

All Power

Wayne Waibel – 01/04/2026

There are a lot of similarities between technology and theology, I'm finding. Perhaps I feel that way because I am grounded in both worlds, so it's an easy comparison.

It could be argued that technology is Satan's evil twin because it can be exceedingly frustrating, confounding, and enraging. Apple didn't do us any favors by adopting an apple with a bite out of it as its corporate seal. I would argue that technology is our friend, but that is an opinion – not an irrevocable assertion.

From a purely technical perspective - to reboot is to cycle the power. More to the point it is the act of turning something off – and then back on again. I'm almost embarrassed to confess that a good many of the technical problems I used to encounter routinely were resolved in this fashion. In some cases – the unit was actually off and simply needed to be turned on.

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“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” That sentence is one of the most profound and most cryptic in all of Scripture.

Not so much because it is confusing, more so because of how all-encompassing it is. The Word means all power. And when that Word became flesh and dwelt among us - we beheld a cosmic reboot.

God essentially reoriented the law and the prophets behind His begotten Son. It was His plan from the very beginning. The trajectory of God's plans for His people as expressed in our lesson from Jeremiah moves progressively in the direction of salvation and culminates there. The Word that ordered the world in the beginning took on flesh in Jesus Christ. The readings from both Jeremiah and John put us clearly in touch with the life God wills for each of us.

You may well ask why a cosmic reboot should even be necessary. The short answer is that humanity – as usual – gets in there and messes everything up. Unless and until we finally embrace the humility necessary to refocus our tendencies, there will continue to be moments when God is left with no choice. We have no one to blame but ourselves.

The good news is that God's coming among us in Christ and our coming to faith in Christ are all part of a most excellent plan. A divine plan that includes all of humankind, not just the elites, or the Jews, or even the believers. Every last soul is included in the redemptive plan of God, which has at its core a lavish outpouring of glory, grace, truth, and love for human creation.

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It's a messy world. One that is in need of a reboot every now and again. Sometimes just to flush things out and start fresh. We must always consider that we do not use God to make our lives richer, healthier, happier, or more prosperous. Rather, we are used by God to heal the sickness, mend the brokenness, and reconcile the estranged. It's of great comfort to remember that God directs the world by means of His Word.

I'm sure I've mentioned in the past how eloquent I find the gospel of John. It has no equal in the synoptic gospels when it comes to the beauty and majesty with which it handles the life of Christ. A sizable number of theologians feel John is the weakest of the gospels, and that's probably why I find it so exhilarating.

Today's reading for example goes into far more detail about the Baptist, John, than any of the other gospels, illuminating his contribution to Christendom. John, as a witness sent by God, is central to the appearance of Jesus. John witnesses to who He really is so that those who hear John and see Jesus may have faith in Jesus.

"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."

What God did through the incarnation in a very real sense, was move into the neighborhood. The Word is everything. And when that Word became flesh and dwelt among us, it may be helpful to think of it in terms of neighborhood so that you can break that concept down to a relatable level.

But, as we ponder the notion of Almighty God joining us where we are – in our neighborhood, we must not lose sight of the reality that we still have everyday lives to lead. Amen.