



## MESSAGE/SERIES:

**Series: JESUS IN JOHN**

**Message: "The Mind of God Revealed"**

**Text: John 1:1-18**

**DATE: August 16, 2020**

## SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

**John 1:1-18** (TODAY), 19-28 (TUESDAY), 29-34 (WEDNESDAY), 35-42 (THURSDAY), 43-50 (FRIDAY), Ezekiel 47 (the renewed sanctuary), **Genesis 1:3, Proverbs 8:22-25**, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Colossians 1:15-17, 24-27, Hebrews 4:12-16, Jeremiah 23:29, Psalm 147:15, John 10;10, Mark 1:2-3, **Ezekiel 44:4**

## OPENING SCRIPTURE:

**[John 1:1-18]**

*"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. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <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 has not overcome it.*

*<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

*<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive*

him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <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.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known."

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 1:1–19.*

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## **BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:**

**[THE WRITING OF JOHN]** The range of dates in which John was written is 70-160 AD by the Apostle John who wrote some 40 years after the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke). Key events would be the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. There was a crisis of Jewish belief that was tied to the destruction of the temple; therefore, there is much temple illustration and symbolism in the Gospel of John. The book was most likely written AD 80s- early 90's. John most likely wrote the book from Ephesus. Irenaeus and Eusebius both confirm this in their historical writings.

**[THE MAN/ APOSTLE JOHN]** Known as the disciple whom Jesus loved (John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 21:20). John was also a member of the "Sons of Thunder" as given by Jesus (Mark 3:17). John and his older brother James were also referred to in scripture as the "sons of Zebedee" (Mark 10:2-4). John was part of the inner circle of Jesus. Jesus had 12 disciples, but poured more into the three (Peter, James, and John).

**[ALL OF JOHN'S WRITINGS]** 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelations were all penned by the Apostle John (some debate whether John actually penned the Gospel of John but do not doubt it came from his lips to a writer by his direction).

**[THE GOSPEL OF JOHN]** Known as the *Spiritual Gospel* by some. John was not as concerned with chronological order or abundance of historical facts, however his facts are historically accurate. The destruction of the temple left a void that the person of Jesus Christ as the new temple replaced therefore we see the Gospel of John as having a replacement theme. The physical temple was destroyed; that was only a symbol and

Jesus replaced it in three days with His victorious resurrection and relational ministry with all who would believe. John filled in the gaps of the other Gospels by covering the early acts of Christ in His ministry.

Irenaeus wrote, "Afterwards, John, the disciple of the Lord, who also leaned upon His breast, did himself publish a gospel during his residence in Ephesus in Asia" (Against Heresies).

**[SYMBOL OF THE TEMPLE]** John is filled with signs and symbols that point to a relationship with Jesus as the messiah, the Christ they were looking for in the old testament. The temple was a symbol of God's presence with His people and now it is destroyed by the time John writes his gospel.

**[THE MAIN SCENE OF JOHN]** Galilee seems to be the main scene in the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke), while in John the main scene is the glorious city of Jerusalem.

**[THE CHURCH WHEN JOHN WAS WRITTEN]** When John wrote his gospel the church that was predominantly Jewish when the synoptics were written was now predominantly Gentile. The Jewish people no longer understood and read Hebrew therefore the Old Testament was having less impact on that generation. The Targums were written in Aramaic language to meet the need and the New Testament and specifically the book of John was crucial to speak to the Jews and the Gentiles in their context. The terminology of John speaks the language of the Greeks in word and thought.

**[CERINTHUS]** "IRENÆUS claimed that John wrote the Gospel to refute Cerinthus- an early Gnostic teacher who held that the Christ Spirit descended on Jesus at his Baptism and left him at the cross- but does not make the claim for the letters" (Kostenburger, 2009, pg. 95). This **secessionist doctrine** denied that Jesus came in the flesh. They minimized the seriousness of sin in this life. They did not worry as much with obedience to God's word as Jesus was just an emanation from God rather than God himself. He was not perfect and sinless, but rather just a man whom the Spirit came upon.

#### **[THE ANCESTRY ORIGINS OF JESUS IN THE GOSPELS]**

**Matthew-** to Abraham

**Luke-** to Adam

**John-** to the beginning of creation

**[SIGNS]** John has many signs (miraculous works) of Jesus that are there to establish that Jesus is God's official representative (the Messiah). Light and Life become strong themes in this Gospel.

