

## John Chapter One

Introduction:

John was one of the twelve apostles, a son of Zebedee, brother to James, and a fisherman until called by Jesus to follow him:

**Mark 1:20** “AND STRAIGHTWAY HE CALLED THEM: AND THEY LEFT THEIR FATHER ZEBEDEE IN THE SHIP WITH THE HIRED SERVANTS, AND WENT AFTER HIM.”

We see from this description that the family business was prosperous enough to have hired servants. John’s mother was named Salome and was among the women who ministered unto Jesus:

**Matthew 27:56** “AMONG WHICH WAS MARY MAGDALENE, AND MARY THE MOTHER OF JAMES AND JOSES, AND THE MOTHER OF ZEBEDEES CHILDREN.”

**Mark 15:40-41** “THERE WERE ALSO WOMEN LOOKING ON AFAR OFF: AMONG WHOM WAS MARY MAGDALENE, AND MARY THE MOTHER OF JAMES THE LESS AND OF JOSES, AND SALOME; (WHO ALSO, WHEN HE WAS IN GALILEE, FOLLOWED HIM, AND MINISTERED UNTO HIM;) AND MANY OTHER WOMEN WHICH CAME UP WITH HIM UNTO JERUSALEM.”

Salome is thought to be the sister of Mary, mother of Jesus, since John describes the same scene found in Mark 15 this way:

**John 19:25** “NOW THERE STOOD BY THE CROSS OF JESUS HIS MOTHER, AND HIS MOTHER’S SISTER, MARY THE WIFE OF CLEOPHAS, AND MARY MAGDALENE.”

Since Salome was almost always present and named as being part of this group of women it is thought by many scholars that the person John calls “HIS MOTHER’S SISTER” in this verse is, in fact, Salome, John’s own mother.

Since much of John’s writing deals with the love of God for mankind, John is characterized by many as the “Apostle of Love”. Consequently the denominations and too many of our brethren use the words of John to try to support their false notion that God loves mankind too much to punish us for wrongdoing or to reject those that are “good people” from entering the eternal rest. Not only do they ignore the tone and tenor of his epistles, they also conveniently forget that Jesus called John and James the “SONS OF THUNDER”:

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**Mark 3:17** “AND JAMES THE *son* OF ZEBEDEE, AND JOHN THE BROTHER OF JAMES; AND HE SURNAMED THEM BOANERGES, WHICH IS, THE SONS OF THUNDER.”

And that it was James and John who would have destroyed a Samaritan village because they would not receive Jesus and his disciples:

**Luke 9:54-56** “AND WHEN HIS DISCIPLES JAMES AND JOHN SAW *this*, THEY SAID, LORD, WILT THOU THAT WE COMMAND FIRE TO COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, AND CONSUME THEM, EVEN AS ELIAS DID? BUT HE TURNED, AND REBUKED THEM, AND SAID, YE KNOW NOT WHAT MANNER OF SPIRIT YE ARE OF. FOR THE SON OF MAN IS NOT COME TO DESTROY MEN'S LIVES, BUT TO SAVE *them*. AND THEY WENT TO ANOTHER VILLAGE.”

In addition to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit we can also be assured that what the Apostle John writes is from his own personal experience. He was an eye-witness of that which he recorded.

**John 19:35** “AND HE THAT SAW *it* BARE RECORD, AND HIS RECORD IS TRUE: AND HE KNOWETH THAT HE SAITH TRUE, THAT YE MIGHT BELIEVE.”

History tells us that John wrote after all of the other gospels and much of the other epistles were written. Clement of Alexandria wrote that “Last of all John, observing that in the order Gospels those things which were related that concerned the body [of Christ], and being persuaded by his friends and also moved by the Spirit of God, wrote a Spiritual Gospel.”

Irenaeus, the pupil of Polycarp who in turn was a friend and pupil of John, writing in support of accepting this Gospel as part of the canon of scripture; wrote that John “for sixty years after the Ascension preached orally, till the end of Domitian’s reign; and, after the death of Domitian and John’s return to Ephesus, he was induced to write [his Gospel] concerning the divinity of Christ, co-eternal with the Father; in which he refutes those heretics, Cerinthus and the Nicolaitans.”

The testimony of Irenaeus states that John “preached orally” implying that he did not write, for “sixty years” after Christ’s ascension before he wrote this gospel. This would give us a date of about 90 A.D. He also testifies that John wrote this book at Ephesus and history tells us that John spent most of his later years in Asia Minor and primarily at Ephesus.

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Irenaeus also writes that John wrote “concerning the divinity of Christ, co-eternal with the Father”. This is an essential part of the scriptural record because men have attacked the deity of Christ throughout time. First we see the claims of his enemies in the New Testament:

**Mark 6:3** “IS NOT THIS THE CARPENTER, THE SON OF MARY, THE BROTHER OF JAMES, AND JOSES, AND OF JUDA, AND SIMON? AND ARE NOT HIS SISTERS HERE WITH US? AND THEY WERE OFFENDED AT HIM.”

**John 1:11** “HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN, AND HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT.”

**John 8:13** “THE PHARISEES THEREFORE SAID UNTO HIM, THOU BEAREST RECORD OF THYSELF; THY RECORD IS NOT TRUE.”

**John 9:16** “THEREFORE SAID SOME OF THE PHARISEES, THIS MAN IS NOT OF GOD, BECAUSE HE KEEPETH NOT THE SABBATH DAY. OTHERS SAID, HOW CAN A MAN THAT IS A SINNER DO SUCH MIRACLES? AND THERE WAS A DIVISION AMONG THEM.”

They denied the origin of his words and teaching but they could not deny his power. So they denied the source of His ability to perform the miracles that confirmed his deity:

**Matthew 12:24** “BUT WHEN THE PHARISEES HEARD *it*, THEY SAID, THIS *fellow* DOETH NOT CAST OUT DEVILS, BUT BY BEELZEBUB THE PRINCE OF THE DEVILS.”

And men continued to deny the power and authority of Jesus Christ, even throughout the time of the preaching by the apostles.

**II Peter 2:1** “BUT THERE WERE FALSE PROPHETS ALSO AMONG THE PEOPLE, EVEN AS THERE SHALL BE FALSE TEACHERS AMONG YOU, WHO PRIVILY SHALL BRING IN DAMNABLE HERESIES, EVEN DENYING THE LORD THAT BOUGHT THEM, AND BRING UPON THEMSELVES SWIFT DESTRUCTION.”

**II John v.7** “FOR MANY DECEIVERS ARE ENTERED INTO THE WORLD, WHO CONFESS NOT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH. THIS IS A DECEIVER AND AN ANTICHRIST.”

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**Jude v.4** " FOR THERE ARE CERTAIN MEN CREPT IN UNAWARES, WHO WERE BEFORE OF OLD ORDAINED TO THIS CONDEMNATION, UNGODLY MEN, TURNING THE GRACE OF OUR GOD INTO LASCIVIOUSNESS, AND DENYING THE ONLY LORD GOD, AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST."

Now almost 2000 years later things have not changed. We still have to deal with false prophets, false teachers, deceivers, men who creep in to sound congregations of the Lord's church and turn them from God.

Within 300 years of the death of this apostle men had perverted the Word of God with their own ideas and notions to the extent that the first denomination was born, the Catholic Church. It began as a religious body but as it gained power it became a political power as well that endeavored to destroy or at least rule all of its opposition both political and religious. Many times they used tactics and other means to accomplish this goal as vicious and perverted as the worst pagan general or ruler that ever existed.

