

# -Dr. Baruch Korman\_ John Chapter 1 Part 1

Wed, 10/20 9:32PM • 28:32

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

god, understand, john, purpose, messiah, word, darkness, gospel, revelation, important, truth, book, life, creation, israel, talking, kingdom, world, scripture, term

One of the most fascinating books in the Bible is the gospel of John. Now, the first thing I want to say about this book of John, is that John wrote this book in a very unique way, a way that many people do not realize. JOHN constructed it in a way in order to help us understand the truth that he wants to reveal. And what was the help that he gave to us, the festivals of Israel. When you look at the gospel of John, you will find in chapter two, he speaks about Passover, chapter five, there's another festival that is alluded to, probably the Festival of Shavuot, or Pentecost. In John chapter seven, he focuses in on the Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkot. John chapter 10. He's talking about the Feast of Dedication, which is Hanukkah, and then beginning of chapter 12, he puts all of his attention once more on the Festival of Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And unless we understand the significance of these holidays, we're going to miss out on a great deal of what John wants us to understand. So we're going to place an emphasis on these festivals, and helping us understand the revelation of the gospel of John. Another important thing that we see is the term gospel. This is good news. But not just any good news, good news about God's plan for redemption. And whenever we speak about redemption, the first thought that should come into our mind is the kingdom of God. So in this gospel of John, we're going to be focusing in on the truth concerning the establishment of the kingdom of God, and how a person can be part of that kingdom, not just when he dies, but how he can live according to this kingdom, as he lives out his days until Messiah returns to gather up his people. John's Gospel is fascinating because he writes it in a very unique way, emphasizing Jewish tradition, and Jewish culture, and revealing to us the truth of the Scripture. So with that said, to get your Bible and look with me to the gospel of John and chapter one. Now notice how it begins in a very familiar way. It says, In the beginning was the Word. And the phrase that I want to focus in on is in the beginning, let me ask you a question. When you hear that what comes into your mind, naturally, the first book of the Bible sefer, bearer sheet, or the book of Genesis, and what we're seeing is this, that John is going to give us a very unique understanding of the book of Genesis, what we need to know from the book of Genesis from a kingdom perspective. So he writes here, in the beginning was the Word. Now this phrase, the word is going to be repeated over and over, not just in this first chapter, but in several other places throughout this gospel of John. And when we talk about the word, of course, we're going to see that it's a reference to Messiah. Sure, that is Jesus of Nazareth. But understand that this word has to do with God's mindset, God's purposes and plans. Why do I say that? Well, this same word is also where we get the word logic from. So what we're seeing here is Messiah reveals to us the very logic, the mindset, the purpose is the plans of God, and without a proper understanding of who you're sure was and is and will be understanding that he is the eternal God. You're going to miss out on God's kingdom revelation to his people. So look, once

