

## 43 – John: Jesus is God – Believe and Live!

- John's Gospel is often called the "simple" Gospel, since he wrote in a vocabulary that could be understood by children. However, John's gospel is **far from simple, presenting some of the most profound truths about Jesus**. Jerome (4<sup>th</sup> century Christian scholar) said "*John excels in the depths of divine mysteries.*" This book reveals the real Jesus, who is the real God, Almighty in the flesh. That is certainly not a very simple concept!
- There is some debate about who is the real author of this Gospel, since no name is used anywhere in the text. Overwhelming evidence, however, suggests that it was indeed John, the beloved disciple, the brother of James (*the sons of Thunder, as Jesus named them*) and co-worker with Peter in the early Church. **He also wrote three letters (the epistles of 1, 2, and 3 John) and the book of Revelation.** John always refers to himself without using his name. He calls himself the "the one Jesus loved." We can ALL use that reference!
- The purpose of John's Gospel is clear, as he wrote it toward the end of the book (*common practice in those days*). "*...but 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 20:31) John wrote to convince his audience that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Son of God, God Himself, and through Him the world is saved.
- John's Gospel is different from the other three. Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the "synoptic Gospels" because they are very similar, each telling the stories of Jesus and His life. John's Gospel, however, differs, in that he does not include most of the events and teachings of the other Gospels. **John goes deeper**, reveals more of the personal details of Jesus and His disciples, most likely to encourage believers to have a deeper relationship with Him. His entire purpose was to show that Jesus is God. Augustine, another early church scholar said this: "In the four Gospels, or rather in the four books of the one Gospel, the Apostle St. John not undeservedly with reference to his spiritual understanding compared to an eagle, has lifted higher, and far more sublimely than the other three, his proclamation, and in lifting it up he has wished our hearts also to be lifted."
- Matthew and Mark focus on the miracles of Jesus, and Luke provides plenty of information on His parables. John does neither. The **miracles shown in the book of John are provided as "signs" and chosen to show that Jesus is God, with power over all things (including death)**. There are seven specific signs of His Godhood in John. This is part of the purpose of John's Gospel to reveal Jesus as true God. This Gospel could be called a "Book of Signs." There are no parables in this book. The discourse on the Good Shepherd is not a parable, as it is sometimes interpreted. It is a serious teaching on who Jesus is, and fulfillment of OT prophecies.
- John does not include any information on Jesus' human ancestry, or His birth, baptism, temptation, casting out of demons, parables, transfiguration, instituting of the Lord's Supper, His suffering in Gethsemane, or His Ascension. Instead, he focuses on Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem, the Jewish feasts, private sessions with individuals (e.g., chaps. 3-4; 18:28-19:16), and ministry to His disciples (ch. 13-17).
- John **does not include a detailed human genealogy** like Matthew and Luke. John gets right to the point, and reveals His divine genealogy. "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" As far back as man can think or imagine, the Word (Jesus) was existing. (John 1:1) The entire "Gospel in a Nutshell" is presented in the opening verses of chapter 1.
- John wrote his Gospel after the other three. He did not need to repeat the same information they provided. His goal was to take us deeper into knowing Jesus, the Son of God, through whom the world is saved, and with whom we can have a personal relationship. There is some speculation that John's Gospel was written even after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (70 AD), though there is no mention of this major historical event. He wrote it from Ephesus.
- Some say that the **Gospel of John is written for those who already believe**, to take them deeper, and to increase their faith in the man Jesus, and place their complete being into Jesus, God incarnated. John wrote to encourage all believers to know better the One who allowed Himself to be nailed to a cross for our sins, and the One for whom our complete devotion is justified.



Almighty God Himself

The eagle is a symbol for deity, for God, in scripture. The Gospel of John is often symbolized with an eagle. John's purpose was to show that Jesus is God.