**[THE NEW EXODUS]** The Gospels and especially the Gospel of John talks about a new exodus. Just as God led the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the promised land we see Jesus as the final guide out of slavery to sin and to the final promised land. This exodus is a spiritual exodus that ends in glorification and in a new heaven and new earth. Man failed in the Garden to be God's vice regents as He had set up. Moses and the children of Israel failed in being God's vice regents as God had set up. All of this reveals in God's perfect plan that man needs a savior and true vice regent to lead us out of captivity to satan and sin.

**[THE PASSION NARRATIVE IN JOHN]** The passion narrative takes up four chapters of the twenty one chapters total. John spends more time on the Passion narrative than all of the other gospels and gives more intricate details.

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“John has the most penetrating gaze into the eternal mysteries and eternal truths and the very mind of God.”

**William Barclay**

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## **OUTLINE:**

In the background of the Gospel of John is the threat of Gnosticism that diminished Jesus to a created emanation of God (making him no better than a created angel). There is also the need to communicate in a way that the Greeks can understand who Jesus is. The Greeks understood the term Logos meaning word or reason of God. Jesus had come for a purpose...

### **I. (v1-2) The Word & The Father**

A. *John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

1. (v1) **The Word** that has always been...

- a) **(Greek) Logos**= word or message, appearance, statement, the truth or communication from Jesus about Himself,
- b) Jesus is also ***the mind of God*** and speaking/revealing His mind through Jesus the God man
  - (1) Jesus was “in the beginning”
    - (a) The creative word (in creation past)
    - (b) The Eternal word (always been)
  - (2) “With God” (the person of Jesus Christ/pre-incarnate Christ)-
    - (a) in fellowship with the Father before time began
  - (3) “Was God”
    - (a) Jesus is equal to in divinity

**B. John 1:2 “He was in the beginning with God.”**

- 1. In the beginning=
  - a) Eternity past
  - b) Jesus Has always been God (not ever and angel or created being)

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**Meditation Moment:**

If Christ was not there in the beginning with God would He not be a created being and if He is then a created being, how does this affect our salvation as a perfect offering had to be made for our sins?

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Verses 1-2 combat the cults of today that claim Jesus is a created angel such as the Jehovah’s Witness...

[John 1:1 in Jehovah’s Witness Bible]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.

(New World Translation)

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## II. (v3-5) The Word & Creation

A. *John 1:3* “All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.”

1. Jesus is the creative agent in creative history
2. God through *the Word* (Jesus) created everything
  - a) There is nothing that has ever been created that is not from God (His word/Jesus)
    - (1) **Genesis 1:3** “And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”- God spoke each days creation into existence (Jesus the word of God the creative agent)
    - (2) **Colossians 1:15-17** “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on the earth...”

B. *John 1:4* “*In him was life, and the **life** was the **light** of men.*”

1. “Life”- Christians believe in life out of nothing and God is the sole source of life
  - a) The Gospel of John begins and ends with life
    - (1) Quality of life - Abundant life available through Jesus as Lord (John 10:10)
    - (2) The Life of God shared with man
      - (a) Jesus came to give His life (sharing in His life with us)
  - b) Life and light are two of the common threads of illustration/themes in the Gospel of John
  - c) Jesus’ life (33 yrs) shed light or made the truth known to man
    - (1) About God
    - (2) About man’s state

C. *John 1:5* “*The **light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***”

1. The light is a revealing of
  - a) The state of the world revealing our selfish and sinful intents
  - b) Darkness almost always refers to Evil in us and the influence of Satan
  - c) It is in the darkest places that the light shines (is seen) the brightest

2. The Darkness or evil did not overcome (the light/Jesus)
    - a) This Gospel shows that Jesus overcame Satan and sin forever for those who will believe
      - (1) Permanently defeated sin and satan
    - b) Without Jesus we remain spiritually blind (living in darkness)
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Meditation Moment:

If Jesus is not God in creation then He has no authority when He speaks in the New Testament... What problems does this cause for scripture and can we trust it if this were true?

