

The Gospel Of John

Chapter One

It is believed that the Apostle John was the author of this gospel. The writer is only identified as "The disciple whom Jesus loved." (21:20,24) He was the son of Zebedee and Salome and was the younger brother of James. He played a leading role in the church in Jerusalem (Acts 3:1) This is the most theological book of the 4 gospels. It deals with the nature and person of Christ and the meaning of faith in Him. John presents Jesus as the Word of God, the Lamb of God, the Son of God, the Messiah, the King of Israel, and the Savior of the world. The gospel is believed by many to have been written around 85 A.D. some 50 years after Jesus' death.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter One

SUMMARY: Verses 1-51

1. John opens describing the incarnation of Jesus Christ. He was God, He is God, and He is the Word of God.
2. "In the beginning" even before time began Christ was already in existence with God.
3. The Word didn't just become God at the birth of Jesus.
4. The Word was God - that unseen part of God - the voice, but the Word becomes seen by humans when He takes on flesh.
5. Christ, the Word, is the author of creation. It was the Word of God that brought all things into existence.
6. We see the Word working in Genesis 1:1-3. "God said....."
7. The Word of God is not just the beginning, He is the beginning of the beginning.
8. This Word of God was the power that set the world into motion.
9. This Word of God is, therefore, life. That life is the light of men. Hence, without Him we are blind and lost.
10. Darkness and evil will never win out over light. But this light, this life, this Word was never meant to be just a figment of our imagination. The life, the Word, and the life were meant to be known.
11. So the Jesus who is defined as the Word, the life, the light came unto humanity. His own rejected Him. But now He could be believed upon and life could be received.
12. The world 'not knowing Him' show how deeply human nature had fallen and rejected God.
13. John introduces the idea that believing in Jesus is likened to being born again, born not of a natural manner.
14. John introduces the truth that the Word became flesh. This was a foreign concept. No god had ever in history to the Jewish or Greek mind had become a mere mortal human being. The gods were considered separate and far superior to weak humans.
15. John says he is not making this up. He states he saw Jesus and His glory as He walked upon the earth.
16. Jesus was full of grace and truth. The two must go hand in hand. Grace without truth = hedonism. Truth without grace = legalism. Jesus brought freedom. Grace and Truth together were fulfilled by Jesus. Jesus made the possibility of freedom possible.
17. Freedom from the shame of sin = grace. Freedom from the guilt of sin = truth
18. John the Baptist testified about Jesus. He connected Jesus to O.T. prophecy. He connects Jesus to the Father. He connects Jesus to the Spirit. John the Baptist sums it up by calling Jesus 'the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.'
19. Jesus utters His first words in John's gospel: "What do you want?" or "What are you seeking?"
20. Jesus begins to gather His followers by offering a simple invitation: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Follow Me = Obedience I will make you = Discipleship Fishers of men = Witness

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. Why is it important to John to place the existence of The Word / Jesus before creation?
3. Why was it important to the Father in heaven to send the Word as human flesh?
4. Why is it so important for grace and truth not never be separated?
5. Why do you think Jesus asked, "What is it you are seeking? How does this apply today?"
6. Explain how obedience, discipleship, and witness play a role in your own life.

