

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

MESSAGE 2 -- INTRO MATTERS AND X AS THE LOGOS

DECEMBER 12, 2010 VCF

## ***SOME INTRODUCTORY MATTERS***

### **DATE:**

Who knows! AD 85-95

**AUTHOR:** John, the Son of Zebedee

**PROVENANCE:** Ephesus

### **AUDIENCE:**

Probably Christians  
and non-Christian Gentiles  
in Asia Minor  
and who were considering the gospel.

They were coming out of Greek culture  
and Greek religious thinking

so John points out the stark differences  
between Christianity and Gnosticism.

*John 20:30-31: 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.*

## ***FAMOUS QUOTES***

The Gospels are the first fruits of all writings and the Gospel of Hohn is the first fruits of the Gospels; and no one can receive its meaning who has not himself laid his head on Jesus' chest.

From Origen, Gospel of John

## ***SIMPLE OUTLINE***

### **PROLOGUE:**

*INTRODUCING JESUS CHRIST*  
*Chapter 1:1-18*

### **PROPHETIC WITNESS TO JESUS** **AND THE RESPONSE:**

*JOHN THE BAPTIST AND THE FIRST FOLLOWERS*  
*Chapter 1:19-51*

### **PUBLIC MINISTRY OF JESUS:**

*AMONG THE JEWS AND HIS DISCIPLES IN*  
*JUDEA, GALILEE AND SAMARIA*  
*Chapters 2 – 12*

### **PRIVATE MINISTRY OF JESUS:**

*WITH HIS DISCIPLES THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS*  
*DEATH*  
*Chapters 13 – 17*

### **PASSION AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS**

*Chapters 18 - 21*

**JUST a FEW of the MANY UNIQUE  
CHARACTERISTICS of JOHN'S  
GOSPEL**

Includes much more of  
the Judean Ministry of Jesus.

Begins His ministry there  
with close connection to John the Baptist.  
the "earlier" calling of disciples

Much higher proportion of  
the teaching of J compared to narrative.

Large emphasis on relationship of Jesus,  
the Son of God, to His Father.

Entire chapter devoted to  
the "Lord's Prayer"  
(not the one He taught us but the one  
He prayed for us).

crucial emphasis on the Logos teaching  
and deity of Jesus --

The "I Ams" of John.

I Am that I Am

I Am He

hence the deity of Jesus

I Am -- heavenly and deity

bread of life - earthly and humanity

and so on . . .

role of Holy Spirit presented  
in greater detail than in synoptics.

Nearly half book occupied with  
what Christ taught His disciples  
on His last night on earth.

Can you think of any other distinctives?

**DIFFERENT VOCAL "STYLE" OF J  
COMPARED W/ SYNOPTIC GOSPELS  
(MATTHEW, MARK AND LUKE)**

Most critical scholars  
(seldom friends to Bible or gospel)  
do not see the language used in John  
as remotely connected  
to the actual words of Jesus.

Even some evangelicals believe  
that language in John attributed to Jesus  
while faithful to content and meaning  
of Jesus

is simply John retelling gospel story  
in his own words.

**BP'S VIEW:**

language of Jesus used in John  
contains the actual words of Christ.  
When compared with synoptic gospels  
it simply shows the versatility  
of Jesus as a teacher.

Note that there are passages  
in the synoptics that sound  
just like the way Jesus taught  
as reported by John:

*All things have been handed over to me by my  
Father, and no one knows the Son except the  
Father, and no one knows the Father except  
the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses  
to reveal him. Matthew 11:27 ESV*

*In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit  
and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven  
and earth, that you have hidden these things  
from the wise and understanding and revealed  
them to little children; yes, Father, for such  
was your gracious will. All things have been  
handed over to me by my Father, and no one  
knows who the Son is except the Father, or  
who the Father is except the Son and anyone  
to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."  
Luke 10:21-22 ESV*

**1:1-18 THE PROLOGUE:** <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

**GREEK TERM FOR "WORD" IS LOGOS** --  
suffix used often in English  
encompassing all the  
"-ology" terms, i.e., biology, ecology

## ***JESUS CHRIST IS THE LOGOS***

### **THE WORD IS A PERSON**

NOT JUST A "THEORY"  
ABOUT SPIRITUAL REALITY

WE GET TO KNOW JESUS  
NOT JUST FACTS ABOUT HIM

### **THE WORD IS DIVINE**

WHAT GOD IS THE WORD IS

GIVES INERRANT AND ABSOLUTE VERSION  
OF  
ALL TRUTH  
ALL FACTS  
ALL MORALITY  
ALL OTHERS FORMS OF REALITY

THE COMMUNICATING GOD GETS DOWN  
TO OUR LEVEL IN BRINGING US UP  
INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