Because those that were in power; the Catholic Church and their historians, wrote the history of the world for about 1200 years there are few traces of the true church in man's history during this period of time. Where it existed, I'm sure that it was in hiding. However, Keith Sisman, who preaches for the church of Christ in Cambridge, England, has recently published material indicating that the church possibly never completely died out. Keith is a historian as well as a preacher and has just published a book titled "Traces of the Kingdom". The following is quoted from his web-site of the same name:

**"From about 1000 AD in England, Christians called by their enemies derogatory terms such as Waldensian, Lollard, Pelagian and Anabaptist, who baptised believers for the remission of sins by immersion upon confession, have been active in Great Britain and even earlier in Europe. They called themselves Christians and the church - The Church of Christ, having met continuously to join in fellowship with the Restoration Movement in the 1840s."**

Meanwhile, secular history records that even as the Bible became more available; men educated enough to read it, the great men of religious history sought to reform the Catholic denomination rather than restore the first century church.

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Then in the 1700's and early in the next century, men, beginning in England and Scotland and then in America, men began to look at the Word of God in a different light. They started reading their Bibles and asking themselves how they could be in harmony with God, while ignoring his precepts and teaching the commandments and philosophies of men. The wiser of them realized that they could not, they had to return to the Word of God in it's pure form. A restoration movement was born; people who wanted to follow the patterns of scripture established by Jesus Christ and his Apostles. They determined to "call things by Bible names and do things in Bible ways" regarding the worship and doctrine of God. Men became wiser in the ways of God and better educated in the ways of the world. But just as was true in Israel and later in Judea, our adversary didn't allow this renewal of the church that Jesus built to continue for very long without interference. Men, with all of their education and human wisdom began to interject their own ideas into their patterns of worship and religious teaching.

They first attacked the foundation of The Faith. In the middle to late 1800's the hundreds and thousands of manuscripts used for centuries to anchor the Word of God were cast aside by liberal theologians. The hundreds of years of scholarship that helped to determine what should be included in this book we call the Bible was sneered at. They chose two of the oldest manuscripts, one that has obvious signs of being altered to remove the latter part of Mark 16, to support their "new translations". Men like Brooke Westcott and Fenton Hort gained control of the translation committees and the basis for all but two or three of the translations of the Bible available today came into existence. In addition our brethren during this period sent their brightest and best students to the divinity schools of Harvard and Yale to get their advanced degrees so that they could expand the power and influence of their universities and colleges.

Largely as a result; a denial of the authority of God over our lives, our worship, the organization of the church and other things a great digression arose. An apostasy, a rebellion against those things found in God's word came into existence within the churches of Christ and we lost 85 percent of the congregations and 35 of the colleges established to teach the scriptures to the denominations.

Probably because mankind never seems to learn the lessons of history we are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past. In the 1960's and 1970's we sent our brightest and most promising young men to the denominational seminaries to earn their advanced degrees so that we could expand the influence and power of our colleges and make them universities. Many of these men picked up a lot of other theological baggage as well. As we look around us 50 years later we see the effects of apostasy, rebellion against God, and denial of his authority to the extent, that many formerly faithful gospel preachers have abandoned The Faith.

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Elderships that should have known better, or that in many cases suffered from a lack of backbone; traded their faith and their harmony with God for numbers in their pews. Books were published by men, professors in Christian universities that teach denominational doctrines, deny the patterns of the New Testament and many other things that show us where their new allegiance lies. One of them went so far in denouncing the deity of Christ that he wrote an article published across this land highlighting the “loose” women in the ancestry of our Lord and ending that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a morally loose woman that just got herself in trouble and had to have a story to try to cover up her infidelity. This is nothing but modern day blaspheme.

So this is why that the study of the gospel of John is so important. Men are chopping away at the roots of our faith. Men are slipping denominational doctrines into our Sunday schools through literature that once was sound but is no longer. Many have become like those that Paul warned us against:

**Romans 16:17-18** “NOW I BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, MARK THEM WHICH CAUSE DIVISIONS AND OFFENCES CONTRARY TO THE DOCTRINE WHICH YE HAVE LEARNED; AND AVOID THEM. <sup>18</sup>FOR THEY THAT ARE SUCH SERVE NOT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, BUT THEIR OWN BELLY; AND BY GOOD WORDS AND FAIR SPEECHES DECEIVE THE HEARTS OF THE SIMPLE.”

Men have tickled the ears of the majority of the members of the churches of Christ with what they want to hear and they love it. Our younger generation had things that matter to their souls the way they wanted it, rather than what God wants and the older generation that should have known better, said let them alone. Consequently many of the churches of Christ have become social clubs and life centers providing a place to play, a place to bring the ills of conscience for a little soothing salve rather than a place to bring our sins to God and bend our lives to His will. They have become a place to stop in on Sunday morning get an injection of religion, observe a ritual that they call the “Lord’s Supper” and then go about the ways of the world for the rest of the week.

But in the day of judgment there will be a reckoning. Christ will return to gather in His own and to judge the world in all of its wickedness. Where will the souls of these people be then? As the Apostle John tells us:

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**Revelation 20:12** “AND I SAW THE DEAD, SMALL AND GREAT, STAND BEFORE GOD; AND THE BOOKS WERE OPENED: AND ANOTHER BOOK WAS OPENED, WHICH IS *the* BOOK OF LIFE: AND THE DEAD WERE JUDGED OUT OF THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE WRITTEN IN THE BOOKS, ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS.” **v.15** “AND WHOSOEVER WAS NOT FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WAS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.”

And the one that will judge us in none other than the same Jesus that John writes about in John chapter one, verse one.

Read **John 1:1-5** – Christ is Divine

**v1.** “IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.”

John begins his writing with the same phrase that Moses used to start the account of the creation of man and his relationship to God. “IN THE BEGINNING....” **Genesis 1:1.** One of the basic foundations of Jesus’ divinity is his presence and participation in the creation of all things. The Holy Spirit through the words of Paul also testifies concerning the deity of Jesus in the beginning:

**Colossians 1:17** “AND HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS, AND BY HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST.”

John also testifies in his first epistle about the fact that Jesus was present from the beginning and provides proof that Jesus actually existed before the beginning that both John and Moses refer to in the first verse of their writing:

**I John 1:1-2** “THAT WHICH WAS FROM THE BEGINNING, WHICH WE HAVE HEARD, WHICH WE HAVE SEEN WITH OUR EYES, WHICH WE HAVE LOOKED UPON, AND OUR HANDS HAVE HANDLED, OF THE WORD OF LIFE; (FOR THE LIFE WAS MANIFESTED, AND WE HAVE SEEN *it*, AND BEAR WITNESS, AND SHOW UNTO YOU THAT ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH WAS WITH THE FATHER, AND WAS MANIFESTED UNTO US;)

Christ was manifested, or made known through physical experience. John saw, heard and touched him, therefore he could testify as an eyewitness of what he saw, just as he did at the beginning of his book of Revelation:

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**Revelation 1:2** “WHO BARE RECORD OF THE WORD OF GOD, AND OF THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST, AND OF ALL THINGS THAT HE SAW.”

And because Jesus was indeed God the Son, Paul could write that:

**Philippians 2:6** “WHO, BEING IN THE FORM OF GOD, THOUGHT IT NOT ROBBERY TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD:”

**v2.** “THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD.”

The beginning referred to here is, again, the very beginning:

**Genesis 1:1** “IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH.”

**v3.** “ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM; AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANY THING MADE THAT WAS MADE.”

The Spirit gives us at least three other pieces of testimony concerning the fact that Jesus Christ was part of the “US” that made mankind in the image of God, **Genesis 1:26**. First by the writer of Hebrews:

**Hebrews 1:1-2** “GOD, WHO AT SUNDRY TIMES AND IN DIVERS MANNERS SPAKE IN TIME PAST UNTO THE FATHERS BY THE PROPHETS, HATH IN THESE LAST DAYS SPOKEN UNTO US BY *his* SON, WHEM HE HATH APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL THINGS, BY WHOM ALSO HE MADE THE WORLDS.”

