

## The Book of John - Overview

Introduction - We must take time and meditate on the Person of Christ as revealed in the Gospels

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, ***God spoke to our fathers by the prophets***,  
2 but in these last days ***he (The Father) has spoken to us by his Son***, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 ***He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature***, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, ***he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high***, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Heb. 1:1-4

15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read ***a veil lies over their hearts***. 16 But when one turns to the Lord, ***the veil is removed***. 17 Now the ***Lord is the Spirit***, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is ***freedom***. 18 And we all, ***with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord***, are being ***transformed*** into the same image ***from one degree of glory to another***. For this comes ***from the Lord who is the Spirit***. 2 Cor. 3:15-18

1. Who wrote it?
  - A. Just like the other 3 gospels, it does not name its author.
  - B. There are very good clues that the author was one of Jesus' disciples.
  - C. In John 21:24, it says 24 "This is ***the disciple*** who is bearing witness about these things, and ***who has written these things***, and we know that his testimony is true.
  - D. Just a few verses earlier in John 21:20 it says 20 Peter turned and saw the ***disciple whom Jesus loved*** following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"
  - E. The author leaves His name out, and instead, uses this phrase.
  - F. There are so many passages where the author claims he was an eye witness to the events. Very intimate moments of Jesus at the last supper; Jesus' prayer in the Garden; Being at the tomb with Peter;
  - G. He always seems to be a close associate with Peter, which suggests he was one who was in the inner circle of Peter, James, and John.
  - H. These things, plus other thoughts, have given the church confidence over the last 2,000 years that the author is indeed John of Zebedee, the disciple of Jesus.
2. Who was John
  - A. Most likely, He was a disciple of John the Baptist and then a disciple of Jesus. John 1:35
    1. This means that He sat under the one who proclaimed that the Messiah was coming, walked with the One who came, then later Jesus' uses Him in a very similar way as John the Baptist, and spoke to John the apostle about His second coming and told Him to boldly proclaim it.
3. When and where was it written?
  - B. Church tradition puts it being written between 90AD-100AD
  - C. John was in Ephesus when he wrote it.

4. The structure
  - A. Like Mark and Luke, it is arranged literally and chronologically.
  - B. It has some main key portions that the others have. The ministry of John the Baptist; The death and resurrection.
  - C. It has a lot of things that the others don't include at all. The paralytic at the pool of Bethesda (Jn. 5:1-17); Jesus in Jerusalem for the feast of tabernacles (Jn. 7:1-52); The washing of the disciples feet, The last supper discourse (Jn. 13-15); The temple discourse (Jn. 15-17)
    1. Why are these not in the other Gospels? - Most likely because they all took place in Jerusalem.
  - D. John primarily focuses on narrating Jesus' story in Jerusalem. Jesus would travel to Jerusalem for the feasts, and it was here that He spoke to the people at these feasts and to the leadership of Jerusalem.
    1. Matthew is not arranged chronologically.
    2. Mark is dealing with Jesus' ministry primarily in Galilee.
    3. Luke focuses on Galilee, Judea, and Perea.
    4. John is filling in the gaps, focusing on Jesus' ministry in and around Jerusalem.
5. Chapter Structure
  - A. John 1 - introduction, John the Baptist, Jesus' first disciples
  - B. John 2-3 - Wedding at Cana, Passover, Cleansing the Temple, Nicodemus (April 27 AD)
  - C. John 4 - Woman at the Well
  - D. John 5 - Feast of the Jews in Jerusalem, the unknown feast (Oct. 27AD)
  - E. John 6 - Teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum - Eat my flesh, drink my blood (April 28 AD)
  - F. John 7-8 - Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem (Oct. 28 AD)
  - G. John 9-11 - Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem (Dec. 28 AD)
  - H. John 12-19 - Passover and Passion Week in Jerusalem (April 29 AD)
  - I. John 20-21 - The Resurrection Events, Apostles Commissioned, Peter's Restoration, Closing statements (April/May 29)
6. Themes and Key Events
  - A. John opens His Gospel with a statement about ***Jesus' Identity being the One True Living God.*** - More than just a man.
    1. **1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. **4** In him was life, [a] and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Jn. 1:1-5
    2. John presents Jesus as the Word (The Logos - the meaning of all life and the source of all life) and asserts Jesus' divinity by saying He was before all things and that He created all things.
    3. This runs through the Gospel of John. The "I AM" statements. I know where I came from and I know where I am going (Jn 8). He is constantly declaring Himself to be the Lord, the God of Israel, Yahweh. The Leaders of Israel knew exactly who He was saying He was and they crucified Him for it.

