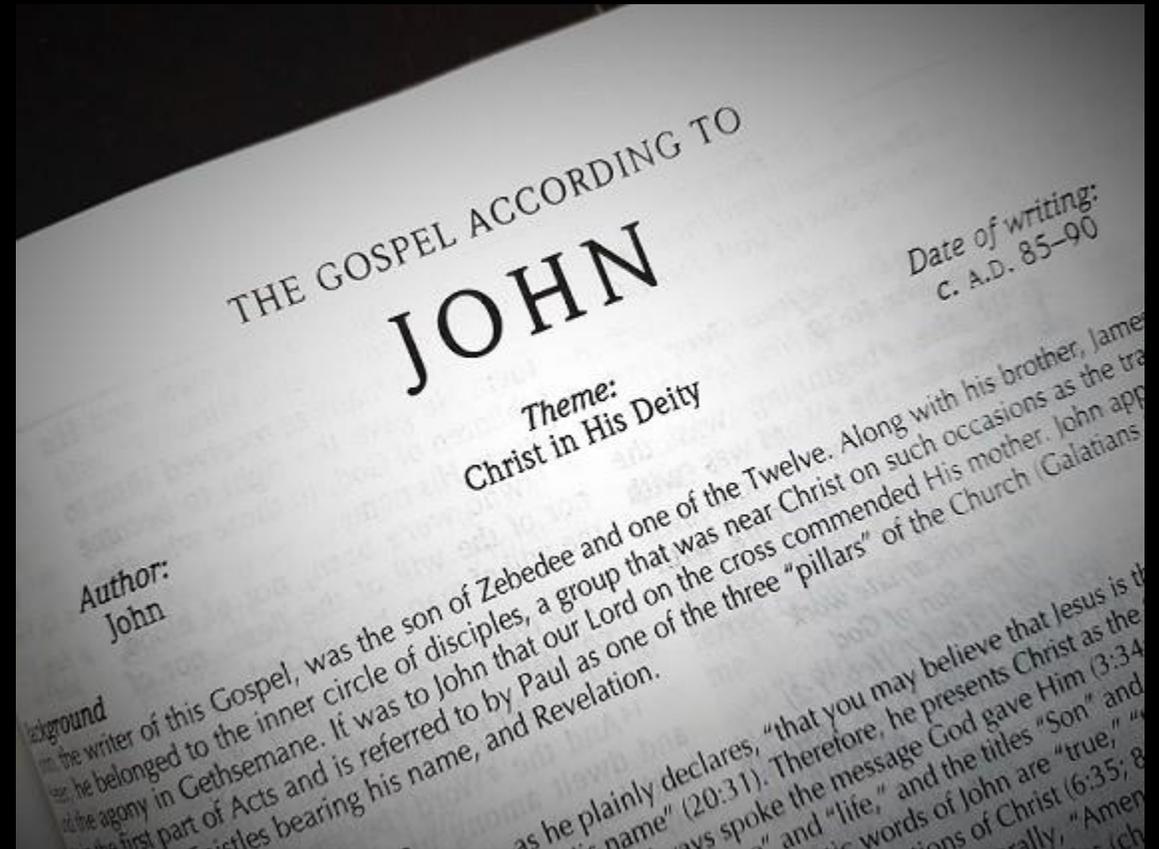


Verse by Verse

John 9



Previously in John

Previously in John

- In **Ch. 2** Jesus performed his first **miracle** or **sign**, when he turned water into wine at a wedding.
- In **Ch. 3**, we witnessed Christ's dialog with **Nicodemus**.
- In **Ch. 6**, after feeding the 5000, Jesus then referred to himself as the **bread of life**.
- In **Ch. 8**, at **Jerusalem** for a festival, he proclaimed himself to be the light of the world.