And by the Apostle Paul in his epistles:

**Colossians 1:16** “FOR BY HIM WERE ALL THINGS CREATED, THAT ARE IN HEAVEN, AND THAT ARE IN EARTH, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE, WHETHER *they be* THRONES, OR DOMINIONS, OR PRINCIPALITIES, OR POWERS: ALL THINGS WERE CREATED BY HIM, AND FOR HIM.”

**Ephesians 3:9** “AND TO MAKE ALL *men* SEE WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE MYSTERY, WHICH FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD HATH BEEN HID IN GOD, WHO CREATED ALL THINGS BY JESUS CHRIST.”



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But men continue to deny the Word of God. Within the past few months I have read an article written by the president of one of our “Christian” colleges that denies what the Holy Spirit through the writing of the Apostles makes clear.

**v4.** “IN HIM WAS LIFE; AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.”

He not only created all things but gave life to all things, animal and vegetable. But the most important life that Jesus gave is the life free from the death of sin:

**John 8:12** “THEN SPAKE JESUS AGAIN UNTO THEM, SAYING, I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE.”

**John 9:5** “AS LONG AS I AM IN THE WORLD, I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.”

That light allows us to find and to understand the way to eternal life, that promise of life with God in the hereafter world:

**I John 5:11** “AND THIS IS THE RECORD, THAT GOD HATH GIVEN TO US ETERNAL LIFE, AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON.”

**v5.** “AND THE LIGHT SHINETH IN DARKNESS: AND THE DARKNESS COMPREHENDED IN NOT.”

God sent the light of life into this world so that mankind might be able to see the effects of darkness, or sin, and save himself. But mankind did not comprehend, or apprehend it; they didn’t understand or recognize Christ for who he is; the Son of God and author of their salvation from eternal separation from God and eternal torment. Some may ask, well why is it that men cannot see? The Apostle John testifies a little later in this same writing that men love darkness rather than light. They don’t want to see:

**John 3:19** “AND THIS IS THE CONDEMNATION, THAT LIGHT IS COME INTO THE WORLD, AND MEN LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT, BECAUSE THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL.”

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Thus in these few verses we have the majesty of Jesus, the deity of Jesus, the power of Jesus declared in vivid terms that no man can misunderstand except through ignorance of God or with the assistance of other men. John does indeed describe the foundation of our faith; the basis for our belief in God and the strength to which we turn in times of crisis or spiritual need.

Read **John 1:6-14** – God’s Witness, Christ’s Herald

**v6.** “THERE WAS A MAN SENT FROM GOD, WHOSE NAME WAS JOHN.”

The remnant of Judah is told of the coming of the herald or messenger that will declare to them the Lord or Messiah just as we studied in the prophecy of Malachi:

**Malachi 3:1** “BEHOLD, I WILL SEND MY MESSENGER, AND HE SHALL PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE ME: AND THE LORD, WHOM YE SEEK, SHALL SUDDENLY COME TO HIS TEMPLE, EVEN THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT, WHOM HE DELIGHT IN: BEHOLD, HE SHALL COME, SAITH THE **LORD** OF HOSTS.”

We are also told without doubt or preamble that this John was indeed, not only the one prophesied by Malachi but by Isaiah as well. Luke quotes directly from **Isaiah 40:3** in:

**Luke 3:2-4** “...THE WORD OF GOD CAME UNTO JOHN THE SON OF ZACHARIAS IN THE WILDERNESS. AND HE CAME INTO ALL THE COUNTRY ABOUT JORDAN, PREACHING THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS; AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE WORDS OF ESAIAS THE PROPHET, SAYING, THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.”

**v7.** “THE SAME CAME FOR A WITNESS, TO BEAR WITNESS OF THE LIGHT, THAT ALL *men* THROUGH HIM MIGHT BELIEVE.”

Luke further records for us in **Acts 19:4** the words of Paul when he first taught the disciples at Ephesus who had only been baptized into the baptism of John:

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**Acts 19:4** “THEN SAID PAUL, JOHN VERILY BAPTIZED WITH THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE, SAYING UNTO THE PEOPLE, THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE ON HIM WHICH SHOULD COME AFTER HIM, THAT IS, ON CHRIST JESUS.”

John’s use of the word light in this verse to describe Jesus is found other places as well in his writings. He uses that analogy to draw attention to the fact that Jesus is deity, is God the son as seen in the flesh; we remember most often:

**I John 1:5** “THIS THEN IS THE MESSAGE WHICH WE HAVE HEARD OF HIM, AND DECLARE UNTO YOU, THAT GOD IS LIGHT, AND IN HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL.”

**I John 1:7** “BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP ONE WITH ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.”

**v8.** “HE WAS NOT THAT LIGHT, BUT *was sent* TO BEAR WITNESS OF THAT LIGHT.”

John wanted to make sure that they and we understand that John the Baptizer was not the light but rather that the true light applies to Christ Jesus, the one to whom John came to bear witness.

**v9.** “*That* WAS THE TRUE LIGHT, WHICH LIGHTETH EVERY MAN THAT COMETH INTO THE WORLD.”

John reemphasizes the fact that he brought forth back in verse 4:

**John 1:4** “IN HIM WAS LIFE; AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.”

This idea of Christ as the light of the world is also found in prophecy and thus is the natural description that a man of God such as John would use:

**Isaiah 49:6** “AND HE SAID, IT IS A LIGHT THING THAT THOU SHOULDEST BE MY SERVANT TO RAISE UP THE TRIBES OF JACOB, AND TO RESTORE THE PRESERVED OF ISRAEL: I WILL ALSO GIVE THE FOR A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES, THAT THOU MAYEST BE MY SALVATION UNTO THE END OF THE EARTH.”

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We also see that this light is not restricted to the Jews but is available to all men. This is part of the reason that John can now give us a new commandment whereby we are to live. The Light of the world has now come and provided this illuminating knowledge to his followers:

**I John 2:8** “AGAIN A NEW COMMANDMENT I WRITE UNTO YOU, WHICH THING IS TRUE IN HIM AND IN YOU: BECAUSE THE DARKNESS IS PAST, AND THE TRUE LIGHT NOW SHINETH.”

**v10.** “HE WAS IN THE WORLD, AND THE WORLD WAS MADE BY HIM, AND THE WORLD KNEW HIM NOT.”

The Son of God was sent by the Father into the world:

**John 3:17** “FOR GOD SENT NOT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD; BUT THAT THE WORLD THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED.”

He was no stranger to this world; its trials, its troubles, its problems, or its sin. The scripture tells us, as we have studied recent verses, that he made the world:

**Hebrews 1:2** “HATH IN THESE LAST DAYS SPOKEN UNTO US BY *his* SON, WHOM HE HATH APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL THINGS, BY WHOM ALSO HE MADE THE WORLDS;”

But the world didn't know him; he was not recognized except by John the Baptizer and a few others such as Andrew who immediately went to get his brother, Peter as we will see later in this chapter. Even the Jews, in general, did not know him and men still refuse to acknowledge that Jesus is Lord of all:

**I Corinthians 2:7-8** “BUT WE SPEAK THE WISDOM OF GOD IN A MYSTERY, *even* THE HIDDEN *wisdom*, WHICH GOD ORDAINED BEFORE THE WORLD UNTO OUR GLORY: WHICH NONE OF THE PRINCES OF THIS WORLD KNEW: FOR HAD THEY KNOWN *it*, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE LORD OF GLORY.”

**v11.** “HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN, AND HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT.”