again, in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God. Now here, the purpose of this second phrase is to show intimacy between God the Father and God the Son. Now when we hear those two terms, God the Father and God, the son, one of the things that should come into your mind is this term Trinity. And even though the term Trinity is not a biblical one, the concept is scripturally sound. That is that God has manifest himself in three distinct persons, God, the Father, God, the son, you're sure, and that name is so important, because it refers to the one who saves, or the one who makes salvation. And then, of course, the Holy Spirit. And in this gospel of John, we're going to see a connection, as I've already alluded to, between this book and the book of Genesis. And what Genesis speaks about, is God bringing order to his creation. So we read here, and the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Now here again, when we look at this, what's being emphasized, is that the vicinity of Messiah Sure, we know that Messiah is our Savior. But what we're going to see is that God Himself took on human flesh, and he became a man, he never stopped being God, fully God and fully man. When we studied the gospel of John, we need to understand that John reveals much in regard to theological truth. And if we don't understand the doctrines, especially the doctrine of divinity, and how that relates to Messiah, Yeshua, we are going to miss out on what God is wanting us to understand, and how we can have a relationship with him, and receive the power of God, which brings about the order of God in our lives. So in the same way, when you look at the book of Genesis, and you see that when God created the heavens and earth, initially, if you go to Genesis chapter one in verse one, you find there was a lack of order, things were not as we would expect, I mean, we would expect a holy God, to create a world that was perfect because he's perfect. But when we look at the Scripture, we see that the world was empty, or void, formless, it lacked order, and who brought about this order? Well, God Himself through the Holy Spirit, and we're going to see what John is revealing in this gospel is how we can have and find the order of God in our life that reflects a kingdom truth. So he says here, and the Word was God, move on now to verse two. We see here for this one was in the beginning with God. So over and over, we see this inherent relationship between God the Father, and God, the Son, and even though Messiah Yeshua was with God in the beginning, and that term in the beginning, means the beginning of Revelation. But do not think because one of the important truths we're going to see in the next few minutes, is that we're going to be talking about creation. And what the gospel of John emphasizes is that Messiah was not created. Here's an important term that you and I need to understand. And that is, there was never a time that Messiah Shula did not exist, he is eternal. We're all going to also going to see that everything that was made, this is a verse we're going to look at, but everything that was made was made by him. So you're sure is not a creature that is he was not creation created. He is eternal. And that's why he is God with us Emmanuelle. So over and over in this text, what we see is that John wants to emphasize the divinity of Messiah, and we're going to see that Messiah, like God, the Father is eternal. So we read, this one in the beginning was with God, and all things through him were made, don't miss that. Everything that was made was made through him by him, and without him was made nothing which was made. Now pay attention to that last phrase, because in English, we translate it the same way. We say All things were made by him, and nothing that was made was made without him. But here's the point I want you to see. There's two different constructions of that same group. word for being made. And here's the important part. The first time when he says nothing that was made was made without him, that's simply in the past tense. But when he tells us at the end of that phrase for all things that were made through him, when he uses that term made once more, he makes a very important change in the Greek grammar. He uses the same word, but a different construction. And this is what he wants us to realize that everything that was

made, everything that is being made, and everything that's going to be made in the future, you're sure, and your show alone is a source of those things. He is the Creator, not just the creator in the past, but also in the present, and the future. So he created all things, and how's a call here, he's called ha, logos or the word. But here, we need to understand that that word that we translated logos, the word has to do with the mindset, the purpose is the plans of God. So the one who creates all things, he is the very one that expresses the purposes and the plans of God. So what do we see? We see this inherent relationship between our Savior, the Messiah, and the purposes of God? And ultimately, where do we find the purposes of God in their fullness? The answer is in the kingdom of God. So look once more at our text, we read here, we're now ready for verse four. We're talking about God's purposes and his plans for creation. What does he want to show? Well, right here, he says, and In him was life. Now pause for a moment. Because this term life is so important. What the scriptures revealing to us is that there's a connection between life and her logos, the word which is Messiah, he wants us to have life. But remember, we're talking about this, and we're looking and trying to understand it as a person would going back 2000 years ago, a person that comes from a Jewish background, a Jewish background that is affected by the teachings of the sages, and what I want you to see is from a biblical, and also from the perspective of Judaism, there's a connection between life and the kingdom, those two terms go hand in hand. So when he says in verse four, and In him was life, he's talking about as well, in him is the kingdom, the purpose, the plans, the objective of God, that He wants us to be a kingdom people. So once more, verse four, In him was life, and the life was the light of man. Now here, again, understand how he's building the text of Scripture. There's now connection between life and light. And when we look, for example, at the book of Genesis, we see the first thing that was created was what? When we look after the initial creation, but when we begin to talk about God bringing order, God bringing purpose, God manifesting himself through his creation, what's the first thing that is said, via he, or which means let there be light. So once again, when we look at this, we see that John, speaking to a Jewish audience, he's using the terminology, the teachings that the Jewish community would have had in trying to reveal divine revelation to the people, that we might understand the mind of God, and not just understand it from a knowledgeable standpoint, but also we take that knowledge, and we respond to it. Over and over. When we study the scripture of God, we find that revelation is given for the purpose of a response, obeying that revelation, implementing that revelation into our life. So he says, and the life was the light of man. Now, when we talk about this term, light, the first thing that should come into your mind is illumination, when Messiah says, Let there be light going all the way back to the book of Genesis. It is to give us revelation, illumination to the truth, the purposes the plans of God. So in him, notice what it says In him was life and the life was the light of man and The light shines in the darkness. But here's the problem. But the darkness did not receive it or him. Because it's a personal light. We shouldn't think of it in some abstract manner, but he is the light. What does it say? The darkness cannot receive it. Now What's he trying to communicate to us? Something very important. He's trying to say, if we want to remain in darkness. Now, how would we understand that? Well, there's an inherent connection when we go back to Genesis chapter one, between darkness and what the Hebrew Bible says, tau, who vevo who which is this emptiness, this lacking this void? What he's trying to tell us is this. If we are not pursuing pursuing the fullness of God, His plans and his purposes, we're gonna remain in darkness. And in darkness, we cannot comprehend, we cannot understand, and we won't be able to respond to the light. And what do we learn in the book of Genesis? It is through the light that begins that make a distinction. And it's through this distinction, that what can happen, decision choice. So we are dependent upon the revelation, the illumination of God in order to make wise