4. I AM - Eyw Eimia - The Greek translation of God's Personal Covenant Name. (Ex. 3:14, Isaiah 43:10; 46:9)
  - a) I am the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:35)
  - b) I am the Light of the World (8:12)
  - c) I am the Gate for the Sheep (10:7)
  - d) I am the Good Shepherd (10:11)
  - e) I am the Resurrection and the Life (11:25)
  - f) I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (14:6)
  - g) I am the True Vine (15:1)
  
5. 7 other instances of 'I Am' in the context of dialogue and teachings:
  - a) Woman at the well - 4:26
  - b) Jesus walks on water - 6:20
  - c) If you will believe that I am He, you will not die in your sins. 8:24
  - d) When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He. 8:28
  - e) Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM. 8:58
  - f) Now I tell you before it comes (Judas's betrayal), that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He. 13:19
  - g) Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. 6 Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. 18:4-5
    1. As the guards come to take him to His death for us, they say that they are seeking Jesus of Nazareth, and Jesus answers with, I AM, the name of God, and power is released that push them to the ground, confirming that Jesus of Nazareth, who is about to die on the cross, is God.

## B. Signs

1. Were to prove that He was the Son of God, therefore, equal to God.
2. Evidence to support Jesus' claims for who He is.
3. 7 signs (miracles)
  - a) Turning Water into Wine (Jn 2:1-11)
  - b) Healing the Nobleman's Son (Jn.4:46-54)
  - c) Healing the Lame Man (Jn. 5:1-15)
  - d) Feeding the Multitude (Jn. 6:1-15)
  - e) Healing the Blind Man (Jn. 9)
  - f) Raising Lazarus (Jn. 11)
  - g) The Resurrection (Jn. 20-21)
    - (1) This was linked to Jn. 2:13-22. Jesus said He was going to give a sign with which to prove that He was greater than the temple. Only God was greater than the temple, therefore Jesus' resurrection declared, again, that He and the Father are one.

## C. Feasts

1. Passover (Chapter 2, 6, 11)
  - a) He is the Passover Lamb - Israelites would kill the lamb, sprinkle the blood over the door post that would cause the angel of death to "pass-over", then they would eat the lamb.

- b) He is the Bread of Life that came down from Heaven - Linked to the Passover meal.
  - 2. Tabernacles - Prophetic for Israel's millennial rest.
    - a) He is the one who led Israel out of Egypt, sojourned with them in the wilderness, and will bring them into their promised inheritance.
    - b) Two great rituals were associated with the feast, that being the lighting of the entire temple, and the outpouring of water onto the altar.
      - (1) He is the Light of the World.
      - (2) If anyone is thirsty, they should come to Jesus and drink, and the water He gives will well up in us as springs of living water (Holy Spirit).
        - (a) The spiritual significance of the pouring out of the water on the altar was hopeful of the cleansing that the Spirit would carry out through the Messiah.
  - 3. Dedication (Hanukkah) (John 10) - Remembering the Maccabean revolt.
    - a) He is the Good Shepherd of the sheep - Greater than Judas Maccabees who delivered and regathered the flock of Israel from Antiochus Epiphanies.
  - 4. A Wedding feast (John 2)
    - a) Context of the first sign (miracle)
    - b) There is Jewish wedding language all throughout the Gospels. John the Baptist understood himself to be a friend of the bridegroom. Earthly marriage is analogous to the heavenly marriage all believers will partake in at the appointed future time of glorification.
- D. Special interest in the Holy Spirit
- 1. Chapter 1 - Baptized with, Baptized 'in'
  - 2. Chapter 3 - Born again, Born out of water and the Spirit
  - 3. Chapter 4 - Living water, True Worshipers will worship through the Spirit and truth
  - 4. Chapter 7 - Rivers of Living Water (Holy Spirit) flowing from the heart
  - 5. Chapter 14-16
    - a) Comforter, Advocate - Paraclete - Him who comes alongside us to help us.
    - b) Encourager - He who comes alongside us to encourage
    - c) The Spirit of Truth - He who reveals truth to us.
    - d) Another Comforter
  - 6. Chapter 20 - Sign - Breathed on them and commanded them to receive!
  - 7. The different activities of the Holy Spirit
    - a) to show them the things of Jesus
    - b) to teach them things to come
    - c) to teach them all things
    - d) to quicken their memories for past teaching
    - e) to bear witness to Jesus
    - f) to dwell in believers
    - g) to help us walk in "greater works" than those of Jesus
    - h) to convict of sin, of righteousness and judgment