Jesus tells his disciples what kind of reception he will receive in one of his parables:

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**Luke 19:12-14** “HE SAID THEREFORE, A CERTAIN NOBELMAN WENT INTO A FAR COUNTRY TO RECEIVE FOR HIMSELF A KINGDOM, AND TO RETURN. AND HE CALLED HIS TEN SERVANTS, AND DELIVERED THEM TEN POUNDS, AND SAID UNTO THEM, OCCUPY TILL I COME. BUT HIS CITIZENS HATED HIM, AND SENT A MESSAGE AFTER HIM SAYING, WE WILL NOT HAVE THIS *man* TO REIGH OVER US.”

In this parable the servant set over this kingdom was hated and rejected by those he was to rule. As we studied last week, the people of Nazareth rejected Jesus; he was to them just another carpenter who was raised in the village. A great many people of Judea rejected him and many of the Jews to whom the apostles went to convert would not accept him either.

**Acts 13:46** “THEN PAUL AND BARNABAS WAXED BOLD, AND SAID, IT WAS NECESSARY THAT THE WORD OF GOD SHOULD FIRST HAVE BEEN SPOKEN TO YOU: BUT SEEING YE PUT IT FROM YOU, AND JUDGE YOURSELVES UNWORTHY OF EVERLASTING LIFE, LO, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES.”

**v12.** “”BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM GAVE HE POWER [**the right**] TO BECOME SONS OF GOD, *even* TO THEM THAT BELIEVE ON HIS NAME:”

God receives us by adoption and sons and daughters:

**Romans 8:15** “FOR YE HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF BONDAGE AGAIN TO FEAR; BUT YE HAVE RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION, WHEREBY WE CRY, ABBA, FATHER.”

We receive the opportunity to become children of God by our faith in His Son, Jesus Christ:

**Galatians 3:26** “FOR YE ARE ALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.”

By our faith we are able to absorb and use that which God has provided to us through his divine power:

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**I Peter 1:3-4** “ACCORDING AS HIS DIVINE POWER HATH GIVEN UNTO US ALL THINGS THAT *pertain* UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS, THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM THAT HATH CALLED US TO GLORY AND VIRTUE: WHEREBY ARE GIVEN UNTO US EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES: THAT BY THESE YE MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, HAVING ESCAPED THE CORRUPTION THAT IS IN THE WORLD THROUGH LUST.”

Entitlements and rights and the exercising of our rights are topics that are extremely strong in our society. Do we really have a right to become children of God? Under the Mosaic Covenant the children of Israel had rights:

**Deuteronomy 21:17** “BUT HE SHALL ACKNOWLEDGE THE SON OF THE HATED *for* THE FIRSTBORN, BY GIVING HIM A DOUBLE PORTION OF ALL THAT HE HATH: FOR HE *is* THE BEGINNING OF HIS STRENGTH; THE RIGHT OF THE FIRSTBORN *is* HIS.”

Today under our common law, law that was patterned after that found in Scripture, children have rights; rights that most often we don't have to exercise because of the love of our parents. God's love works the same way:

**I John 3:1** “BEHOLD, WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HATH BESTOWED UPON US, THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED THE SONS OF GOD: THEREFORE THE WORLD KNOWETH US NOT, BECAUSE IT KNEW HIM NOT.”

But is all we need to do to become children of God is receive the love of God? NO! even though many of the denominations teach this. God's grace which allowed him to give his Son to die in our place for the wrongs that we commit places us in a relationship to God that gives us the right, the power, the privilege to become children of God; **if we chose to exercise that right, power or privilege**. We must be “BORN AGAIN” (**John 3:1-13**) in order to enter the family of God and he gives us the right to be born again.

**v13.** “WHICH WERE BORN, NOT OF BLOOD, NOR OF THE WILL OF THE FLESH, NOR OF THE WILL OF MAN, BUT OF GOD.”

We did not inherit this right or power to become children of God because of our bloodline. Man does not have this right because of who his earthly father, nation, or ethnic background might have been.

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It isn't something that flesh and blood has concocted and convinced people to follow; though some would have us believe such.

**James 1:18** "OF HIS OWN WILL BEGAT HE US WITH THE WORD OF TRUTH, THAT WE SHOULD BE A KIND OF FIRSTFRUITS OF HIS CREATURES."

By what medium are we born again?

**John 3:5** "JESUS ANSWERED, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO THEE, EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN OF WATER AND *of* THE SPIRIT, HE CANNOT ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

And what causes this event to take place?

**I Peter 1:23** "BEING BORN AGAIN, NOT OF CORRUPTIBLE SEED, BUT OF INCORRUPTIBLE, BY THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH LIVETH AND ABIDETH FOR EVER."

Or as the Apostle Paul tells us in **Romans 10:17**; "FAITH COMES BY HEARING" the word of God.

**v14.** "AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US, (AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER,) FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH."

John says that the Word was made flesh; the Word from verse one, the Son of God came to this world and lived as a man. The Holy Spirit confirms that fact as follows:

**Romans 1:3** "CONCERNING HIS SON JESUS CHIRST OUR LORD, WHICH WAS MADE OF THE SEED OF DAVID ACCORDING TO THE FLESH;"

**Hebrews 2:14** "FORASMUCH THEN AS THE CHILDREN ARE PARTAKERS OF FLESH AND BLOOD, HE ALSO HIMSELF LIKewise TOOK PART OF THE SAME; THAT THROUGH DEATH HE MIGHT DESTROY HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL;:"

**Galatians 4:4** "BUT WHEN THE FULNESS OF THE TIME WAS COME, GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON, MADE OF A WOMAN, MADE UNDER THE LAW,"

## John Chapter One

Paul tells us through his words to Timothy this way:

**I Timothy 3:16** “AND WITHOUT CONTROVERSY GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS: GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH, JUSTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT, SEEN OF ANGELS, PREACHED UNTO THE GENTILES, BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD, RECEIVED UP INTO GLORY.”

Many men have spent much time arguing about the words in the verse “ONLY BEGOTTEN” and not only is the translation accurate; in the physical realm the declaration is true:

**Matthew 1:18** “NOW THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST WAS ON THIS WISE: WHEN AS HIS MOTHER MARY WAS ESPOUSED TO JOSEPH, (not married, by the way, but espoused, a stronger commitment than our word engaged, but not married) BEFORE THEY CAME TOGETHER, SHE WAS FOUND WITH CHILD OF THE HOLY GHOST.”

**Read John 1:15-18** – The supremacy of Christ

**v15.** “JOHN BARE WITNESS OF HIM, AND CRIED, SAYING, THIS WAS HE OF WHOM I SPAKE, HE THAT COMETH AFTER ME IS PREFERRED BEFORE ME: FOR HE WAS BEFORE ME.”

John the Baptizer was six months older than Jesus. So, how is it that he says that Jesus was “BEFORE ME”? John was testifying concerning the deity of Jesus.

John the Apostle records that John the Baptizer stands as an un-refutable witness, indeed serving as the herald of a new King who was to rule over God’s chosen people. His testimony is so important that John quotes him again just a few verses later:

**John 1:27** “HE IT IS, WHO COMING AFTER ME IS PREFERRED BEFORE ME, WHOSE SHOE’S LATCHET I AM NOT WORTHY TO UNLOOSE.”

John, in his writing confirms and reinforces that which the historian, Luke wrote earlier:

**Luke 3:16** “JOHN ANSWERED, SAYING UNTO *them* ALL, I INDEED BAPTIZE YOU WITH WATER; BUT ONE MIGHTIER THAN I COMETH, THE LATCHET OF WHOSE SHOES I AM NOT WORTHY TO UNLOOSE: HE SHALL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY GHOST AND WITH FIRE.”



## John Chapter One

John the Baptizer was very careful to make sure that people hearing him knew that he was not the Messiah that Jews sought so hopefully. He refused to receive any honor that would rightly belong to our Saviour. Jesus testifies himself of his deity, calling himself the "I AM".

