

The Book of John:
The Disciple Jesus Loved
Study Notes

Chapter 1 PT. 1: The Divinity of Jesus

About The Apostle John

John-(Greek)-the name John (*Ioannes*) means "G-d is gracious" or "Yahweh is gracious". It's a translation of the Hebrew name Yochanan, which means "G-d is gracious". The name ultimately originated from the Hebrew name Yehochanan which means "YHWH is gracious" or "YHWH is merciful".

The Beginning - Verses 1-5

John 1:1-5 (NASB) – “¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. ⁵And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.”

“In The Beginning”

Beginning-(Hebrew)-*rê'shîyth*-the first, in place, time, order or rank (specifically, a first fruit), principal thing.

Beginning-(Greek)-*archê*-beginning, origin, the person or thing that commences, the first person or thing in a series, the leader, that by which anything begins to be, the origin, the active cause

Word-(Greek)-*lógos*- a word, the sayings of G-d, decree, mandate, or order, of the moral precepts given by G-d, Old Testament prophecy given by the prophets.

Note: Early theologians and Believers developed from this foundational verse, what has become known as, “*Logos Christology*”. This is the understanding that Jesus Christ is the Word.

Purpose: John reveals the purpose of this Epistle in the first verse of the Gospel of John. John is making a case to prove the identity of Jesus Christ.

- John focuses on signs and wonders in his Gospel.
- Signs and Wonders are to prove Jesus is the Word of G-d.
- And, if the Word of G-d, then He is also G-d Himself.

- John highlights Jesus' eternal existence.
- John is out to prove that Jesus is the Divine expression of Yahweh.

Note: John's Gospel is different than the other Gospels in that, it is out to prove that the Logos (Divine Word), which is Jesus Christ, took on the form of a man and dwelt amongst men.

Key: Jesus' identity as G-d is the Principal thing!

Yeshua/Jesus - His Name

Christ - His Title

Christ-comes from the **Greek** word (*chrīstós*), which translates the **Hebrew** (*Mašiah*), meaning "anointed one".

Understanding: John is identifying Jesus as the incarnation of G-d.

Incarnation-(Websters)-a person who embodies in the flesh a deity, spirit, or abstract quality. This is the concept of G-d becoming human. There is no direct translation in Hebrew but the most common way to understand this word, when it relates to Jesus Christ, is through the phrase translated as:

“When G-d laid down His power and put on the form of man.”

Key: Yahweh cannot lay down his divinity or he would not be G-d, but he can lay down His majesty.

Majesty- (Biblical Definition)- G-d's supreme authority, His splendor, His greatness.

Note: This is why He was not comprehended!

John 1:5 (NASB) – “And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.”

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NASB) – “Do not be mismatched with unbelievers; for what do righteousness and lawlessness share together, or what does light have in common with darkness?”

Understanding: Jesus (the Light) was incomprehensible for two reasons -

1st - His Birth



Luke 2:7 (NASB) – “And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

2nd – The Light



1 John 1:5 (NASB) – “This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.”

Remember: The darkness is sin when it speaks of humanity! Only G-d could reveal Jesus (Light) to sin sick humanity (Darkness).

The Witness: John the Baptist - Verses 6-13

John 1:6-13 (NASB) – “⁶ A man came, one sent from God, and his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light. ⁹ *This* was the true Light that, coming into the world, enlightens every person. ¹⁰ He

was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, and yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.”

Key: Because Jesus is the Light coming into darkness, Yahweh knew the only way that people will accept Jesus was through the witness of a man that knew Him before He was even born!

“A man came; one sent from God”



Luke 1:41-44 (NASB) – “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² And she cried out with a loud voice and said, ‘Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And how has it happened to me that the mother of my Lord would come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.’”

“He came as a witness”

Witness-(Greek)-*mártys*-by analogy, a "martyr". A witness, one who is a spectator of anything

Key: The first work of the Holy Spirit is to empower us to be a witness! Witnessing is the principal thing!



Acts 1:8 (NASB) – “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.”

“The World Came Into Being Through Him”

Genesis 1:1 (KJV) – “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

Note: John the Baptist’s witness was based upon Jesus’ identity as the Son of G-d! Those who accept his witness of Jesus were given a great honor!

The Good News of The Gospel

John 1:12 (NASB) – “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name,”

Question: Where is the greatest attack on a Believer?

Answer: It is against their “Witness”. Nothing offends more than the *name* of Jesus!



Acts 4:12 (NASB) – “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:17 (NASB) – “But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let’s warn them not to speak any longer to any person in this name.”

Philippians 2:10-11 (NASB) – “...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of G-d the Father.”

The Word Made Flesh

John 1:14-18 (NASB) – “¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only *Son* from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John testified about Him and called out, saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, “He who is coming after me has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.”’ ¹⁶ For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; God the only *Son*, who is in the arms of the Father, He has explained *Him*.”

Understanding: You cannot separate Jesus from His Word! The Apostle John is highlighting the testimony of John the Baptist, and that it was for the purpose of proving Jesus’ divinity and superiority over him.

Why?

Answer: John had his own disciples!

John 1:35-36 (NASB) – “³⁵ Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God!’”

Note: The goal of witnessing about Jesus is not to get converts to Christianity, but followers of Jesus!

Understanding: In Verse 17, a translation error was made that we must clarify!

John 1:17 (KJV) – “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

Key: The word “but” does not belong here. It was added for understanding but set up opposites that should not exist. Making the “law” seem harsh while making “grace and truth” to be only of Jesus!

John 1:17 (NASB) – “For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.”

Realized-(Webster’s)-to become fully aware, understanding clearly.



1 Corinthians 13:12 (AMP) – “For now [in this time of imperfection] we see in a mirror dimly [a blurred reflection, a riddle, an enigma], but then [when the time of perfection comes we will see reality] face to face. Now I know in part [just in fragments], but then I will know fully, just as I have been fully known [by God].”

John 1:18 (NASB) – “No one has seen God at any time; God the only *Son*, who is in the arms of the Father, He has explained *Him*.”

Note: John wants his readers to understand clearly that Jesus is the Light that reveals what the darkness of sin dimmed: knowing G-d!

If you have a revelation of Who He is, where is your *witness*?

The End