

John 1

Almost a cross between a gospel and an epistle.
Comes from NT perspective.
Other gospels in OT context.
Multiple gospels for multiple ministries.
Gospel of the word, the message to be believed.

Verse 1

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Starts at the beginning.
Self-contained.

THE WORD

The Word was there in the beginning.
The Word is a person.
The Word is eternal.
So the Word must be God.

1 John 1:1 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;
2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)
3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.
4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, **the Word**, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.
13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called **The Word** of God.

Verse 2

John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

With God.
"In *our* image"

Proverbs 8:22 The LORD possessed me **in the beginning** of his way, before his works of old.
23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

Verse 3

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

No way to get around that.
He's the Creator.

“And God said”

Verse 4

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of **life**; and man became a living soul.

But first what did he do?

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be **light**: and there was **light**.

And then he created the sun.
The light is what gives men life.

God's life is what gives men life.

Verse 5

John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Genesis 1:4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

John is drawing on what it records in Genesis.

To comprehend something is to be fully acquainted with it.
It is to contain or include it.

Isaiah 40:12 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and **comprehended** the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly **comprehended** in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

But the darkness didn't comprehend it.

John is stating a basic principle of physics.

And in the same way, Jesus is a light.

Shineth vs comprehended.

Verse 6

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

So here is how that happened.

John literally means "the Lord is gracious".

Verse 7

John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

A witness of grace.

Everyone believe (division between light and darkness)

Why believe? (Because they cannot comprehend the light while they are in darkness)

How would they believe through his witness?

Verse 8

John 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

He was only a forerunner.

Because he wasn't the light, he could be comprehended.

Verse 9

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

The true light is from the beginning. (John is not)
The Word.

Verse 10

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Darkness comprehended it not.

Verse 11

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

He came to the Jews.

A new division between light and darkness, not Jew and Gentile.

Received not: they didn't accept him.

Verse 12

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

But some did receive him.
He's going to explain how that happened.

He tells us what God's grace was.

And he defines what receiving him ultimately was: believing on his name.

They were given the power, and did they?

Verse 13

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

What does it mean to become the sons of God? They were born.
To be a son of God you must be born of God.

How is that possible? He's going to tell us.

Verse 14

John 1:14 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.

We are born as the sons of God, but the word was made flesh.

Dwelt among us; the light shineth in darkness.

Two things: grace and truth.

Verse 15

John 1:15 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.

“The Lord is gracious.”

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

He was before him; from the beginning.

Was he full of grace and truth?

Verse 16

John 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

He was indeed full of grace.

They’ve received of that fullness.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God...”

When they received him they were born of God.

“grace for grace”

Verse 17

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Law vs the Word.

Is there grace and truth in the law? No.

All grace and truth is in Christ.

This is the first time John has given the name and title Jesus Christ.

And why is all grace and truth in Christ?

Verse 18

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

He is the only one who can declare God, because nobody else has seen him.
He is the Son, it is only through him that we can be made sons.

Verse 19

John 1:19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

John got their attention.

They are asking if he is the Christ.

Verse 20

John 1:20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the **Messiah** the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.
26 And after threescore and two weeks shall **Messiah** be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

1 Samuel 2:7 The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his **anointed**.

Verse 21

John 1:21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

ELIAS

Malachi 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

5 Behold, I will send you **Elijah** the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

THAT PROPHET

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a **Prophet** from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

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.

Verse 22

John 1:22 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 clearly thought he was special.

Verse 23

John 1:23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

2 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.

3 **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.

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Verse 24

John 1:24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

Pharisees believed the prophets, Sadducees didn't.

But they weren't looking for the voice.

Verse 25

John 1:25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

Because he was baptizing they thought he must be one of these.

Verse 26

John 1:26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

He was only baptizing with water.

Jesus was standing among them.

Verse 27

John 1:27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

He is far greater than John.

Verse 28

John 1:28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Bethabara: literally, "ferry house"

Judges 7:24 And Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim, saying, Come down against the Midianites, and take before them the waters unto **Bethbarah** and Jordan. Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and took the waters unto **Bethbarah** and **Jordan**.

It was a place they could have crossed.

Verse 29

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

This is new.

John is the only author that uses the term.

Genesis 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, **God** will provide himself a **lamb** for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

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:

4 And if the household be too little for the **lamb**, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the **lamb**.

5 Your **lamb** shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover.

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for **sin**, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

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.

12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

So John said that he was the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.

Verse 30

John 1:30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

The Lamb is the eternal one, the Word.

Verse 31

John 1:31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

He told them that there was one standing among them that they knew not.

He didn't know him either.

He was in darkness.

Even though he was sent to be a witness to him.

Verse 32

John 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

John bears witness of him.

That is the fulfillment of his ministry.

The Spirit makes the trinity.

Verse 33

John 1:33 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 said that he only baptized with water.

Verse 34

John 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Verse 35

John 1:35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

Verse 36

John 1:36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

John is bearing witness to his disciples.

Verse 37

John 1:37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.