

# John 1:1-18

Title: The Nonnegotiable Truth: His Deity

Proposition: Jesus Christ the Word

Jesus Christ the Light and Life

Jesus Christ the Rejected and the Received

Jesus Christ the Glory and Grace

# Introduction: Who was John?

The importance of understanding proper doctrine and theology is not for the sole purpose of learning more about God but it also serves the purpose to learn more about you and what your life is to reflect and represent as a follower of Christ. This study of the Gospel of John will open your eyes and mind to see the full meaning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Taking this walk through this book at a reasonable pace (verse by verse) will allow us to paint a picture in our minds of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Please meditate on these verses as you study them and pray the verses daily and finally submit to the working of the Holy Spirit and allow him to illuminate the Word of God in a way you can understand it.

Gospel of John: Different vantage point of the life of Christ.

Matt Mark Luke were the Synoptic Gospels. Included accounts of healing, miracles, eschatology discourse, exorcising of demons and Narrative Parables. John did not.

4 accounts do present Christ as the Son of Man and the Messiah (Mark 2:10; Jn. 1:51)

Son of God, God in human Flesh (Jn. 1:34; Mark 1:1)

Four refer to Christ as the Savior who came to save his people from their sins (Matt. 1:21; cf Jn. 3:16)

The author was the apostle John. Never mentioning his name in his writing, John did however made mention of himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (Jn. 21:20).

John was the only author of the Gospels to state his purpose: “But these things have been written **so that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name” (Jn. 20:31).

The Gospel of John, was written to convince the readers of the true identity of Jesus Christ and present Him as God incarnate (vs. 1:1, 14; 8:23, 58; 10:30; 20:28).

John also was the author of the epistles of John and Revelation. He was also nick named the apostle of Love since he used that word 80 times in his writings.

The New Testament allows us to see the fulfillment of what was spoken of in the Old Testament.

God’s sovereign plan of redemption which was promised in the books of the Old Testament had fulfilled these prophecies to the exact precise manner which were recorded in the New Testament.

Jesus, fully God and fully human incarnate in human flesh, was the necessary sacrifice that saves those who believe and repent.

It is in this book that John wrote, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that God lowered Himself to our level to give us the truth by which man can be saved.

# Vs. 1-3

The Greek for, was, is the root eimi, meaning to be or exist. In the imperfect indicative mood, it shows that it was to be existed from the past. There is no time when His existence began, He always did.

Logos in the Greek is Word. John used Word for the name of Christ because his audience was predominately Jewish and the Jews heard the "Word" countless times in the OT in reference to the Messiah or LORD. It was not a concept but a person. Web site Ref.

The Word was with God: "pros ton theo" **προς τον θεον** in the Greek, has a deep meaning of two personal beings engaging in intelligence discourse. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity from all eternity

Beginning: "arche" **αρχη** (Greek) means the beginning, source or origin (cf. Col 1:18 and Rev. 3:14). The word in Greek is used here is translated in Hebrew in the LXX as **resh** which is used to depict the creation of the universe, "In the beginning..." (Gen. 1:1).

- In the **beginning** **was** the **Word**, and the **Word was with God**, and the Word was God.
- <sup>2</sup> He was in the **beginning with God**.

It is important to make this point because it shows that Jesus was already in existence before the heavens and the earth were formed. If He was not created He always existed.

Jesus Christ the eternal Word created everything. (cf. Col 1:16; Heb. 1:2)

- <sup>3</sup> **All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.**

# Vs. 4-5

Life referred here is showing that life is Christ. There is no life without Christ. By His work on the Cross, that all believers have eternal life in Christ. If we are in Christ, we have life. (Phil 1:21; Col. 3:4)

The Light shines in darkness. The darkness here is the depravity of man in his sinfulness. The lost are in complete darkness. Light is an energy and radiant. It is never fixed, always moving. The source of this Light is the life of Christ.

The Light here refers to Christ. Being the Light of men tells us that when Christ dwells in a believer He is the Light that filled the once darkened soul. Without Christ there is nothing but darkness.

- <sup>4</sup> In Him was **life**, and the life was the **Light** of men.
- <sup>5</sup> **The Light** shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Comprehend in the Greek is katalambnw. The translation is a very weak and not accurate for this word. The true translation is to take, to reach or overtake. It is a strong word that really means appropriate. So translated properly is the darkness did not over take it or make it it's own. The powers of Satan cannot overcome the Light

Life and light cannot be separated. They are the same and light is truth and holiness manifested against the darkness of lies and sin. ( 1 Jn. 1:5)

Darkness is translated as ignorance of divine things, it is associated to wickedness and results in misery. ( Matt. 4:16; Jn. 12:35; Micah 3:6)

# Vs. 6-13

For a Witness: *marturia*, **μαρτυρια**; message is used related to fact, not opinion like in a courtroom setting.

Evil system dominated by Satan (vs. 3:19; 7:7; 14:17, 30; 15:18-19)

Received: "lambano" **λαμβάνω** in the Greek, has the meaning "to grasp", to obtain" or "take hold of". Not just a mere intellectual acknowledgement but an order to obey

By God's sovereign word, no one would come to belief in Christ unless "He gives". "He gave" shows the plan of redemption, His sovereignty and grace given by God for salvation through faith and not of anything of themselves, it is a gift of God (Eph. 2:8-9) Because chose them (2 Thess. 2:13).

- <sup>6</sup> There came a man **sent from God**, whose name was **John**.
- <sup>7</sup> He came as a **witness**, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> **He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.** <sup>9</sup> There was the true Light which, coming into the **world**, enlightens every man.

