

# John 1

Fear God

## Introduction

**Date:** AD 90

**Author:** John the Apostle

1. Come to be known as **Apostle of Love and Truth**
  2. **Parents:** Zebedee and Salome? [At Jesus Tomb Mat 27]
  3. One of five partners in Fishing Company
  4. Disciple of John the Baptist [John 1:35, 40]
  5. Jesus nicknamed him Son of Thunder; i.e. always ready for a fight
  6. **Inner Circle:** Peter, James, and John
  7. Pastor of the church of Ephesus; founded by Paul the Apostle
  8. Wrote Gospel of John, 1, 2, 3rd John and Revelation w/emphasis on...
    - a) **Deity of Jesus**
    - b) **Calling Out False doctrine**
    - c) **Loving one another as a validation of true faith**
    - d) **End Times:** AC/FP, Coming Temple/Devils demise/Coming Kingdom
- **John knew Jesus as** Love, Light, and Eternal Life

### 1. Jesus is Love

**1 John 4:8** He who does not love does not know God, **for God is love.**

**Our love for God is equal to the love we have for the man we love the least**

### 2. Jesus is Light

**1 John 1:5** This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that **God is light** and in Him is no darkness at all.

### 3. Jesus is Life

**John 14:6** "I am the way, the truth, **and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through Me.

**John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "I am the **resurrection and the life.** He who believes in Me, **though he may die, he shall live.**

- **John did not start as the "Apostle of Love"**

### John the Impulsive Teen

**Mark 3:17** To James and John [Jesus] gave the name..."**Sons of Thunder**"...

### John the Enemy of Love

**Luke 9:53** [Of those who would not receive Jesus] "Lord, do You want us to **command fire to come down from heaven** and consume them, just as Elijah did?"<sup>55</sup> But He turned and

rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. 56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.

- NOTE: John also wanted to shut down guy using Jesus name to cast out demons
- **Grew closer to Jesus**

### **John: Came to know Jesus as Savior**

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him **might be saved.**

### **John became Jesus Best Friend**

**John 13:25** [Jesus betrayal] [John] leaned back on Jesus' breast...**"Lord, who is it?"**  
*Listening the very heart of the Creator*

**John became Jesus Trusted Friend** Called himself "Disciple whom Jesus loved"

**John 19:26** [From the cross Jesus said to...] the **disciple whom He loved...** "Woman, behold your son!" John would take care of Mary after Jesus went to His Father

### **John wants readers to know he beat Peter to the Empty Tomb**

**John 20:4** So they both ran together, and the **other disciple outran Peter** and came to the tomb first. [John wants us to know his zeal/love for Jesus]

### **John caught a glimpse of Jesus Deity...and would never forget it**

**Luke 9:28** [Jesus] took Peter, **John**, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe *became white and glistening.*

- Peter wanted to build three tents for Moses, Elijah and Jesus [3 good men?]
- After the first 14 vv of John we will never equate Jesus to any man ever again

### **John began as a Son of Thunder; angry, unloving, vengeful**

Jesus would transform John's Impulsiveness into Zeal for the Truth  
God would take John's desire to wound others and turn it into unwavering desire love others

### **That's what Jesus does...and that's what John wants to tell us...**

- **Purpose of Gospel:** Those who read John's writings would believe in Jesus/have life

**John 20:31...** 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.**

### **God's desire is that we might have Life; Eternal Life with Him John includes those things that would lead to readers Salvation**

- **Does not include...**
  1. Jesus birth
  2. Jesus baptism
  3. Jesus temptation in the wilderness
  4. Confrontations with demons

5. Jesus teaching in parables
6. The Last Supper
7. The agony in Gethsemane
8. The Ascension

- **Gospel of Matthew**            Jesus as **King**
- **Gospel of Mark**                Jesus as **Servant**
- **Gospel of Luke**                Jesus as **Man**
- **Gospel of John**                Jesus as **God**

## I. Eternal Word

### 1 In the beginning was the Word...

- **Word?** Cf. v14 proof text revealing Who the Word is...