choices. And what are we going to see here, John is going to begin talking about an incumbent responsibility that creation has that is you and me for making wise choices. So once more, we see how important the book of Genesis is, and understanding the revelation of John's Gospel. So look, again, we find it says, and the light in the darkness shines, that is, we have a potential for understanding truth, receiving it. But the darkness that said, would not receive Him, move on now to the next verse, verse six, we see that John is going to reveal a provision that God makes. And that's an important truth. Whenever we're talking about God bringing change, and this is what the Gospel John wants to do. The Gospel John wants to bring change into a person's life. So you have to ask yourself, Am I content in this darkness? Am I satisfied with the emptiness that's in my life? See, as long as you are led by darkness, you're not going to have any understanding of the truth. And therefore a lot of people are satisfied. They're content with what emptiness they don't know any better. But as we begin to say, you know what, maybe there's something different, maybe there's something more than this vanity, which is in this world. And when we begin to pursue the light, God will bring us out of darkness, he will begin to illuminate our steps so that we can find what he wants us to have, and that his fullness to have his order in our life. And that's so important. God wants to bring order into our life. So he provides, what's that provision, we'll look onto verse six, it says, and there came about a man, and this man was set by God, and his name was John. Now, names are important in the Scripture. Notice here that we're talking about an individual. And even though that this is traditionally called the Gospel of John, and by the way, when we deal with the books of the Bible, when we're talking about the Gospels, for example, we do not know who wrote the Gospel of Matthew, that Gospel of Matthew was given that name by tradition, the traditions of the early fathers. But it's never said in the Scripture, who wrote Matthew, or Mark, or Luke, or John. But what's important here is that we're talking about not John, the one who's traditionally given authorship for this, but we're talking about a different John, here, we're talking about John the Baptist. And I want you to see as God begins speaking about illumination, bringing purpose bringing the plan for his creation into being, I want you to see something, the first name that is given is this name. Yohanan, John, and what does it speak of? Well, it is a word that speaks of God's grace, but not just God's grace. This word you cannot also respond refers to God's supplying a desire for that grace. And we're going to see as we move through this book of John, that there's going to be an emphasis upon grace and how Grace is united. With the provision that God makes, ultimately, of salvation of his Savior, Grace is important term, not just in the New Covenant, but also in the Old Covenant. So look again, at what we see here, we find that we were reading in verse six, there came about a man that was set by God, his name was John. And this one came and notice what it says he came for purpose. What was that purpose, a testimony or witness, it literally says here, and this one came for a witness, but not just any witness. He just didn't have any testimony, but a very, very specific one. And what was that? Well to testify concerning the light. It says, in order that all should and here we get the clear teaching, all should believe in him, that is the light of God. Now let's pause for a moment and understand what he's saying. We remember we talked about that God gives revelation God gives illumination for purpose, and what is that purpose that we might respond? And what is the right way to respond? Notice here, it says that this one, John was sent by God. And it says that he came for his testimony in order to testify concerning the light in order that all might believe in this, like believe in him. Now, this is important because it talks about what is required for God's order to become a reality in your life, so that God can begin to move and produce what he wants your life to be producing. And what is that faith, there is a consistency in the Scripture, what we're talking about the Old Covenant, or whether we're talking about the new covenant, there is a consistency between this concept of belief and faith

