words, they were miraculous proofs, proving Jesus had the power of God.

是的。约翰福音中阐明耶稣的行为就是"神迹" (约翰福音2:11) 。换句话说，那些神迹是奇迹般的证据，证明耶稣具有神的能力。

In the few seconds we have left, I would encourage everyone listening to read the Gospel of John this week. Examine the mighty "signs" and miracles that the eye-witness John observed Jesus doing.

在剩下的几秒钟里，我鼓励每一位听到这个礼拜所读的约翰福音的人, 仔细了解这些伟大的神迹和奇迹, 也就是目击证人约翰亲眼看到耶稣所行的。

As you read, ask God to give you understanding of Jesus Christ being the *Logos*. As you read the Gospel of John, God will help you see that Jesus was the Word/Thought/Power/Act of the true and living God.

当你阅读时，求神给你智慧去理解耶稣基督就是道 Logos。当你读约翰福音时，神会帮助你看到耶稣就是真实和活着上帝的道／思想／权柄／行动。

TAPE: THEME AND ANNOUNCEMENT