**John 1:14** And the **Word became 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.**

- The Word is Jesus
- **Word:** gr. *Logos*

**Logos:** def. A word, uttered by a living voice, embodies a conception or idea from root *lego* to affirm/maintain

1. **Jews:** Understood word *logos* as "Word of God" could speak of God Himself
2. **Greeks:** Power that made sense of world/set world in order/kept it going

Therefore in this opening John said to both Jews and Greeks: "For centuries you've been talking, thinking, and writing about the Word (the *logos*). Now I will tell you who He is." John met both Jews and Greeks where they were at, and explained Jesus in terms they already understood. [Guzik]

- **Logos:** Common to all. John's Gospel written to all

### ...In the beginning was the Word

**Established: The Word is Jesus and that He was in the beginning with God**

- **What beginning?**
  1. Beginning of Time?
  2. Beginning of Creation?
  3. Beginning in Manger?...

**In one sense it doesn't matter *what* beginning...**

**... Because before any/every beginning Jesus already was...In the beginning was**

**Micah 5:2** "But you, Bethlehem... out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, **Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."**

- **Eternality of Jesus Christ:** Always was. Always has been. Never did not exist

**In the beginning was.**

## In the beginning was *the Word*...

- **Word:** God's expression of Himself to Mankind [Halley's]

### 1b...and the Word was **with God**...

- **With:** heb. *pros*: Implies personal relationship but also equal status [NKJV Study]

**With:** Father and Son in loving relationship with one another. Neither One coming into being but always having been. Eternal Father and Son have always been and never have not been. They always were, always are and always will be. **Same applies to God the Holy Spirit.**

- **Trinity:** One God revealed in three persons...
  1. God the Father
  2. God the Son
  3. God the Holy Spirit

**1 John 5:7** ...there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

So far: In the beginning was...

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God...

### 1c...and the **Word was God**.

And the Word was God. Period.

- Gr: Lit. "**God was the Word**"
- **Important?** For Salvation this understanding is a deal breaker
  1. **Separates true Christians** from every cult, religion, ism
  2. If you don't believe **Jesus is God in the flesh** you will die in your sins...

**John 8:24** [Read] ... you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that **I am He**, you will die in your sins."

- **Unbelieving Jews:** Our father is Abraham!

**John 8:56** [Read] Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." 57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.**"

- **Abraham:** 2000 BC
- **Rejoiced see My day?** Melchizedek King Salem brings bread/wine for Abe Gen 14

**300 years before Abraham...Jesus spoke to Moses from burning bush**

**Exodus 3:13** Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His

name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**"

"...for if you do not **believe that I am He**, you will die in your sins."

- Jews knew what Jesus was saying and sought to kill Him; **I AM God.**

**If Jesus is not honored as God... he is dishonored**

**John 5:18** [Read] Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, **making Himself equal with God... 21** For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. **22** For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, **23** that **all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father.** He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

- **Father and Son:**

1. Both have ability to give Life
2. Both honored as equals
3. Dishonor Jesus and you dishonor the Father

**1c...The Word was God. Jesus is God.**

**2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and **without Him nothing was made that was made.**

- Creation or Random Chance?

**Random chance does not result in exquisite design [NJC]**

All things were made through [Jesus]...without [Jesus] nothing was made that was made  
Before there was anything there was Jesus

- **Who is the Creator?**

**Genesis 1:1** [Read] **In the beginning God created** the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

- **God:** heb. *Elohiym* plural; One God revealed in 3 Persons

**Genesis 1:26** [Read] Then God [Elohiym] said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness"

- **Who is the Creator:**

1. **God the Father:** In the beginning God created **Gen 1:1**
2. **God the Son:**
  - All things were made by Him
  - Without him nothing was made that was made **John 1:2**
3. **Holy Spirit:** Hovering above the face of the waters **Gen 1:2**

**Psalm 104:30** You send forth Your Spirit, **they are created**; And You renew the face of the earth.

**Psalm 33:6** By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the **host of them by the breath** [Spirit/ heb. *Ruwach*] of His mouth.

- **Q.** Who is the Creator? Father, Son, or Holy Spirit
- **A.** Yes.

Jesus was before all beginnings has always been with God and is Himself God the Creator

**Colossians 1:15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 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. **17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.** [Still want to build 3 tents Peter?]

### Jesus the Word

- Word was before all beginnings
- Word was *with* God; i.e. equal to
- Word was *God*
- **Word is Creator:** Nothing was made apart from what Jesus made
  1. Heavens
  2. Earth
  3. Planets
  4. Stars
  5. Solar Systems
  6. Babies and puppies....nothing was made that he did not design
- **Jesus is the Creator and Sustainer of All things...**

**Hebrews 1:1** [Read] God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the worlds**; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

- Jesus is the Creator and is to be worshiped
- Jesus is the Forgiver and is to be worshiped
- Jesus is God and to be worshiped...