# Highlights

<b>Prologue, 1:1-18</b>	Word Is God, 1:1-3; Word Became Flesh, 1:14; Word Revealed God, 1:18
<b>Introduction 1:19-51</b>	Witness of John the Baptist, 1:19-36; Witness of Andrew, 1:37-42; Witness of Philip, 1:43-46; Witness of Nathanael, 1:47-51
<b>Public Ministry Chapters 2-12</b>	At Cana, changes water to wine, 2:1-12; Cleanses Temple at Passover, 2:13-22; Interviews Nicodemus, 2:23-3:36; Woman at Well in Sychar (Samaria), 4:1-45; Heals nobleman's son in Capernaum, 4:46-54; Heals man at pool of Bethesda, Ch 5; Feeds 5,000 near Sea of Galilee and gives "hard teaching" on Himself as the Bread of Life, Ch 6; Teaches at Feast of Tabernacles in Temple, Ch 7; Forgives woman taken in adultery, Ch 8; Opens eyes of man born blind in Jerusalem, Ch 9; Jesus is the Good Shepherd, Ch 10; Raises Lazarus from dead in Bethany, Ch 11; Comes to Bethany for Supper, 12:1-11; Comes to Jerusalem—Tearful entry, 12:12-19; Comes to Greeks, 12:20-26; Comes to His hour, 12:27-36; Comes to end of public ministry, 12:37-50
<b>Private Ministry Chs 13-17</b>	Washes feet of disciples, <b>Ch 13</b> ; Comforts disciples, <b>Ch 14</b> ; Jesus is True Vine; we are branches, <b>Ch 15</b> ; Promise to send Holy Spirit, <b>Ch 16</b> ; Lord's prayer in garden, <b>Ch 17</b>
<b>The Passion Chs 18-20</b>	Arrest and trial, <b>Ch 18</b> ; death at Golgotha; burial in tomb of Joseph, <b>Ch 19</b> ; Resurrection; appearances to Mary, disciples, Thomas, purpose of book given (20:30-31) <b>Ch 20</b>
<b>Epilogue, Ch 21</b>	Resurrected Jesus is still God; Peter is forgiven; about our service to Him

- **John provides more information about the resurrected Jesus than any other Gospel** (than all of them put together!) He also includes the completion of Peter's denial, and subsequent forgiveness.
- The word "Christ" (Messiah) is used 23 times in John. The **name of Jesus is used 253 times**. John refers to Jesus, using his earthly name (*Yeshua*, which means "salvation") much more often than the other Gospels. This is probably to emphasize the fact that not only is He God, but He is also the perfect Man. But there is also another reason. The term "Christ" refers to His "office" or title. But we can know Him personally, by His Name, Jesus. John emphasizes a personal knowing of Jesus. That is very important for all believers. *It is also how sometimes you can determine how comfortable people are with Jesus. Some have no difficulty calling Him "Christ," but are not comfortable using His NAME...Jesus.*
- A key word in this Gospel is the Greek verb "**believe**" (*pisteuo*), found **98 times**. The noun for "faith" does not occur, though is sometimes translated that way. This implies an active, continuing believing. It is not a simple faith, but an active life in Jesus. John wants to stress a vital life-long and life changing trust in Jesus. John practically shouts "Jesus is the promised Messiah! Jesus is God! Believe and live!"
- John makes **great use of contrasts** in his book. Light is contrasted against darkness; The Law against Grace; the world's system against God's system; Moses against Jesus, etc. In this way he hopes to further underscore the supremacy of Jesus, the pre-existent One.

7 "I AM" Statements

Verse	"I AM" STATEMENT	MEANING
6:48	I am the Bread of life	He is the Sustainer. We find all our "nourishment" in Him.
8:12	I am the Light of the World	He is the Light that overcomes the darkness, and leads us home.
10:11	I am the Door	He is our entry to the Father. He opens the door no one else can open. He is the Mediator.
10:11	I am the Good Shepherd	He is the ultimate care-giver, even to the point of His death.
11:25	I am the Resurrection and the Life	He saved us from death, and brings us into eternal life. He is the firstfruits of the coming Resurrection.
14:6	I am the Way, the Truth, the Life	He is the path to eternal life. There is no other way.
15:1	I am the True Vine	He is the source of life, we are the branches. Branches thrive only when abiding in the Vine.

7 Signs

Verses	MIRACLE	Sign
2:1-11	Changed water into wine, wedding in Cana	Power over natural world, creation (the best)
4:46-54	Healed an official's son in Capernaum	Power over illness, power over distance, time, space
5:1-18	Healed an invalid at the Pool of Bethesda	Power to heal and turn lives back to Him
6:5-14	Fed 5,000 near the Sea of Galilee	Power of unlimited provision
6:16-21	Walked on water, Sea of Galilee	Power over natural laws, He is always in control
9:1-7	Healed blind man in Jerusalem	Power over infirmities
11:1-45	Raised Lazarus back to life in Bethany	Power over life and death