

- I) V1-5 INTRO: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and *the Word*
- II) AS WE BEGIN: There is an interesting story found in Jn 9  
In that chapter, Jesus performed a healing on a man who had been born blind
- III) The healing had caused controversy, and resulted in his being banned from synagogue
- IV) AFTER BEING CAST OUT: Jesus went looking for him until He had found him  
Jn 9:35-36 When He had found him, He said to him Do you believe in the Son of God?  
He answered and said, Who is He Lord, that I may believe in Him?
- V) HIS QUESTION: *Who is He* that I may believe in Him?  
We are embarking on a series through John, seeking to find out who He is
- VI) AUTHOR: The Apostle John wrote the gospel of John
- VII) John was an Apostle of Jesus along with his brother James  
He was a fisherman, in partnership with his father Zebedee, his brother James, Peter, and Peter's brother Andrew  
His mother was Salome, a disciple and Jesus' mother Mary's sister (Jn 19:25-27; Mt 27:56)
- VIII) THOUGH: He is remembered as a loving man, he also had a nickname given by Jesus  
Mk 3:17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"  
SONS OF THUNDER: Could refer to their speaking in the name of the Lord
- IX) BUT: It could also speak of their disposition: *perhaps they were a bit hot tempered*  
Luke indicates that they were a bit temperamental  
Lu 9:49-50 John said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us". But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid *him*, for he who is not against us is on our side".  
Lu 9:51-56 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of *the Samaritans*, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.
- I) In 2 Kings 1 we have an incident recorded from the ministry of Elijah

He had told the king of Samaria that he was going to die, and it upse the king  
He sent soldiers to take Elijah, but twice Elijah called down fire from heaven on them  
The third soldier pleaded for his life, and was spared

- II) James and John wanted to do the same thing to the Samaritans  
They had zealous and passionate feelings for the Lord
- III) SOMETHING: Happened in the life of John that transformed him completely  
He came to know Who the Son of God was, and wanted others to know Him also
- IV) TIME OF WRITING: It is the last of the gospels written:  
Conservative scholars state that since his three epistles and the book of Revelation were written after the gospel, it's probable range would be anywhere from 60-90 AD
- V) The purpose of the gospel is clearly revealed  
Jn 20:30-31 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.
- VI) V1 in the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God and *the Word was God*  
JOHN BEGINS: By introducing us to Jesus Christ  
He is introduced as the Word who is with God and is God
- VII) Immediately we call to mind another place where this phrase is written  
Gen 1:1 *In the beginning* God created the heavens and the earth
- VIII) The Genesis account introduced the story of creation: The original creation  
John intends to communicate to us the new creation, in Jesus Christ (2 Co 5:17)
- IX) What does John mean for us to understand when he speaks of Jesus as the Word
- X) FIRST: To a Jew, *The Word* of God denoted *God* in action  
This is seen in *creation*  
Gen 1:3 God *said*, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
- XI) TO A GREEK: Word, or Logos, also could refer to a word *in action*  
SO: This concept would serve as a bridge for John to communicate to gentiles  
WHY: Because, unlike Jews, Gentiles had no idea what God was actually like
- XII) The Jews had miracles, prophets, promises, the Law, covenants, and God's word  
I) All of this was an incredible advantage to the Jew

- II) Gentiles had none of these blessings, so they are spoken of as *not knowing God*  
1 Th 4:5 (speaks of) the Gentiles who do not know God  
Instead of worshiping God, they had actually given themselves over to idolatry  
This remains true to our day
- III) John would be saying that God has revealed Himself through an action
- IV) HIS POINT: God is not distant, but has acted in order to be with man
- V) SO: What is God like?  
He is a God desiring fellowship with us and has done something about it  
Ac 17:22-23 Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: *TO THE UNKNOWN GOD*. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, *Him I proclaim to you*
- VI) John is stating that God has revealed Himself through an action, the Incarnation (V14)  
NOTICE: The word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled) amongst us
- VII) KEY: John intends us to associate the Tabernacle of the Old Testament with Jesus  
The Tabernacle was the place of Worship as well as where God's presence was
- VIII) The word alludes to the Shekinah that *foreshadowed* the Incarnation  
Ex 25:8 Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them
- IX) V1 NOTICE: The Word was *with God* and the Word was God
- X) WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT: About Jesus and makes Him different from all others  
Before there was a universe, the Word that brought it into existence was *already* there  
Micah 5:2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel whose goings forth are from of old from *everlasting*
- XI) ALSO: The Word of God is distinguished from God Himself, yet *shares the nature of God*  
He was *with* God and *was* God: He shared the nature and being of God Himself  
Jn 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, *I AM*."  
Ex 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
- I) THE NEW TESTAMENT: Makes it very clear to us that Jesus is God  
He is not a God, nor is He a creation of God: He is God in human flesh

Mt 1:23 Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Heb 1:7-8 Of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire. But *to the Son* He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.

Col 2: 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily

Jn 8:24 If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

II) V2 He was in the beginning *with God*

There has not been a time when He was not with God

1 Co 1 22-24 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and *the wisdom of God*.

III) V3 All things were made *through Him* and without Him nothing was made that was made  
God is the Creator, Jesus is the agent of Creation

Col 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For *by Him* all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created *through Him* and for Him. And He is *before* all things, and in Him all things consist.

