

John 1:1-18

Get to Know Jesus; Read the Gospel of John

About the book of John: The apostle John begins by declaring that Jesus is the Word of God who had become embodied as a human-being to be *the way, the truth and life for the world* (14:6). He declares that Jesus is the Son of God and has been sent from the Father. Jesus is God's own glory made visible ("*Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father,*" 14:9).

- As you begin this study, what details do you recall (political climate, key encounters, etc.) from John's Gospel?

- John writes as a first-hand eyewitness testifying to the ministry of Jesus and the truth of His message (John 19:35). John clearly states his purpose for this book in 20:31: "*that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*"

A series of "I am" declarations are spoken by Jesus reminding us of His Father's words, and that He and the Father are One.

God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." - Exodus 3:14

"I am the bread of life"... - John 6:35

"I am the gate" - John 10:7,9

"I am the good shepherd" - John 10:14

"I am the resurrection and the life" - John 11:25

"I am the light of the world" - John 8:12; 9:5

"I am the way and the truth and the life" - John 14:6

"I am the vine" - John 15:1,5

"I and the Father are one." - John 10:30

Look up: John 8:58

Read 1:1-9 *The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.* (John 1:14)

v. 1 - *In the beginning* refers to the timeless eternity of Genesis 1:1. John essentially says, "When the beginning began, the Word was already there." The Word predates time or creation.

Jewish teachers referred to God in terms of *His Word*. "Word" translated in the ancient Greek is *Logos*, and was used by ancient Jews to refer to "*the being*" (or *character*) of God Himself. In Exodus 33:18, Moses asked God to show him His glory. In response, the Lord proclaimed His very character. Look up: Exodus 34:5-7

v. 3-4 - The *Logos* created all created-things. The Word is the source of all life. This word "life" (v.4) is from the Greek word "*zoe*", which is translated: "*the life principle*"; not *bios*, which is mere biological life. Look up: Colossians 1:16.

As we begin this study in the book of John, jump to John 1:14 to fully appreciate v.1-3.

v.4-5 - What two characteristics does the Word have according to these verses? Look up: John 14:6, John 8:12

Suppose a friend asks whether Jesus was eternal or was a created being. How could you use John 1 to answer the question? Look up: 1 John 1-2

v.5 - Without Jesus we are dead and in darkness. Look up: John 3:19-21

v. 6-8 - Define "witness"; Who was this witness? The words "witness," and "testimony," are noted repeatedly throughout John's Gospel. What does this tell you about the purpose of John's book?

Read 1:10-18

v.10-11 - These verses describe the shame of this book. Jesus was unrecognized and unwelcomed by His own people.

v. 10-13 - Although the entire old testament points to the coming of Jesus, even God's chosen people rejected Him. Those who receive Him (v.12) are born through a new birth, not of heritage but of the Spirit.

v.14 - This verse often flies off our tongue, but take some time to discuss and break it down. Look up: 1 Timothy 3:16

v.15-17 - The one announced by John the Baptist (Jesus Christ) is the Word made flesh. He brings a different order than the one instituted by Moses (*For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*). It is an awesome display of grace, contrasting with an order of rigid laws given in the Old Testament. Look up: Colossians 2:13-14

v.18 - God communicated through various people in the Old Testament, usually prophets who were told to give a specific message. Some might have seen heavenly visions (or manifestations) of God, after the pattern of Isaiah 6 or Ezekiel 1. But no one has ever seen the face of God (Exodus 33:20-23, John 6:46, 1 John 4:12).

Through Jesus, God revealed His very nature and essence in a way that could be seen and touched (Matthew 9:20, Matthew 14:36). In Christ, God became a man who lived on earth. Look up: Hebrews 2:14,17,18