

John 1

Introduction to John

Purpose:

John 20:31 (NKJV) "... these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. "

- John is not simply a historian or a biographer. He wants his readers to respond by believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and to receive new life in Him as a result.
- John was written later than the other three Gospels – about 90AD.
- They have a similar outlook - "synoptic", John fills in some gaps.
- All record miracles, John records discourses and events that fill the miracles with meaning.

"The four Gospels all had the same purpose: to point out Christ. The first three Gospels show his body, so to speak, but John shows his soul. For this reason I usually say that this Gospel is a key to understanding the rest; for whoever understands the power of Christ strikingly pictured here will then profit by reading what the others tell about the Redeemer who appeared." – John Calvin

- I. 1:1-5 The Eternal Word
- II. 1:6-13 The True Light
- III. 1:14-18 The Word Became Flesh
- IV. 1:19-28 The Voice in the Wilderness
- V. 1:29-34 "Behold, the Lamb of God!"
- VI. 1:35-42 Gathering Disciples
- VII. 1:43-51 "You are the Son of God!"

- I. 1:1-5 The Eternal Word

1:1 *the Word was God* John emphasizes Christ's deity right from the first verse.

1:2-5 He is eternal, the Creator, and the Giver of Life.

Colossians 1:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶For by Him [Christ] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

- II. 1:6-13 The True Light

- A. 1:6-8 Reference to John the Baptist

- B. 1:11 *His own* would in this case be His own Jewish people, especially the leaders of the nation at that time who rejected Him.

- C. 1:12 Those of us who have received Jesus by placing our faith in Him have been adopted into God's family.

1 John 3:1 (NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

III. 1:14-18 The Word Became Flesh

“Just as our words reveal our mind and heart, so Christ reveals the mind and heart of God to men.” – Warren Wiersbe

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV) ¹God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ²has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

IV. 1:19-28 The Voice in the Wilderness

- A. 1:21 Regarding *the Prophet*, God foretold the coming of Jesus to Moses:

Deuteronomy 18:18-19 (NKJV) ¹⁸I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. ¹⁹And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

- B. 1:21 Regarding *Elijah*, the Old Testament ends with a prophecy of Elijah's return.

Malachi 4:5 (NKJV) Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

- i. John came in “the spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:17), but he was not the real Elijah reincarnated.
- ii. Elijah will return. When? As the prophecy says, “before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.” Many believe he will be one of the two witnesses foretold in Revelation 11.

V. 1:29-34 “Behold, the Lamb of God!”

- A. About 2000 years before this time, Abraham brought his son Isaac to Mt. Moriah, the site of the present day Temple Mount in Jerusalem, to offer a sacrifice.

*Genesis 22:7 (NKJV) But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but **where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**”*

Now roughly 2000 years from the time of Abraham and 2000 years ago, John the Baptist gives the final answer to Isaac's question in John 1:29.

- B. 1:34 John the Baptist attested to the deity of Jesus Christ, calling Him the Son of God.

VI. 1:35-42 Gathering Disciples

A. 1:40-42 The three phrases *to Christ*, *in Christ* and *for Christ* sum up the vision we have at Horizon Central for each person who calls this church their home. This vision can be expanded as follows:

i. Leading others **to Christ**, as we see in John 1:40-42

“One ... who ... followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.”

ii. Abiding **in Christ** so that our lives bear much fruit, as Christ explains in John 15:5

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

iii. Sending and being sent **for Christ** as the Holy Spirit empowers us, as in Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

VII. 1:43-51 “You are the Son of God!”

A. 1:45 Philip was clearly a student of the Scriptures – and he knew that Nathanael was too. He explains who Jesus is, by explaining Him from his Bible.

B. 1:48-49 *under the fig tree* Jesus is revealing that He knows Nathanael's heart. What was he doing under that tree? Who knows? Praying? Worshiping? Crying out to God? Perhaps he was studying his Scriptures and began praying that God would send a Savior. That place was a special place for Nathanael and Jesus saw him there. Maybe no one else did. Christ's mention of it obviously made an impact on Nathanael.

i. Think back to the last time you were alone and really pouring your heart out to God. Maybe you thought God was so far away and wasn't listening. The heavens seemed like iron or bronze over your head – and you were absolutely certain that your prayer just wasn't getting through and that God would never answer.

Guess what? Jesus saw you there – and more than that, He saw your heart – that you were trying with all your might to connect to the God who made you. He heard every word, saw every tear and read every thought. And He wants you to know that.

He saw Nathanael under the fig tree and He sees you wherever you go to cry out to Him.

ii. 1:49 Nathanael also attests to the deity of Jesus Christ, calling Him the Son of God.