
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Study No. 1

Compiled by Robert Munn, M. Div.

INTRODUCTION

The Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, Luke) record the historical facts of the life of Jesus, while the Gospel according to John gives the theological and spiritual interpretation of these facts. However, each one of the Gospels presents a particular aspect of the life of our Lord.

Matthew emphasizes the royalty of Jesus and presents Him as King of the Jews and their long-awaited Messiah. *"Behold a king shall reign in righteousness."*
Isaiah 32:1.

Mark omits the geneology of Jesus and begins immediately with His public ministry. He presents Jesus as the mighty Servant of Jehovah. *"Behold my Servant whom I uphold."*
Isaiah 42:1.

Luke gives a more detailed account of His geneology, birth, childhood, adolescence and adulthood. He presents Jesus as the perfect Man who experiences human life, a man among men, the Mediator between God and men. *"Behold a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."* Isaiah 53:3.

John presents Christ as the eternal Word of God, who was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14). John, like Mark, omits the geneology of Jesus, goes back into eternity and begins his Gospel by saying, *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made."* John 1:1-3. He is eternal, co-existing with God and co-Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1). All the way through his Gospel, John demonstrates that Christ is God. *"Behold your God!"* Isaiah 40:9.

In John's Gospel, Jesus is revealed as the Son of God, even before His incarnation (John 1:1-14). He is revealed as the Son of God by His miracles and His words (1:15-12:50). He reveals Himself as the Son of God to His disciples. (Chapters 13-17).

He is revealed as the Son of God by His crucifixion. (Chapters 18-19; see also Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53). Finally, by His resurrection, once and for all, He established the fact that He is the Son of God. (Chapters 20-21; see also Romans 1:4).

The key verse of John's Gospel is Chapter 20:31. *"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."* Here, then, is the great theme of the Gospel: JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, GIVES ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM.

We have chosen Chapter 16:28 for an outline of our study.

A. I CAME FORTH FROM THE FATHER	1:1-18
B. AND AM COME INTO THE WORLD	1:19-Ch. 12
C. AGAIN I LEAVE THE WORLD	Ch. 13-19
D. AND I GO TO THE FATHER	Ch. 20-21

I CAME FORTH FROM THE FATHER

John 1:18

1. In verses 1-14, John mentions several things about Christ, the incarnate Word. **State them.**

Verse 1

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

Verse 3 _____

Verse 4

a) _____

b) _____

Verse 9 and 9:5

Verse 14

2. **By what terms (expressions) is the divinity of Christ taught and proved in the following verses?**

a) Verse 1 _____

b) Verse 18 _____

3. **Read the following text and state what they teach about the divinity of Christ.**

a) 1:3 _____

b) 5:21 _____

c) 5:22 _____

4. **Study the following passages and write out the names, attributes, and perfections of God that are attributed to Christ.**

a) 1:1,2 _____

b) 1:23 _____

c) 3:35 _____

d) 8:58 _____

e) 16:15 _____

f) 17:5 _____

5. **Jesus Himself made certain declarations about His divinity. What are they?**

a) 5:17 _____

b) 10:30 _____

c) 14:9 _____

d) 16:15 _____

6. **Study the following passages and state why the Jews wished to condemn Jesus: John 5:18; 8:58-59; 10:30-33; 19:7.**

7. **What do the following passages teach us about the divinity of Christ?**

a) 14:1 _____

b) 17:3 _____

c) 17:5 _____

8. Number "7" when it appears in the Bible is often employed as a symbol of perfection. John presents a sevenfold testimony concerning Christ. **Pick it out in the following texts.**

a) 5:37; 8:18 _____

b) 8:14; 18:37 _____

c) 15:26; 16:14 _____

d) 10:25; 5:36 _____

e) 1:7; 5:35 _____

f) 5:39-46 _____

g) 15:27; 19:35 _____

9. There are at least 18 titles to names given to Jesus in the first chapter of John. **Pick them out.**

A. _____ B. _____ C. _____

D. _____ E. _____ F. _____

G. _____ H. _____ I. _____

J. _____ K. _____ L. _____

M. _____ N. _____ O. _____

P. _____ Q. _____ R. _____

10. John the Baptist was the cousin of Jesus and six months older than Jesus. **Read chapter 1:15 and especially the phrase *“He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.”* What is the meaning of this phrase? And what proof of Christ’s divinity does it suggest?**

11. **What tragic statement does John make concerning Christ, the light of the world, and the world into which He came? 1:10**

And in verse 11? _____

12. **According to John 1:12 how can we become the sons of God? Pick out the two verbs.**

1) _____ 2) _____

13. To what historic event does John make allusion in verse 14a?

NOTE: *“The word became flesh and dwelt among us”* can be translated from the Greek and read *“The word became flesh and set up a tabernacle among us.”* The tabernacle in the Old Testament was a symbol of God’s presence among the Israelites and His glory was seen by them. So Christ, in a human body, manifested, in every sphere of His life, of His personality, of His ministry, the glory of God, the Father. When His disciples asked Him to show them the Father, Jesus answered them very simply, *“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”* (John 14:9).

14. According to John and other witnesses what were the striking characteristics of Jesus during His sojourn upon earth? John 1:14

a) _____ b) _____

15. Read verse 16. What was the testimony of His disciples concerning Him?

NOTE: The word “grace” is found more than 100 times in the New Testament. Grace cannot be separated from the person of Christ.

16. In verse 17, John affirms that grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. What promise does Jesus give in John 8:32 concerning the truth?

17. *“The truth shall make you free.”* (John 8:32). According to John 8:34, 41, and 44, of what freedom is Christ speaking?

18. Read John 1:18. According to this verse, can God be known apart from the revelation He has given us of Himself in the person of His Son? See also John 17:31.