- <sup>10</sup> **He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.** <sup>11</sup> **He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.**
- <sup>12</sup> But as many as **received** Him, to them **He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,** <sup>13</sup> **who were born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, **but of God.**

Born again (3:3,7; 1 Pet. 1:3, 23)

John the Baptist. He had a divine commission (Luke 1:17) from God fulfilling Old Testament prophecies as Messiah's forerunner (cf. Isa 40:3; Matt. 3:3; Mark 1:2-3).

John the Baptist came to testify about the Light (Christ). He was not the Messiah spoken of in the Old Testament but he was sent by God to baptize repentant sinners in preparation for the arrival of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. He was to prepare the way in a sense preparing their hearts.

Verses 10 and 11 speak of the world's rejection of Christ. John had in mind the evil system when he pertains to the world here. The word "own" refers to the nation of Israel, God's people, in their rejection of Christ (Ex. 3:7, 10; 6:7; Lev 26:12; Micah 6:3).

He gave! Love on display. Not given by anyone else but God. No preacher is anointed above anyone else

Receiving and believing is impossible to the sinner so God must grant the power, divine life and light to the lifeless, darkened sinner.

# Vs 14-18

Became flesh meaning that God took on humanity, the infinite becoming finite, the invisible became visible (Col. 1:15). God revealed Himself to man (Rom 1:18-21).

Dwelt in the Greek is "*skenoo*" which means to live in a tent. In the Old Testament, God tented with Israel through glorious presence in the tabernacle (Ex. 40:34-35) and later in the temple (1 Kings 8:10-11). Through eternity God will tent with His people (Rev. 21:3-4; cf. 12:12; 13:6)

Jesus manifested the glory of God but it was never seen by all because it was veiled in human flesh. The glory was seen by Peter, James and John at the transfiguration (Matt 17:3-12). This glory will be seen upon His return (Matt. 24:29-30; Rev. 19:11-16)

- <sup>14</sup> And the **Word became flesh**, and **dwelt** among us, and we saw **His glory**, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth**.

Jesus' manifestations of divine attributes revealed His essential glory as God's Son (Col. 2:9). Two characteristics associated with salvation are grace and truth. By believing God's truth about salvation, one receives His saving grace (Acts 18:27; Acts 20:24).

- <sup>15</sup> John \*testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, **for He existed before me.**'"

Jesus was born six months after John the Baptist (Luke 1:26) but he tells of how the Messiah existed before him which he acknowledges Jesus had a higher rank and Jesus' preexistence (cf. 8:58).

- <sup>16</sup> For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the **Law was given through Moses**; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

The Law was given in the Old Testament to Moses by God (Jn. 5:45, 9:29; Ex. 31:18 Acts 7:37-38). The Law is holy, righteous and good (Rom. 7:7, 12; cf. Col 3:7-11). The Law was not an instrument of grace and the Law saves nobody ( Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 3:20, 22, 10:4). The Law is our tutor which leads us to Christ (Gal. 3:24).

- <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God **who is in the bosom of the Father**, He has explained *Him*.

The love of God shown by the sacrifice of His Son. The heart is as close as you can get to anyone and Christ is in His bosom. So God, Gave His Son which was the closest thing to Him. Bottom line: **He gave!**

Shares same nature with the Father. (cf. 17:24) God could never be know without revealing Himself which He did through Jesus Christ who explained Him, Jesus is the explanation.

# Summary

- John, the Gospel writer shows us who Jesus is. As the Son of God, the Second person of the Trinity, Jesus has always existed and was present at the creation of everything on earth. It is important to grasp this truth in order to set your foundational understanding firmly on the truth of what Scripture tells us. John lays out the plan of redemption of the Father for the lost sinful people just here in the first few verses. The doctrine of election and justification are spoken of here in the first few verses. In verse 4, Jesus is spoken of as life and this life being the light of men, describes to us that only through Jesus Christ we can obtain eternal life. There is no other way except through Him (Jn. 14:6).
- We see the clear rejection being spoken of early in this Gospel which we still see today in our society. In verse 10, we see what was prophesized in Isaiah 53:3 where it says that He was despised and rejected by mankind. All through the ministry of Jesus he was rejected. Those early fake followers did not know why they felt they needed Him, it was for all the wrong reasons. When Christ did not fulfill their idea of their Messiah, they turned on him and displayed their true selves showing their depravity and darkness. But for those who had genuine faith, were not rejected but God gave them the right to be called children of God (vs 12). Verse 13 continues with the same doctrine of election and man's depravity stating that their salvation was not from anything they had done within the abilities of themselves but only by God.
- Grace and truth are spoken of here in verses 14 and 16. They both pertain to the belief of the truth of God's Word which produces grace for salvation. Faith is a gift from God. God, by the Holy Spirit, gives faith (belief) in the truth of the Gospel. Man's depravity will not allow him to make an intelligent decision to come to belief in Christ. We are saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9). The Law does not save but it does work in us to convict us that we have not pleased God and draws us to repentance. The Law also is the standard in which God justifies swift judgement for non believers. Followers of the Law, who cannot possibly keep it, believe in a works salvation that if they keep the Law and do good deeds they will enter into the Kingdom. Sadly enough they cannot keep the full letter of the Law, therefore they will receive swift judgement and perish.
- If there were only these few verses left in the Bible on the whole earth, you would still have the truth of the Gospel and the truth of salvation, just in these few verses. God's Word is inexhaustible and so rich. We are so blessed that God lowered Himself to communicate at such a low level to man everything we need to know about Himself, His plan of redemption and how our lives are to glorify Our Lord.