**John 8:58** "JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM."

**v16.** "AND OF HIS FULNESS HAVE ALL WE RECEIVED, AND GRACE FOR GRACE."

John writes that we have received "HIS FULLNESS". For those who dwell in him, for those who live by his precepts, for those who allow his words to rule their lives and have given themselves to the Father have indeed partaken of the fullness, all that God makes available of the wondrous grace that He has provided through his Son. This is the meaning behind the words of Paul in:

**Colossians 2:9** "FOR IN HIM DWELLETH ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY."

Many of our liberal brethren who have turned to denominational doctrines and practices accuse us who try to follow the "OLD PATHS" (**Jeremiah 16:16**) of abandoning the grace of God for legalistic binding of law. These accusations are made because we teach, correctly, that we must obey the commandments of God. They make these accusations simply because they do not wish to honor the commandments of God. We can in no way earn our salvation but our obedience to God's commandments are essential in order for us to received the benefits of His grace. It is through his grace that he provides us redemption from sin; redemption that can only come through obedience to his commandments.

**Ephesians 1:6-9** "TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE, WHEREIN HE HATH MADE US ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED. IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE.; WHEREIN HE HATH ABOUNDED TOWARD US IN ALL WISDOM AND PRUDENCE; HAVING MADE KNOWN UNTO US THE MYSTERIES OF HIS WILL, ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PLEASURE WHICH HE HAS PURPOSED IN HIMSELF."

**v17.** "FOR THE LAW WAS GIVEN BY MOSES, *but* GRACE AND TRUTH CAME BY JESUS CHRIST."

## John Chapter One

**Deuteronomy 4:44-45** “AND THIS *is* THE LAW WHICH MOSES SET BEFORE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. THESE ARE THE TESTIMONIES, AND THE STATUTES, AND THE JUDGMENTS, WHICH MOSES SPAKE UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AFTER THEY CAME FORTH OUT OF EGYPT.”

This Law of Deuteronomy 4 was a Covenant based upon laws with their rewards and penalties. If they kept it, it would have prepared them for eternal life just as well as that we enjoy under the Law of Christ today. Not because it brought remission of sins in their day but because when Christ went to the cross He provided remission of sins to all who had or will obey the law of God for their time. But Israel proved that they would not or could not keep their law. Through hundreds of years they proved time after time that they were no better than the men of the world that God destroyed with the Great Flood. So, even though that Law was just and right; the result was continual punishment because man couldn't keep it and the love and kindness of God was not manifested in it.

The shortcomings of the law have been corrected; those faithful under it have been redeemed. It has been replaced by the “perfect law of liberty”. We have been justified by his grace; Paul says that justification has been given freely:

**Romans 3:24** “BEING JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS.”

Under the Law of Christ we do have commandments, we do have laws that we must obey, as Jesus tells us we must “CONTINUE IN MY WORD”.

**John 8:31-32** “THEN SAID JESUS TO THOSE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED ON HIM, IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD, *then* ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED; AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE.”

**v18.** “NO MAN HATH SEEN GOD AT ANY TIME; THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, WHICH IS IN THE BOSOM OF THE FATHER, HE HATH DECLARED *him*.”

God told Moses:

**Exodus 33:20** “AND HE SAID, THOU CANST NOT SEE MY FACE: FOR THERE SHALL NO MAN SEE ME, AND LIVE.”

Matthew records that no man can know the Father except those to whom the Son will reveal him:

## John Chapter One

**Matthew 11:27** “ALL THINGS ARE DELIVERED UNTO ME OF MY FATHER: AND NO MAN KNOWETH THE SON, BUT THE FATHER; NEITHER KNOWETH ANY MAN THE FATHER, SAVE THE SON, AND *he* TO WHOMSOEVER THE SON WILL REVEAL *him*.” See also: **Luke 10:22**

John here says that God declares Jesus; in First John he calls him his only begotten Son again and declares that God sent him:

**I John 4:9** “IN THIS WAS MANIFESTED THE LOVE OF GOD TOWARD US, BECAUSE THAT GOD SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON INTO THE WORLD, THAT WE MIGHT LIVE THROUGH HIM.”

**Read John 1:19-28** – The Testimony of John the Baptist

**v19.** “AND THIS IS THE RECORD OF JOHN, WHEN THE JEWS SENT PRIESTS AND LEVITES FROM JERUSALEM TO ASK HIM, WHO ART THOU?”

The Jews of Jerusalem at the beginning of the first century were some of the most zealous of all time; and Jerusalem was the center of Judaism. This strange, rough man was out in the wilderness preaching and attracting a lot of people. He was a religious leader and perhaps they feared competition for the honors and privileges they enjoyed, at least they went to find out who this man was. These verses record the interrogations of John that occurred. Later Jesus declares that John bore witness of him to those who inquired:

**John 5:32-33** “THERE IS ANOTHER THAT BEARETH WITNESS OF ME; AND I KNOW THAT THE WITNESS WHICH HE WITNESSETH OF ME IS TRUE. YE SENT UNTO JOHN, AND HE BARE WITNESS UNTO THE TRUTH.”

**v20.** “AND HE CONFESSED, AND DENIED NOT; BUT CONFESSED, I AM NOT THE CHRIST.”

Jesus declares that John’s words were true; he confessed that he was not the Christ, the one whom he was chosen to herald as a king.

**John 3:27-28** “JOHN ANSWERED AND SAID, A MAN CAN RECEIVE NOTHING, EXCEPT IT BE GIVEN HIM FROM HEAVEN. YE YOURSELVES BEAR ME WITNESS, THAT I SAID, I AM NOT THE CHRIST, BUT THAT I AM SENT BEFORE HIM.”

## John Chapter One

But men just didn't understand, or they chose to speculate and gossip as men are all prone to do:

**Luke 3:15** "AND AS THE PEOPLE WERE IN EXPECTATION, AND ALL MEN MUSED IN THEIR HEARTS OF JOHN, WHETHER HE WERE THE CHRIST, OR NOT."

Paul testified before the worshipers in the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia that John was not the Messiah; quoting the same words of John the Baptizer that John the Apostle does in John 1:27.

**Acts 13:25** "AND AS JOHN FULFILLED HIS COURSE, HE SAID, WHOM THINK YE THAT I AM? I AM NOT *he*. BUT, BEHOLD, THERE COMETH ONE AFTER ME, WHOSE SHOES OF *his* FEET I AM NOT WORTHY TO LOOSE."

**v21.** "AND THEY ASKED HIM, WHAT THEN? ART THOU ELIAS? AND HE SAITH, I AM NOT. ART THOU THAT PROPHET? AND HE ANSWERED, NO."

The Jews of Jerusalem knew of God's promises and prophecies regarding the Messiah. They knew the Mosaic Law. God had promised to raise up a prophet like Moses who led Israel out of bondage. This promise was given long before the prophets spoke.

**Deuteronomy 18:15** "THE **LORD** THEY GOD WILL RAISE UP UNTO THEE A PROPHET FROM THE MIDST OF THEE, OF THY BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO ME; UNTO HIM YE SHALL HEARKEN."

**Deuteronomy 18:18** "I WILL RAISE THEM UP A PROPHET FROM AMONG THEIR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO THEE, AND WILL PUT MY WORDS IN HIS MOUTH; AND HE SHALL SPEAK UNTO THEM ALL THAT I SHALL COMMAND HIM."

And God had also declared that one would be sent who would herald the coming of the Messiah but they were apparently looking so hard for deliverance from Rome that they were seeking, even grasping for anyone who may fit that category. The latest of God's prophets had told them:

"BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE **LORD**:" **Malachi 4:5**

## John Chapter One

Even the apostles did not understand the role of John the Baptizer until the Holy Spirit revealed it to them:

**Matthew 17:10** “AND HIS DISCIPLES ASKED HIM, SAYING, WHY THEN SAY THE SCRIBES THAT ELIAS MUST FIRST COME?”

**v22.** “THEN SAID THEY UNTO HIM, WHO ART THOU? THAT WE MAY GIVE AN ANSWER TO THEM THAT SENT US. WHAT SAYEST THOU OF THYSELF?”

