

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

A BASIC BROAD OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION TO THE ACCOMPANYING 60 DAY READING PLAN

As you set your mind and heart to read John's Gospel over the next 60 days, remember the following:

The PRE-EXISTENT ETERNAL CHRIST - The Apostle John starts his first epistle and his gospel with familiar wording found in the first verse in the bible in Genesis, viz. 'beginning'. Compare the following verses:

Gen. 1:1 In the **BEGINNING** God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-3 In the **BEGINNING** was **the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

1 John 1:1 What was from the **BEGINNING**, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the **Word of Life**.

Rev. 22:13 **I am** the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, **THE BEGINNING** and the end."

John 1:14 And **the Word** became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The 'beginning' is more than the commencement of time. The **beginning is a person**, viz. Jesus Christ, the Son of God - by, through and for whom - all things were created (Col. 1:16,17). He is the eternal WORD OF GOD and the SON OF GOD. In His sonship identity on the earth, He was the WORD 'MADE FLESH' (John 1:14). The Word of God took on human form. John does not write from a perspective of the humanity of Jesus, but presents to us the **ETERNAL CHRIST**, who existed **before time began (pre-existent)**, but was contained in and expressed through the earthly humanity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus demonstrates to us how we, as sons of God, could live successfully on the earth by living from an understanding of our eternal origin in Christ, who chose us in Him from the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).

The Gospel of John was **WRITTEN TO PERSUADE PEOPLE INTO BELIEVE IN JESUS**.

John 20:30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may **believe that Jesus is the Christ**, the Son of God, and that by believing you **may have life in his name**.

May your relationship with JESUS CHRIST deepen as you engage John's Gospel. He will reveal Himself to you through His Word (John 14:21-23).

The Gospel of John focuses on **SEVEN of JESUS' SIGNS (miracles)**, to show His divinity. Whereas Matthew, Mark and Luke (called synoptic Gospels) record several of Jesus' miracles, John only specifically and very selectively records SEVEN.

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| 1. Changing water into wine at Cana - " <i>the first of the signs</i> ". | <u>John 2:1-11</u> |
| 2. Healing the royal official's son in Capernaum. | <u>John 4:46-54</u> |
| 3. Healing the paralytic at Bethesda. | <u>John 5:1-15</u> |
| 4. Feeding the 5000. | <u>John 6:5-14</u> |
| 5. Jesus walking on water. | <u>John 6:16-24</u> |
| 6. Healing the man blind from birth. | <u>John 9:1-7</u> |
| 7. The raising of Lazarus. | <u>John 11:1-45</u> |

Some theologians, like the well-known E.W. Bullinger, have emphasised a sequence of **eight signs**, including with the **miraculous catch of fish** in **John 21:1-14**.

John's Gospel also features **Christ's seven "I AM"** statements.

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| 1. I am the Bread of Life | <u>John 6:35,48,51</u> |
| 2. I am the Light of the world | <u>John 8:12; 9:5</u> |
| 3. I am the Door of the Sheep | <u>John 10:7,9</u> |
| 4. I am the Good Shepherd | <u>John 10:11,14</u> |
| 5. I am the Resurrection and the Life | <u>John 11:25</u> |
| 6. I am the way the Truth and the Life | <u>John 14:6</u> |
| 7. I am the True Vine | <u>John 15:1</u> |

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**"

JESUS INTERACTING WITH VARIOUS PEOPLE: In John's Gospel, you will see Jesus in a range of different scenarios. He makes the time to speak to thousands of people at once, but also makes personal time to speak to a range of private individuals from high ranking scholars like Nicodemus in chapter 3, to the most immoral of women at Jacob's well in Samaria in chapter 4. He displays great mercy to an unnamed woman caught in the act of adultery (John 8), clearly demonstrating the reason why He was sent to the earth (John 3:16-18). He seems to be very close in relationships to a whole family unit (Lazarus, Martha and Mary), whilst having some very frontal and challenging confrontations with Pharisees.

Some Special Highlights: Only John records the details of Jesus' prayer to His Father in Gethsemane (John 17). John also reports Jesus' teaching on the work and person of the Holy Spirit (John 14 and 16) and highlights the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus, exemplifying His humility (John 13).

The most well known verse in the whole Bible is found in John's Gospel:

*For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish,
but have eternal life.*

John 3:16

Enjoy John's gospel. Please consult the accompanying 60 day reading plan for John's gospel.

Great Grace, Unending Mercy and Abundant Peace be yours in increasing measure,

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