

Housekeeping Items

- Videos will be available on our YouTube channel at www.htchurch.tv
- All media and notes are available at: www.htchurch.com/john
- To receive emails or submit questions, write: pastornick@htchurch.com.

Recap

- Discussing the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- John is believed to have been John the son of Zebedee, one of Jesus’ 12 Apostles.
- John was part of the inner circle of Jesus’ disciples, perhaps the closest to Him.
- John is considered the author not only of the Gospel that bears his name, but three letters of the New Testament and the Book of Revelation.

Comparing John To The Other Gospels

- Scholars believe that John was probably written between 80 AD and 100 AD.
- John’s Gospel is quite different from the other three Gospels.
- Matthew, Mark, and Luke complement each other and fill in the gaps for each other, but they do have more in common than they differ.
- We call them the **Synoptic Gospels**, which means seeing with the same eyes.
- Differences between the Synoptics and the Fourth Gospel?
 - Jesus with crowds / Jesus with individuals
 - Focus on teachings / focus on Jesus Himself
 - Ministry in the north / ministry in and around Jerusalem
 - Focus on the humanity of Jesus / focus on His Divinity

- Remember that these are only general tendencies.
- However, 92% of the material in John is unique to this Gospel!

What To Look For In John

1. The Purpose of John’s Gospel

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)

- A Gospel written to bring people to believe in Jesus!
- An evangelistic book, and perhaps even a book for Jewish evangelism
- John also want us to experience life in Jesus’ Name.

2. Key Ideas in John

2.1. The Incarnation and Deity of Christ

- John focuses very strongly on Jesus becoming Man, and coming into the world.
- He also focuses strongly on the Deity of Christ.

2.2 Jesus Revealing Himself

- We see Jesus revealing Himself more than in the other Gospels.
- Watch for Jesus’ important “I am” statements.
- Be alert also for the seven signs that Jesus performs that reveal His glory.

2.3 Seven Signs That Show Jesus’ Glory

2.4 Fulfilling The Feasts

2.5 Jesus' Death And Resurrection Make Eternal Life Possible

2.6. Misunderstanding Jesus

Be alert for the many people and groups throughout the Gospel of John who misunderstand Jesus and His mission.

2.7 The Trinity Working Together

2.8 A Multitude of Witnesses to Jesus

3. Key Words In John's Gospel

- Perhaps the key word in John is the word “**believe.**”
- Other words that are used very often are “world,” “know,” “love,” “amen (truly),” “witness,” and “my Father.”

The Prologue: Eighteen Matchless Verses

- The Prologue takes up the first 18 verses of the book.
- Despite its simplicity of language, this is one of the greatest compositions in all of world history.
- John introduces us here to Someone who is called The Word.
- It takes fully 17 verses for us to learn His Name, Jesus Christ.

Jesus, The Logos: The Word Of God (John 1:1)

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεὸν καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος

(In the beginning was the Word [the Logos], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.)

1. In the beginning...

- This is a very conscious echo of the very first line in the Bible, Genesis 1:1.
- Realize that John is taking us back to the beginning of everything.

2. ...was the Word [Logos]...

- Logos is a very ordinary word meaning a word or a saying, a matter.
- *Logos* also carried the idea of rational mind or thought, the principle that gives order to the Universe. Heraclitus of Ephesus used this word *logos* to describe the plan that orders the Universe. John reveals that the Logos is not an impersonal mind or a *principle*, it's the *Name of a Someone*.
- Critically, John tells us that in the beginning, the Word already was!
- This tells us that the Word, the Logos, is eternal.

3. ...and the Word was with God...

- This Eternal Word was not alone, but the Eternal Word was with God.
- The Greek word for *with* (*pros*) has a lot of possible meanings in Greek. But when it's used like this, it means to be in someone's presence.
 - "How long shall I be with you?"
 - "absent from the body... being present with the Lord.
 - "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face." (1 Cor. 13:12)

- The Word has been eternally present with God, face to face.
- Face to face with *Theos*, the ordinary word for God in Greek.

4. ...and the Word was God.

- This Word, this Logos, is eternally God Himself, together with God.
- The Greek language makes it clear that John is not saying that God is the Word. He’s saying the Word is God. There is Someone who is God, yet there is also the Word who is **with** Him, who is **also** God.
- This Divine Person, the Logos, the Word, “shares the nature and being of God.” (Professor F. F. Bruce)

Three powerful truths about the Logos from John 1:1, showing us Who Christ is:

1. The Word is eternal.

He has no beginning; there was never a time when the Word did not exist.

2. The Word is a person.

The Word is not simply the power of thought or some other impersonal kind of force or principle. He has been together with God the Father from all eternity.

3. The Word is Divine.

The Word has the nature of God, the Creator.

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