They wanted John to define his purpose, his mission. If he wasn't Elijah or the prophet they were seeking they wanted to be able to tell those in Jerusalem that had sent them to seek him out just who he was.

**v23.** “HE SAID, I *am* THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD, AS SAID THE PROPHET ESAIAS.”

John declared to them specifically who he was; using the scripture as a reference; taking his words from the words of comfort that God gave his people through the prophet Isaiah:

**Isaiah 40:1-3** “COMFORT YE, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE, SAITH YOUR GOD. SPEAK YE COMFORTABLY TO JERUSALEM, AND CRY UNTO HER, THAT HER WARFARE IS ACCOMPLISHED, THAT HER INIQUITY IS PARDONED: FOR SHE HATH RECEIVED OF THE LORD'S HAND DOUBLE FOR ALL HER SINS. THE VOICE OF HIM THAT CRIETH IN THE WILDERNESS, PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE **LORD**, MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE DESERT A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD.”

John the Baptizer was the one that Matthew, Mark and Luke, all three, guided by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit declares to be the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy:

**Matthew 3:3** “FOR THIS IS HE THAT WAS SPOKEN OF BY THE PROPHET ESAIAS, SAYING, THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.”

See also **Mark 1:3** and **Luke 3:4**

## John Chapter One

**v24.** “AND THEY WHICH WERE SENT WERE OF THE PHARISEES.”

John tells us that those sent to inquire of John the Baptizer were of the sect of the Pharisees, the rulers of the synagogues and most faithful to the Mosaic Covenant.

**v25.** “AND THEY ASKED HIM, AND SAID UNTO HIM, WHY BAPTIZEST THOU THEN, IF THOU BE NOT THAT CHRIST, NOR ELIAS, NEITHER THAT PROPHET?”

They recognized that John had or spoke and acted as though he had some kind of authority. He was also introducing something very important to us for the first time in scripture; baptism, immersion, a washing or cleansing for the remission of sins.

**Mark 1:4** “JOHN DID BAPTIZE IN THE WILDERNESS, AND PREACH THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.”

**Luke 3:3** “AND HE CAME INTO ALL THE COUNTRY ABOUT JORDAN, PREACHING THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS;”

So even before the death, burial and resurrection of our Saviour, even before the great sermon of Peter on Pentecost baptism for the remission of sins is preached and practiced. John was doing this as one with authority. So they were as puzzled by this as they were when Jesus spake with authority.

**v26.** “JOHN ANSWERED THEM, SAYING, I BAPTIZE WITH WATER: BUT THERE STANDETH ONE AMONG YOU, WHOM YE KNOW NOT;”

John gives them an answer, probably not the one they were looking for, but the answer that he does baptize with water and that he was a messenger, herald, or one who was telling of one is yet to come. Matthew's record is similar:

**Matthew 3:11** “I INDEED BAPTIZE YOU WITH WATER UNTO REPENTANCE: BUT HE THAT COMETH AFTER ME IS MIGHTIER THAN I...”

Why didn't they understand? They had the words of the prophets to prepare and guide them to recognize John.

### **John Chapter One**

**Malachi 3:1** “BEHOLD, I WILL SEND MY MESSENGER, AND HE SHALL PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE ME: AND THE LORD, WHOM YE SEEK, SHALL SUDDENLY COME TO HIS TEMPLE, EVEN THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT, WHOM YE DELIGHT IN: BEHOLD, HE SHALL COME, SAITH THE **LORD** OF HOSTS.”

**v27.** HE IT IS, WHO COME AFTER ME IS PREFERRED BEFORE ME, WHOSE SHOE'S LATCHET I AM NOT WORTHY TO UNLOOSE.”

John has told them in the verse prior that there is one among them whom they did not know. That there was one that was to be preferred above him to the extent that he wasn't even worthy to unlatch his shoes as a man-servant would do. And if John left any doubt in our minds Paul interprets John's meaning and makes it very clear to the Ephesians and to us who we are to follow:

**Acts 19:4** “THEN SAID PAUL, JOHN VERILY BAPTIZED WITH THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE, SAYING UNTO THE PEOPLE, THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE ON HIM WHICH SHOULD COME AFTER HIM, THAT IS, ON CHRIST JESUS.”

**v28.** “THESE THINGS WERE DONE IN BETHABARA [Bethany] BEYOND JORDAN, WHERE JOHN WAS BAPTIZING.”

John, at this time, was “beyond Jordan” or east of the Jordan River. There is some controversy as to just where John was preaching. Some say that he was about 10 miles south of the Sea of Galilee. Others contend that he was near Gilgal just north of the Dead Sea. A map in the Thompson Study Bible shows the latter location.

**Read John 1:29-34** – Christ the Lamb of God

**v29.** “THE NEXT DAY JOHN SEETH JESUS COMING UNTO HIM, AND SAITH, BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD.”

The next day, the very next day after John has told the messengers from Jerusalem that he is not the Elijah, the Christ or the prophet whom they seek; Jesus comes to him. People who study the timing and chronology of the New Testament tell us that this is some time after Jesus' baptism. And when John sees him he describes him as the Lamb of God. God has decreed that the sacrifice of life and the shedding of blood is necessary for the removal of sin.

## John Chapter One

**Hebrews 9:22** “AND ALMOST ALL THINGS ARE BY THE LAW PURGED WITH BLOOD; AND WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD IS NO REMISSION.”

Under the Mosaic Law the sacrifices were of lambs, calves, doves, etc.

**Exodus 12:3** “SPEAK YE UNTO ALL THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL, SAYING, IN THE TENTH *day* OF THIS MONTH THEY SHALL TAKE TO THEM EVERY MAN A LAMB, ACCORDING TO THE HOUSE OF *their* FATHERS, A LAMB FOR AN HOUSE:”

But that didn't remove their sin but only postponed, or rolled forward the sins of the people;

**Hebrews 10:3-4** “BUT IN THOSE *sacrifices there is* A REMEMBRANCE AGAIN *made* OF SINS EVERY YEAR. FOR *it is* NOT POSSIBLE THAT THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND OF GOATS SHOULD TAKE AWAY SINS.”

God required a greater sacrifice to remit or remove sins; His only begotten Son, Jesus, promised in prophecy:

**Isaiah 53:7** “HE WAS OPPRESSED, AND HE WAS AFFLICTED, YET HE OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH: HE IS BROUGHT AS A LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER, AND AS A SHEEP BEFORE HER SHEARERS IS DUMB, SO HE OPENETH NOT HIS MOUTH...:11 “HE SHALL SEE OF THE TRAVAIL OF HIS SOUL, *and* SHALL BE SATISFIED: BY HIS KNOWLEDGE SHALL MY RIGHTEOUS SERVANT JUSTIFY MANY; FOR HE SHALL BEAR THEIR INIQUITIES.”

His deity is confirmed in testimony; not only by John and the records of the writers of the Gospels but by the Holy Spirit through Peter and Paul as well.

**I Corinthians 15:3** “FOR I DELIVERED UNTO YOU FIRST OF ALL THAT WHICH I ALSO RECEIVED, HOW THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES;”

**I Peter 1:18-19** “FORASMUCH AS YE KNOW THAT YE WERE NOT REDEEMED WITH CORRUPTIBLE THINGS, *as* SILVER AND GOLD, FROM YOUR VAIN CONVERSTAION *received* BY TRADITION FROM YOUR FATHERS; BUT WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, AS OF A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH AND WITHOUT SPOT.”