Ps 33:6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made

IV) V4-5 In Him was *life* and the life was the *light* of men. And the light shines in the darkness

In him was life: This is not to be understood as natural life, but of eternal life

WHY IS JESUS IMPORTANT: Because Jesus is the *source* of eternal life

V) IMPORTANT: *In Him* was life (Life use 36 times) Jesus embodies spiritual life

John repeatedly declares that Spiritual life comes through Jesus, and no other way

Jn 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Jn 14:6

VI) V4 AND THE LIFE: Was the *light* of men

Jesus is the one that gives *spiritual* illumination

Before we are saved, we walk in darkness (Pr 3:5) Trust in the Lord...

Ps 82:5 They do not know, nor do they understand; They walk about in darkness

Eph 4:17-18 reveals that Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

I) BECAUSE OF THIS: We need spiritual enlightenment:

Only Jesus causes the darkened minds to see, and no other: Buddha, Krishna, etc

Ps 18:28 For You will light my lamp; The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness

- II) V5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it  
In the first creation, darkness existed until God called light into being
- III) Even so Jesus brings spiritual light to the world  
2 Co 4:3-4 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.
- IV) Light has come into the world, and the world's darkness is swept away in Jesus  
Enter a dark room, turn on the light and the darkness disappears  
Ps 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light
- V) V6-8 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John This man came for a  
The Apostle John had just introduced Jesus, and now he introduces John the Baptist
- VI) At first, it might seem odd that John would introduce his readers to John the Baptist  
ACTUALLY: It makes sense to introduce John here because he is the last OT prophet
- VII) His name gives insight in to why this is proper as John means the *grace of Jehovah*  
This is the perfect name for the forerunner of the God of all grace
- VIII) Jesus said that there has not risen on greater than John the Baptist (Mt 11:11)  
He was the one who called people to prepare the way for the Lord  
He was Jesus' cousin, born to Mary's cousin Elizabeth (Lu 1:36)
- IX) V6 John says that he was "a man *sent* from God" (in other words, he was a prophet)  
He was not self appointed, but was chosen by and sent by God  
John was a man on a mission: He came to bear witness of the Light
- X) As a prophet, he spoke forth the mind of God, calling people into repentance  
V23 He was the voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare the way of the LORD,  
make His paths straight
- XI) Not only was he a prophet, but he was also the object of prophecy
- XII) God had declared that He would send a prophet who would go before Messiah  
Mal 3:1 Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me  
I) Mal 4:5-6 Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse

- II) In light of this, Jesus made a strong statement concerning him  
Mt 11:10 (John) is he of whom it is written: `Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.
- III) V7 This man *came* for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him *might*  
John was sent to give testimony concerning Jesus, calling people to repentance
- IV) He came to bear witness of the Light  
He came to prepare people to receive Jesus, the True Light  
His mission was to draw people to believe in Jesus as the Messiah
- V) V8 He was not that Light but was sent to bear witness of that Light
- VI) He had a divine commission: *to bear witness of the light*  
He was a true witness of Jesus, never taking from Jesus what belonged only to Him  
Jn 3:27-30 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this *joy of mine* is fulfilled. He must increase, but I *must* decrease.
- VII) As His witness his desire was to make sure that Jesus was the center of the message  
2 Co 4:5 *We do not preach ourselves*, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.  
AGAIN: The purpose of the witness is that all through him might believe (in Jesus)
- VIII) V9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man who comes into the world  
John makes it clear that the Baptist is not the Light, but that Jesus is  
John came to be a witness of the Light, but was not the Light itself
- IX) This was that true Light which gives light to every man who comes into the world
- X) What does he mean when he says Jesus is that *true light* which gives light to *every man*
- XI) John is saying that Jesus the *incarnation of all truth*  
By saying Jesus is the *true Light* he would be contrasting Him with *false light*  
This would speak of the Holy Spirit's illumination that drives away sin and unbelief
- I) SATAN: Deceives through presenting a *false hope* being preached by false teachers  
2 Co 11:13-15 Such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

- II) **POINT:** Jesus is the True Light that illuminates our sin-darkened minds and souls
- III) **Spiritual illumination (Enlightenment) comes through Jesus and no other source**  
It does not come through meditation, spiritual initiation, or any other human efforts  
2 Sa 22:29 You *are* my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.  
2 Co 4:6 It is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ
- IV) **V9 THIS IS:** That true Light *which gives light* to every man who comes into the world  
How does He give light to every man, Jew and Gentile: By His Spirit and by His word  
By His Spirit: He *exposes* and *convicts* of sin through preaching (Jn 16:8)
- V) **KEY:** Without the influence of the Holy Spirit no man ever became wise unto salvation  
Being in spiritual darkness, he needs God to give him light to see his need
- VI) This occurs through the gospel, accompanied by the conviction of the Holy Spirit
- VII) **V9 NOTICE:** Which gives light *to every man* who comes into the world  
Salvation requires the work of the Spirit and God's word to produce conviction
- VIII) God will save *any* and *all* who come to Him through Jesus, without distinction  
It requires agreeing with Him, repenting, and turning to Him in faith  
Jn 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out