## **THE WORD IS CREATIVE**

HE CREATED ALL  
AND THUS "OWNS"  
AND CONTROLS ALL THINGS

THUS HE IS ALL-POWERFUL  
ALL-RESOURCEFUL  
ALL-KNOWING  
ALL-WISE  
AND ALL-DECIDING

IN ALL MATTERS  
IN RELATING TO HIS CREATION  
AND TO HIS CREATURES

## **THE WORD IS LIFE- GIVING**

COVENANTAL CONNECTION TO HIM  
IS LIFE FOR US  
IN TIME AND ETERNITY

SEE JOHN 15; 17:3

"LIFE" IS DEFINED  
NOT SIMPLY AS DURATION OF TIME  
BUT AS THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE  
"QUALITY"-OF-LIFE

THE ENJOYMENT OF THIS LIFE  
IS BASED ON CONFORMITY TO JESUS  
AND HIS THE FATHER'S WILL

## **THE WORD IS LIGHT- GIVING**

THE LIFE OF JESUS PLAYS THE SAME ROLE  
IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS  
AS LIGHT PLAYS  
IN NATURAL MATTERS  
2 COR 4:6

AS C. S. LEWIS HELPFULLY NOTED:  
"I BELIEVE IN CHRISTIANITY  
AS I BELIEVE THAT THE SUN HAS RISEN:  
NOT ONLY BECAUSE I SEE IT,  
BUT BECAUSE BY IT  
I SEE EVERYTHING ELSE."

THUS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN "SEE"  
SPIRITUALLY IS THROUGH JESUS.  
IN ORDER TO DO THIS WE MUST  
RECOGNIZE ("SEE") JESUS  
FOR WHO HE IS.

THE WORLD IS SPIRITUALLY "BLIND"  
(WILLFULLY IGNORANT AND RESISTANT)  
CONCERNING CHRIST

SO THOUGH HE IS GOD INCARNATE  
THE LORD IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE WORLD  
AND NOT RECEIVED BY HIS OWN  
(THE JEWS)

BUT ONLY BY THE CHILDREN  
WHO ARE THEMSELVES BORN OF GOD  
AND ENABLED BY GOD  
THROUGH NEW BIRTH  
TO RECOGNIZE JESUS

SEE PSALM 36:9 AS WELL

## **THE WORD IS INCARNATE**

HE CAME AMONG US TO SHOW US  
THE HEAVENLY FATHER  
THAT WE MIGHT COME TO KNOW  
AND TO GLORIFY HIM

HE CAME AMONG US  
NOT FOR CONDEMNING REASONS

(WE WERE ALREADY CONDEMNED  
ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF MOSES)

BUT FOR REDEMPTIVE REASONS

HE WAS FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH  
IN ORDER TO PROVIDE US WITH  
THE GRACE AND TRUTH  
NECESSARY TO COME TO  
THE FATHER

## **HOW WE TREAT THE WORD REFLECTS HOW WE TREAT GOD**

the attention  
the devotion  
the respect  
the desire and joy  
the discipline  
the time ...

what we lavish on His Word  
identical to  
that we lavish on Jesus

*Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. Isa 66:1-2 ESV*

*And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV*

## **NO ONE WHO IS POOR IN SCRIPTURE HAS EVER BECOME RICH CONCERNING GOD**

compromise to the integrity of the Word  
always results in down-grading of  
X, the gospel, doctrines of God  
witness of the church

How much we owe . . . !  
Word is foundation of faith  
even creates faith  
not just appeals to faith  
creates the response  
born again not of corruptible seed  
but incorruptible, word

*Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you. 1 Peter 1:23-25 ESV*

have nothing left to stand on  
if we pick and choose what to believe  
and what not to believe  
about the Bible  
we no longer believe the Bible  
but ourselves

live in time where people essentially  
commended for being open-minded  
virtue to take parts from religions  
and put them together  
made own religion up  
made own view of God up  
made own morality up  
made own version of eternity up

*Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.*

*He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and **the name by which he is called is The Word of God.** And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.*

*From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. Revelation 19:11-16 ESV*

**This Lord, our God,  
Word of God  
the Word made flesh,  
Son of the Father  
Son of God . . . Son of Man**

**Exalted that He might create us  
Humbled that He might  
recreate us**

**Walking among men  
suffering what is human  
concealing what is divine**

**Let every breath be  
a desiring after Him**

**Let that most beautiful One  
who loved even the ugly  
that He might make them  
beautiful**

**Let Christ be longed for . . .  
Hurry to Him alone . . .  
sigh for Him.**

***St. Augustine***