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### III. (v6-9) John the Baptist & His Witness

- A. John 1:6-8 *“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.”*
    1. The people were lifting John the Baptist up too high and John’s Gospel is set to right that wrong perception of John the Baptist
      - a) Reminding us of the witness he is
      - b) Refuting that He was not the light (the messiah)
  - B. John 1:9 *“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.”*
    1. John was placed on planet earth with a purpose to point people to Jesus
    2. John was there to prepare the way for Jesus
      - a) **Mark 1:2-3** “a voice of one crying out in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord...”
    3. Every witness of Jesus Christ who speaks on His behalf must point people to the true light of Jesus Christ
      - a) We are all like the moon which only reflects the light of the sun dimly and we can trace its source to the Sun (Son for us)
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Meditation Moment:

How many times do we as christians take God's glory from Him taking the praise of man that God deserves? What would happen if we directed every praise back to Jesus as John did?

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#### **IV. (v10-13) The Word & the World**

- A. *John 1:10 "He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him."*
1. Jesus became man and identified with man
  2. Jesus is the one who created man and everything man touches and sees and yet the world does not recognize Jesus as God the creator
- B. *John 1:11 "He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him."*
1. Jesus came to a specific people and identified as Jewish yet the Jews did not receive Him
  2. They did not acknowledge him as Messiah
- C. *John 1:12-13 "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <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."*
1. Every person who does receive Him (weather Jew or Gentile)
  2. Everyone who believes He is the Christ
  3. Everyone who believes in Jesus he permits for them to be called His children (doctrine of Adoption)
  4. Finally he reiterates that they were not His children
    - a) "Not of blood"- Not from His lineage
    - b) "Not of the will of the flesh"- man does not seek Him out of desire of the mind
    - c) "Not of the will of man"- man does not seek him out of a natural desire
      - (1) Romans 3:10-11
  5. "But of God"- God called them to be His children for His own good pleasure (not of works or potential)

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Meditation Moment:



The creator of the world came and reintroduced Himself to His creation that was blinded by sin and the fall... man could not see Him nor could he submit to Him on his own. Jesus sought out man to not only open his eyes but to be His own special people. How does this change your view of salvation?

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## V. (v14-18) Christ & Moses

A. *John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

1. Jesus came and lived life with John and the Disciples
2. They saw **His Glory**, the glory of The Father
  - a) Jesus is the revelation of God's glory to man
  - b) Jesus was an actual physical and visible being
  - c) Jesus experienced life as we do (with its difficulties)
3. Jesus was **Full of Grace** as He came to die for sinful man (we did not deserve Jesus)
4. Jesus was **Full of Truth** as He is God
  - a) Jesus shows us what God is like as He is God (equal in power and essence)
  - b) He is the voice of truth a what He says is always correct and right and perfect
  - c) He is the giver of freedom as the message of truth that He gives brings freedom from Sin and hell

B. *John 1:15 "(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'"*

1. John's example that our witness should always deflect the praise to Jesus who is the rightful recipient of all praise
2. Jesus was born after John in the earthly sense so this is another reference to the eternal God-man who was before the manger scene

C. *John 1:16-17* <sup>16</sup> *For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

1. In His **“fullness”**= the sum total of all that God is (Jesus lacked nothing that God is in His time here)
  - a) Speaks against Kenosis theory (a mis-representation of Philippians 2:7 “emptied himself”)
2. We have received **“grace upon grace”**
  - a) (greek meaning) Grace instead of grace= the more we know about Jesus the more awesome He becomes to us (Barclay, 2001, pg. 84)
3. Moses vs Jesus... The law gave us realization of our state and need but Jesus gives us the answers to our state and need

D. *John 1:18* *“No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known. “*

1. Exodus 33:20 “No one shall see me and live”- God is transcendent (above all things/Holy)
2. Jesus makes God the Father known to man- God is immanent
3. The Father wants us to know Him yet He is Holy and unable to allow sin to go unpunished so He sent Jesus to be the bridge to Himself

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Meditation Moment:

Jesus is the one who draws us and gives us grace unto salvation and to sanctification (growth). Will we waste His grace or get lost in His imminent love for His people?

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-----Message from Pastor Michael-----  
Church,

The Gospel of John is the best place to read to get to know Jesus. Take your children along with you on this journey to know Jesus better in this study and you will find grace upon grace extended to your household. I know God will grow our love for His Son. We need to know Jesus the way John reveals Him to us and we can always learn more from this book. Will



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