and understand something. Furthermore, whenever we're talking about a right believing, so just doesn't say believe in something. But here, the context is, believe in the testimony that John's going to give, for it is truth. And here's the key, there is an inherent relationship between faith or belief and the truth of God, if it's a biblical faith, if it's a belief that God is going to be pleased with, it is always rooted in and is generated by the truth of God. So he says here, and ordered that all should believe through him. And here's the key. All, we're not talking about some some minority group, oftentimes, and this is a biblical term, the elect, we'll talk more about the elect later on. But don't think that God said his son into this world only only for the elect. What we're going to see in the Scripture is that all here's the potential that all might believe in him. move on now to verse eight, it says, but this one referring to john john the baptist, this one who this next few verses are going to focus in on this one, it says, clearly, was not the light. But in order to bear witness concerning the light, verse nine, for the light was true. And here again, it brings in this word true for reason. What is that? Because once more, we need to understand that if we're going to experience God's purposes, his plan, if we're going to be able to live that kingdom life, and it's all related, the foundation of those things, is truth. So what do we see? We see the first thing that john does, is to unite this light, this revelation with what truth. So it's the light, what it literally says it's a true light, but it is the light of truth. That's what the scripture is trying to tell us. And that is what it says, it is the true light, which what which shines to once more, all men, there's nothing, nothing exclusive about it. Now, even though God has called Israel in a unique way, understand that this salvation, this kingdom, this purposes of God relates to all of his humanity. So we cannot forget that. JOHN writes with a very, very broad audience. He writes, from a Jewish perspective, because he's Jewish. He writes from a biblical perspective, because all revelation is grounded in the Word of God. But what we need to see is this, if we're going to be talking about God's purposes and plans being fulfilled, understand what john is doing here. Hey, purposely begin with speaking about creation, the book of Genesis. To have us to understand, we're talking about God's purposes and plans to a very broad audience. Who is that audience creation, God's salvation is not just going to affect a remnant. But from a potential standpoint, God wants all people to respond. And that's why I keep saying this term all all men. So look, again, it says, verse nine, and the light was true, and what else it shines to all men coming into the world. Now there's a confusion here. And I really don't know if I can solve it, whatever they're talking about the light that's coming into the world, or whether it's this light that shines to all men, all men who are coming into the world, the the text is not clear. But let me simply say this, once more, we see that there's a purpose for creation. And that's the unique thing about this book of john. JOHN wants us to understand that God has a purpose for his entire creation. Move on once more. Look, if you were to verse 10, we read here,

and he was in this world, but the world did not receive Him. That is, he was in the world, and the world literally, it says the world was made by him. So once again, we're seeing how important it is, and understanding that you're sure he is the creator of all things. So he was in the world. He's united with the world, in one sense related to the world, and the world was made through him. But verse 10, it says, and the world did not know him. So we can't understand here, a very important truth unless we understand the terminology, he uses this term world. Why? Because the world is not the kingdom, there's going to be what there is going to be a harvest from the world. And that's what the purposes of this book is to teach us how we can be part of this harvest. So we read here, that the world did not know him, it says he came to his own, but once more, his own did not receive him, but to those that receive Him, notice what it says he gave them power. He gave them authority to be what to become

children of God. And that's the biblical truth that we're talking about. God is looking into his creation for his children, and who are his children, those who are wise enough to respond to God's revelation to respond with truth that is by the truth and putting their hope their faith or trust in Him so the purposes of God might be realized in their life.