## 7. Entire Purpose

- A. **30** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these are written so that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may **have life in his name**. John 20:30-31
1. We need areas of unbelief rooted out of us.
  2. In believing, we are going to experience life in His name now and eternal life forever.
  3. Believe - pisteuō
    - a) Used 98 times
    - b) Definition - To think something to be true; to be persuaded or convinced of something's authenticity; To have confidence in something or someone.
    - c) Scriptures about Believe
      1. But to all who did receive him, who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, Jn. 1:12
      2. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they **believed** the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. Jn. 2:22
      3. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever **believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life. Jn. 3:16
      4. Woman, **believe** me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. Jn. 4:21
      5. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and **believes** him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Jn. 5:24
      6. This is the work of God that you **believe** in him whom he has sent. Jn. 6:29
      7. Whoever **believes** in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' Jn. 7:38
      8. I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you **believe** that I am he you will die in your sins. Jn. 8:24
      9. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you **believe** in the Son of Man? Jn. 9:35
      10. **37** If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; **38** but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father. Jn. 10:37-38
      11. I am the resurrection and the life. [a] Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? Jn. 11:25-26
      12. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever **believes** in me may not remain in darkness. Jn. 12:46
      13. I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may **believe** that I am he. Jn. 13:19
      14. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **believes** in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Jn. 14:12
      15. For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have **believed** that I came from God. Jn. 16:27

16. That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may **believe** that you have sent me. Jn. 17:21
17. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may **believe**. Jn. 19:35
18. Jesus said to him (Thomas), “Have you **believed** because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have **believed**.” Jn. 20:29

#### 4. Life - zoe

- a) Used 47 times in the book of John
- b) Definition - Absolute fullness of Life; A Life that belongs to God and that is devoted to God; A real, genuine, vigorous life in the Spirit that we can experience now and that will keep us forever.
- c) Scriptures about Life
  1. In him was **life**, and the **life** was the light of men. Jn. 1:4
  2. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal **life**. Jn 3:16
  3. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal **life**. Jn. 4:14
  4. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal **life**; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have **life**. Jn 5:39-40
  5. Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of **life**; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. Jn. 6:35
  6. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal **life**. Jn. 6:68
  7. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of **living** water. Jn. 7:38
  8. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have **life** and have it abundantly. Jn. 10:10
  9. Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the **life**. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he **live**, Jn. 11:25
  10. Whoever loves his **life** loses it, and whoever hates his **life** in this world will keep it for eternal **life**. Jn. 12:25
  11. Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the **life**. No one comes to the Father except through me. Jn. 14:6
  12. The analogy of life flowing from the vine to the branches. Jn. 15
  13. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his **life** for his friends. Jn. 15:13
  14. And this is eternal **life** that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. Jn. 17:3
  15. It is the Glory that God has given Jesus and now He has given this same Glory to us that we would be unified with Him and the Father so that the world might believe in Him. Jn. 17:22
  16. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have **life** in his name. Jn. 20:31