## John Chapter One

**v30.** “THIS IS HE OF WHOM I SAID, AFTER ME COMETH A MAN WHICH IS PREFERRED BEFORE ME: FOR HE WAS BEFORE ME.”

John again speaks of Jesus as the one preferred, born after him, but existing before he did.

**v31.** “AND I KNEW HIM NOT: BUT THAT HE SHOULD BE MADE MANIFEST TO ISRAEL, THEREFORE [**FOR THIS CAUSE**] AM I COME BAPTIZING WITH WATER.”

Judea did not know Jesus and would not know Jesus without John to show them who he was. The angel told Zacharias, John’s father:

**Luke 1:17** “AND HE SHALL GO BEFORE HIM IN THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIAS, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE DISOBEDIENT TO THE WISDOM OF THE JUST; TO MAKE READY A PEOPLE PREPARED FOR THE LORD.”

John came baptizing with water, people went to him confessing their sins and being baptized as Matthew records:

**Matthew 3:5-6** “THEN WENT OUT TO HIM JERUSALEM, AND ALL JUDAEA, AND ALL THE REGION ROUND ABOUT JORDAN, AND WERE BAPTIZED OF HIM IN JORDAN, CONFESSING THEIR SINS.”

It was at the time of Jesus baptism there was another sign that was given to confirm his deity and the preaching and teaching of John the Baptizer:

**v32.** “AND JOHN BARE RECORD, SAYING, I SAW THE SPIRIT DESCENDING FROM HEAVEN LIKE A DOVE, AND IT ABODE UPON HIM.”

The dove descending upon Jesus at his baptism and the words of God heard also fulfilled prophesy and marked Jesus of Nazareth as the One that God had sent.

**Isaiah 11:2** “AND THE SPIRIT OF THE **LORD** SHALL REST UPON HIM, THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND MIGHT, THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND OF THE FEAR OF THE **LORD;**”

## John Chapter One

Matthew writes, guided by that same Spirit, bears record:

**Matthew 3:16-17** “AND JESUS, WHEN HE WAS BAPTIZED, WENT UP STRAIGHTWAY OUT OF THE WATER: AND, LO, THE HEAVENS WERE OPENED UNTO HIM, AND HE SAW THE SPIRIT OF GOD DESCENDING LIKE A DOVE, AND LIGHTING UPON HIM: AND LO, A VOICE FROM HEAVEN, SAYING, THIS IS MY BELOVE SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED.”

**v33.** “AND I KNEW HIM NOT: BUT HE THAT SENT ME TO BAPTIZE WITH WATER, THE SAME SAID UNTO ME, UPON WHOM THOU SHALT SEE THE SPIRIT DESCENDING, AND REMAINING ON HIM, THE SAME IS HE WHICH BAPTIZETH WITH THE HOLY GHOST.”

John says that he didn't know that Jesus was the promised Messiah until God revealed that fact to him. And then John records the testimony of John the Baptist that this Jesus would indeed baptize, not only with water but with the Holy Spirit. Jesus first told his disciples in John 14:26, John 16:7-8 and then confirmed it again just before his ascension back to heaven:

**Acts 1:5** “FOR JOHN TRULY BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT YE SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY GHOST NOT MANY DAYS HENCE.”

The actual occurrence of which confounded the entire city of Jerusalem:

**Acts 2:4** “AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, AND BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE.”

**v34.** “AND I SAW, AND BARE RECORD THAT THIS IS THE SON OF GOD.”

Having seen the sign that God had promised, John knew who this man Jesus really was and testified of him. But just as we do sometimes John weakened and later questioned his faith when he was in prison and needed to be re-assured. And we too need to hear and study these things again and again to keep our faith strong.

**Read John 1:35-42** – The Calling of Peter

**v35.** “AGAIN THE NEXT DAY AFTER JOHN STOOD, AND TWO OF HIS DISCIPLES;”

## John Chapter One

The next day John and two of his disciples are standing nearby the place where he baptized. They see Jesus walking and John points Him out to them as the Lamb of God.

**v36-37.** “AND LOOKING UPON JESUS AS HE WALKED, HE SAITH, BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD! AND THE TWO DISCIPLES HEARD HIM SPEAK, AND THEY FOLLOWED JESUS.”

John’s purpose was to herald the coming of the Messiah, the Christ, pointing him out to two of his disciples simply converts his purpose into action.

**v38.** “THEN JESUS TURNED, AND SAW THEM FOLLOWING, AND SAITH UNTO THEM, WHAT SEEK YE? THEY SAID UNTO HIM RABBI, (WHICH IS TO SAY, BEING INTERPRETED, MASTER,) WHERE DWELLEST THOU?”

Jesus always seems to want those who follow him to know what they’re getting themselves into. He asked them what they wanted, what they were seeking. They call him Rabbi which means teacher, or master; and by doing so indicate that they wish to be his disciples, even to the point of asking him where he lives so that they could come to him.

**v39.** “HE SAITH UNTO THEM, COME AND SEE. THEY CAME AND SAW WHERE HE DWELT, AND ABODE WITH HIM THAT DAY: FOR IT WAS ABOUT THE TENTH HOUR.”

When these disciples of John asked where he lived, Jesus simply told them “COME AND SEE”. They did this and because it was about 4:00 in the afternoon they stayed with him.

**v40.** “ONE OF THE TWO WHICH HEARD JOHN *speak*, AND FOLLOWED HIM, WAS ANDREW, SIMON PETER’S BROTHER.”

As we noted earlier in our study John is teaching and baptizing near Bethabara. The contention that he was about ten miles south of the Sea of Galilee is given some support by the fact that Andrew is a Galilean fisherman. Andrew’s stay with Jesus had apparently satisfied him that he had indeed found the one whom the whole Jewish nation was seeking and he went to tell his brother about Jesus.

## John Chapter One

**v41.** “HE FIRST FINDETH HIS OWN BROTHER SIMON, AND SAITH UNTO HIM, WE HAVE FOUND THE MESSIAS, WHICH IS BEING INTERPRETED, THE CHRIST.”

Some would have us believe that Matthew and John contradict themselves but when we remember that “ALL SCRIPTURE *is* GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, (II Timothy 3:16) we can understand that Matthew and John are recording events that happened at two different times.

**Matthew 4:18** “AND JESUS, WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE, SAW TWO BRETHERN, SIMON CALLED PETER, AND ANDREW HIS BROTHER, CASTING A NET INTO THE SEA: FOR THEY WERE FISHERS.”

You may have noticed that I use the words Christ and Messiah interchangeably and that is because the two words mean the same thing; Messiah being Hebrew and Christ being the same thing in the Greek language, Christ being the term used most often in the western world.

**v42.** “AND HE BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS. AND WHEN JESUS BEHELD HIM, HE SAID, THOU ART SIMON THE SON OF JONA: THOU SHALT BE CALLED CEPHAS, WHICH IS BY INTERPRETATION, A STONE.”

From the Greek language the name “Cephas” translates to the word “stone” in English; the name “Peter” translates to the word “rock”. The words and names are basically interchangeable, men who wish to have Peter as the foundation of the church have used their meanings and their translation in **Matthew 16:18** to create doctrinal problems. Some modern versions also state such or give the implication that this is true in their footnotes.

**Matthew 16:18** “AND I SAY ALSO UNTO THEE, THAT THOU ART PETER, AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.”

At the same time there is disagreement regarding just what Jesus was referring to when He said that “UPON THIS ROCK” in **Matthew 16:18**. We know it wasn't Peter because the Greek word translated “ROCK” in English in this verse is not the same Greek word that is translated Peter. The word “petra” in Greek means bedrock, solid rock or a cliff of rock, something that would readily serve as a foundation; the word translated Peter or Cephas means a stone as John says, one that we might be able to pick up and carry.

## John Chapter One

The most logical explanation for what the “ROCK” is in **Matthew 16:18** is that it represents the truth concerning the deity of Christ that Peter had just confessed.