John 9 Introduction

John 9 Introduction

- This chapter starts with the **healing of a blind man**, which takes place on a Sabbath.
- John will walk us through several responses.
- It ends with an act of worship – the blind man now **believing in Jesus Christ**.
- The **light of the world** brings sight to the blind, while exposing the blindness of those who think they see.

John 9 Key Verses

John 9 Key Verses

- John 9:35-38 (ESV)

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”
³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

Miraculous Signs in John 1 – 12

Miraculous Signs in John 1 – 12

1. Water into wine 2:1-12
2. Healing an official's son 4:46-54
3. Healing a paralytic 5:1-15
4. Feeding the 5000 6:5-14
5. Walking on water 6:16-24
6. Healing the blind man 9:1-7
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead 11:1-45

John 9 Outline

John 9 Outline

1. Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind 9:1-7
2. The Neighbors Talk to the Man 9:8-12
3. The Pharisees Talk to the Man 9:13-17
4. The Jews Now Call His Parents 9:18-23
5. They Talk to the Man Again 9:24-34
6. Jesus Finds the Man Who Then Believes 9:35-41

1. Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9:1-7

1. Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9:1-7

- 9:2 Rabbi, who sinned ...?
- The book of **Job**, which is possibly the Bible's oldest book, puts this kind of question to rest.
- In a general sense, there is a connection between sin and suffering, sickness and death.
- In the specifics, the connections cannot normally be traced in any direct way.

1. Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9:1-7

- 9:3 ... but that the works of God might be displayed in Him.
- Even in a fallen world, God can use sickness and suffering for his own purposes.
- I wonder how many of our difficulties are not allowed by God because he wants to help us overcome them.

“I am” Sayings in John

“I am” Sayings in John

1. I am the bread of life 6:35, 48, 51
2. I am the light of the world 8:12, 9:5
3. I am the gate 10:7, 9
4. I am the good shepherd 10:11, 14
5. I am the resurrection and the life 11:25
6. I am the way, the truth and the life 14:6
7. I am the true vine 15:1

1. Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9:1-7

- 9:5 “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”
- Take a moment to highlight or underline this.
- We will come back to it later.

1. Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9:1-7

- 9:6-7 Jesus heals the man in an interesting way.
- The spit, the mud and sending to the [Pool of Siloam](#) to wash are all kind of strange.
- This pool is not to be confused with the [Pool of Bethesda](#) in [John 5](#), where Jesus healed a lame man.

1. Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9:1-7

- The Pool of Siloam is located at the edge of the City of David in Jerusalem.
- <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/wp-content/uploads/siloam-pool.jpg>



1. Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9:1-7

- For a very long time the Pool of Siloam was covered by rubble and sections of private property.
- As a result, no one knew where it was.
- This led many to doubt its existence and the reliability of the Bible, such as this story.

1. Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9:1-7

- It was only discovered in 2004 and now it is a regular stop on tours of Jerusalem.
- Imagine for a moment a doubter, dying in 2003 after a lifetime of study, but believing the skeptical scholars.
- With that in mind, I'm deciding to be okay with my own unanswered questions till Jesus comes.

2. The Neighbors Talk to the Man

9:8-12

2. The Neighbors Talk to the Man

9:8-12

- The neighbors are understandably curious.
- The man had always been blind.
- They have no special insight into what God may be doing and are only impressed by the man's healing.

3. The Pharisees Talk to the Man

9:13-17

3. The Pharisees Talk to the Man

9:13-17

- 9:13 The neighbors bring the man to the Pharisees.
- Surely these wise men will be able to explain what has happened.
- Or maybe not.
- They only start arguing among themselves.

3. The Pharisees Talk to the Man

9:13-17

- 9:16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath ...”
- Making mud was considered work and a violation of their Sabbath tradition.
- So was the healing, since blindness was not a matter of life and death.