So when the language of the original record is examined carefully the doctrine of the Catholic denomination that Peter is the foundation of the church and the contentions of the modern version writers are refuted and proven false.

### Read John 1:43-51 – Other Disciples Called

**v43.** “THE DAY FOLLOWING JESUS WOULD GO FORTH UNTO GALILEE, AND FINDETH PHILIP, AND SAITH UNTO HIM, FOLLOW ME.”

This Philip was not the Philip of the conversion of the Ethiopian treasurer but an apostle whom we read very little other than here and in:

**John 12:20-21** “AND THERE WERE CERTAIN GREEKS AMONG THEM THAT CAME UP TO WORSHIP AT THE FEAST: THE SAME CAME THEREFORE TO PHILIP, WHICH WAS OF BETHSAIDA OF GALILEE, AND DESIRED HIM, SAYING, SIR, WE WOULD SEE JESUS.”

**v44.** “NOW PHILIP WAS OF BETHSAIDA, THE CITY OF ANDREW AND PETER.”

Bethsaida was on the north eastern corner of the Sea of Galilee where a small river runs into the sea. It seems that all of the apostles, except Judas, were from this general area.

**v45.** “PHILIP FINDETH NATHANAEL, AND SAITH UNTO HIM, WE HAVE FOUND HIM, OF WHOM MOSES IN THE LAW, AND THE PROPHETS, DID WRITE, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE SON OF JOSEPH.”

The apostle Nathanael is probably the same man as the one called Bartholomew who always seems to be paired with Philip. There wasn't any doubt in his mind either concerning the identity of Jesus. Philip refers to the writing of Moses; telling us that he was educated enough in the Old Testament scripture that he knew the words inspired by the Holy Spirit and recorded by Moses:

**Genesis 3:15** “AND I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN THEE AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN THY SEED AND HER SEED; IT SHALL BRUISE THY HEAD, AND THOU SHALT BRUISE HIS HEEL.”

## John Chapter One

**Genesis 49:10** “THE SCEPTRE SHALL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH, NOR A LAWGIVER FROM BETWEEN HIS FEET, UNTIL SHILOH COME; AND UNTO HIM *shall* THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE *be*.”

**Deuteronomy 18:18** “I WILL RAISE THEM UP A PROPHET FROM AMONG THEIR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO THEE, AND WILL PUT MY WORDS IN HIS MOUTH; AND HE SHALL SPEAK UNTO THEM ALL THAT I SHALL COMMAND HIM.”

And the Prophets

**Isaiah 9:6** “FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN: AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE.”

**Zechariah 6:12** “AND SPEAK UNTO HIM, SAYING, THUS SPEAKETH THE **LORD** OF HOSTS, SAYING, BEHOLD THE MAN WHOSE NAME IS THE **BRANCH**; AND HE SHALL GROW UP OUT OF HIS PLACE, AND HE SHALL BUILD THE TEMPLE OF THE **LORD**.”

**v46.** “AND NATHANAEL SAID UNTO HIM, CAN THERE ANY GOOD THING COME OUT OF NAZARETH? PHILIP SAITH UNTO HIM, COME AND SEE.”

Nathanael was a skeptic, at least at this moment. Nazareth was a Galilean town in the area of the Northern Kingdom of Israel that was allotted to the tribes of Asher, Naphtali and Zebulun. Until the expansion of Judea by the Hasmonean rulers just before coming under Rome it was probably occupied the same people who lived in Samaria. One estimate is that it probably contained less than 500 people, or in other words it was a small town or village in modern terms. At the time of the birth of Christ it was the home of Joseph and Mary even though they were of the family of David. Others were just as skeptical as Nathanael:

**John 7:41-42** “OTHERS SAID, THIS IS THE CHRIST. BUT SOME SAID, SHALL CHRIST COME OUT OF GALILEE? HATH NOT HE SCRIPTURE SAID, THAT CHRIST COMETH OF THE SEED OF DAVID, AND OUT OF THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, WHERE DAVID WAS?”

## John Chapter One

The Messiah was to come from the lineage of David, perhaps they did not know that Jesus was indeed a descendant of David through both Mary and Joseph and was born in Bethlehem. Reading this we should understand the necessity of knowing the story of Jesus birth; it is part of the proof of who he is and as such part of the foundation of our faith.

**v47.** “JESUS SAW NATHANAEL COMING TO HIM, AND SAITH OF HIM, BEHOLD AN ISRAELITE INDEED, IN WHOM IS NO GUILLE!”

Jesus apparently knew of Nathanael’s skepticism and recognized that a true son of Israel would do just what Nathanael did. He would come and see for himself with the intent of following if Jesus was found to be truly who Philip said he was. However, many who heard or heard of Jesus were like those described by Paul to the Roman brethren and not true sons of Israel; the word of God had no effect on them, they didn’t believe:

**Romans 9:6** “NOT AS THOUGH THE WORD OF GOD HATH TAKEN NONE EFFECT. FOR THEY ARE NOT ALL ISRAEL, WHICH ARE OF ISRAEL:”

Nathanael was blessed with a spirit that did not lend itself to deceit, guile or this attitude; therefore the reason for the statement by Jesus regarding there being no guile in him.

**Psalms 32:2** “BLESSED IS THE MAN UNTO WHOM THE **LORD** IMPUTETH NOT INIQUITY, AND IN WHOSE SPIRIT *there is* NO GUILLE.”

**v48.** “NATHANAEL SAITH UNTO HIM, WHENCE KNOWEST THOU ME? JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM, BEFORE THAT PHILIP CALLED THEE, WHEN THOU WAST UNDER THE FIG TREE, I SAW THEE.”

Nathanael was perhaps like we would be: “Lord just how is it that you know me and know the way I think and the way my mind works???”

**v49.** “NATHANAEL ANSWERED AND SAITH UNTO HIM, RABBI, THOU ART THE SON OF GOD; THOU ART THE KING OF ISRAEL.”

Nathanael was impressed with Jesus’ knowledge. He was quick to acknowledge His divinity and his Kingship. Others did likewise at later times:

**Matthew 14:33** “THEN THEY THAT WERE IN THE SHIP CAME AND WORSHIPPED HIM, SAYING, OF A TRUTH THOU ART THE SON OF GOD.”

## John Chapter One

**v50.** “JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM, BECAUSE I SAID UNTO THEE, I SAW THEE UNDER THE FIG TREE, BELIEVEST THOU? THOU SHALT SEE GREATER THINGS THAN THESE.”

Jesus complements Nathanael on his ready faith and assured him that there would be greater things than this upon which to anchor his belief.

**v51.** “AND HE SAITH UNTO HIM, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, HEREAFTER YE SHALL SEE HEAVEN OPEN, AND THE ANGELS OF GOD ASCENDING AND DESCENDING UPON THE SON OF MAN.”

Jesus gives his followers at that point a little glimpse of what was to come, that things would happen that would strengthen their faith and that would carry them through to the day when they would gather in the upper room. His reference to the angels ascending and descending reminds us of Jacob’s dream:

**Genesis 28:12** “AND HE DREAMED, AND BEHOLD LADDER SET UP ON THE EARTH, AND THE TOP OF IT REACHED TO HEAVEN: AND BEHOLD THE ANGELS OF GOD ASCENDING AND DESCENDING ON IT.”

And they did come to minister unto Jesus:

**Matthew 4:11** “THEN THE DEVIL LEAVETH HIM, AND BEHOLD, ANGELS CAME AND MINISTERED UNTO HIM.”

And they manifested his sovereignty and his deity in other ways; even to simple shepherds on the hills of Judea:

**Luke 2:9** “AND, LO, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME UPON THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE ROUND ABOUT THEM: AND THEY WERE SORE AFRAID.”