4. The Jews Now Call His Parents

9:18-23

4. The Jews Now Call His Parents

9:18-23

- **9:18** Despite the testimony of the neighbors and of the man himself, they refuse to believe the healing.
- **9:19-20** The parents, on the other hand, admit that the healing took place.
- **9:21-23** They, however, have heard about Jesus and are afraid of the Jewish religious authorities.

4. The Jews Now Call His Parents

9:18-23

- By the time of John's writing it seems that rejecting Christians was added to the Jewish synagogue liturgy.
- It was the twelfth in a series of eighteen "blessings."

4. The Jews Now Call His Parents

9:18-23

- Here is the wording translated into English:

For the apostates let there be no hope. And let the arrogant government be speedily uprooted in our days. Let the nozerim and the minim be destroyed in a moment. And let them be blotted out of the Book of Life and not be inscribed together with the righteous. Blessed art thou, O Lord, who humblest the arrogant" (S. Schechter, 1898).

- <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/birkat-ha-minim>

4. The Jews Now Call His Parents

9:18-23

- This all shows us how much people can manipulate religion in ways that leave God out.
- The religious leaders have Sabbath traditions that add to the Sabbath commandment.
- The parents fear the leaders more than they fear God.
- The institution of the synagogue even solidifies opposition to Jesus, excommunicating his followers.

5. They Talk to the Man Again

9:24-34

5. They Talk to the Man Again

9:24-34

- You have to admire the man's boldness.
- He says most of the words in this section.
- He simply cannot deny what Christ has done.
- By contrast, he is beginning to realize that the religious leaders don't have any special insights.

5. They Talk to the Man Again

9:24-34

- In a world with competing version of truth, of reality and of morality we need to start and end with Jesus.
- We dare not deny what Christ has done, regardless of the cultural pressures.

6. Jesus Finds the Man Who Then Believes

9:35-41

6. Jesus Finds the Man Who Then Believes

9:35-41

- As always in **John**, Jesus pushes us toward a decision.
- The formerly blind man now sees and believes in Jesus as the messianic **Son of Man**.
- Ironically, the Pharisees in the story are actually blinded by **the light of the world**.
- They remain guilty and unable to grasp who Jesus actually is.

The Light of the World

The Light of the World

- **John 8:12** (ESV)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

- **John 9:5** (ESV)

“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

The Light of the World

- **Matthew 5:14-16** (ESV) in the Sermon on the Mount

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

The Light of the World

- The good works we perform will certainly be different for each of us.
- Without exception, though, Jesus expects us in some way to be working for him.

The Light of the World

- We do not do our good works to earn merit with God or to place ourselves in the limelight.
- We do our good works in such a way as to bring glory to God our Father in heaven.

The Light of the World

- **Ephesians 2:10** (ESV)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 9 What We Just Read

John 9 Key Verses

John 9 Key Verses

- John 9:35-38 (ESV)

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

John 9 Key Points

John 9 Key Points

1. Sickness and suffering are the result of sin in general, but are not always the direct result of sin.
2. As with the Pool of Siloam, sometimes it takes a long time to prove the Bible true.
3. This world has competing version of truth, of reality and of morality.
4. We should be worried if, like the man's parents, we fear other people more than we fear God.

John 9 Key Points

5. We, like the blind man, need to start and end with Jesus and what he has done for us.
6. We dare not deny what Christ has done, regardless of the cultural, community or family pressures.
7. With Christ in heaven, **we are the light of the world** – the only light that the world may get to see.

John 9 A Prayer

John 9 A Prayer

- Dear Father in heaven,
- Thanks to Jesus the light of the world, we can say with the blind man that we were once blind but now we see.
- We thank you for opening our eyes to the truth that Jesus is the Son of God, the Son of Man and the Savior that we need.

John 9 A Prayer

- Help us to hold on tightly to that faith, knowing that in a world full of trials, troubles and temptations, Jesus is our only hope.
- And let us serve you with good works, the very kind that you have planned for us, so that we can carry out our missions as lights in this dark and dying world.
- In Christ,
- Amen