**Hebrews 1:5** [Continued] [Read] [Speaking of Jesus] For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: **"Let all the angels of God worship Him."** 7 And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." 8 But to the Son He says: **"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever**; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." 10 And: "You,

Lord, in the **beginning laid the foundation of the earth**, And the **heavens are the work of Your hands**. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.”

- Jesus is Eternal God the Creator.

4 In Him was **life**, and the life was the **light** of men.

## In Jesus is Life and Light

- **Life:** gr. Zoe from Zoology. From one celled to mankind.
- **Light:** Phos from Photo: Particles/waves? Yes.

### Jesus is Life

- **Life is not created. Life exists in Christ**
- Jesus is dependent on nothing for life
- All creation is dependent on Jesus for Life
  1. Physical Temporal Life
  2. Spiritual Eternal Life

**John 10:28** ...I [Jesus] give them eternal life, and they shall never perish

**Jesus is Light:** Spiritual Light; i.e. Revelation God to man  
**We are in darkness until we receive the Light**

**2 Corinthians 4:6** ... 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.

- Jesus light casts out the darkness of our sin
- Those who receive Jesus receive Light and **become sons of the Light**

**John 12:36** “While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

**Without Jesus we are dead and dark**  
In Jesus we have **Life and that Light**

5 And the light [of men, Jesus] shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

**Comprehend:** def. to lay hold of ...to lay hold of so as to make one's own, to obtain, attain to, to make one's own, to take into one's self, appropriate to seize upon, take possession of

- **World did not grasp the magnitude of who Jesus is...**
  1. Just a man?
  2. Good man?
  3. Good teacher?
  4. Prophet?

In the beginning was the Word **and the Word was God**

1. *Jesus was*...before all beginnings
2. Jesus is the Eternal God
3. Jesus is the Creator all things and He is...
4. **Light** offered to those stumbling in darkness, confused, disillusioned
5. **Life** offered to those dead in sin, hurting, beat down from bad choices

**John wants us to know that God has visited his Creation to save us from our sins  
God wants to be with us!**

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Essential we get Jesus right: **Jesus is God**

## II. True Light

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

- **John sent by God:**

1. Not the writer Apostle John
2. John the Baptist Jesus older cousin
3. Filled with the Holy Spirit of God from birth...

**Luke 1:14** He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

- Mary 6 months pregnant visits relative Elizabeth also pregnant w/ John the Baptist

**Luke 1:41** And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb...

**Sent by God...John born ready to usher in the Messiah**

7 [John the Baptist] came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

- **John's Purpose: Tell people the Messiah has arrived. Light is here**

**Those who listen would be saved. Those who did not would have no excuse**

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.



- **John the Baptist**

1. **Moon:** Reflected the **true Light**
2. Ushering in/pointing to the Son

- **Jesus gives Light;** i.e. revelation of Himself to *every person ever born*
- **Light/Revelation demands response/Choose.**

1. **Run** from Light
2. **Extinguish** Light
3. **Embrace** the Light

- **John's message:** Bear witness of the Light

1. Embrace the Light you have given and live
2. Run or fight against the Light and spend eternity in utter darkness

- **Jesus the Light of the World**

**John 8:12** "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

- **Light of the entire world:** Jew and Gentile

**Isaiah 49:6** [Father to Son] I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth."

- **Jesus came as a light to dark world...**

**John 9:5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

- When Jesus ascended He left us to be His reflected light

**Matthew 5:14** "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

- **We are called to walk in the light:** Holy and Pure. Changed from our past

**Ephesians 5:8** [Children of Light] ...you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light**

- Ambassadors of Christ representing the Light to dark/dying world

**1 Peter 2:9** ...you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...**11 I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.**

Every Christian man should reckon that he is sent from God to bear witness to the great Light, that, through him, men might believe. [Spurgeon]

**John's message is serious**

Die without Jesus the True Light and your fate is Eternal Torment Forever

**Matthew 25:46** [Those who reject Jesus]... will go away into **everlasting punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life.**"

### **Jesus is the True Light; i.e. Revelation to a dark world**

- **Revelation of the Spirit:** Convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment
- **Revelation of Creation:** Mother responds to light of creation, receives more light!

**Jesus gives light to every man. Light reveals our sin and need of Savior**

**Jesus gives light to every man. Every man has a choice.**

10 [Jesus] was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

**In the world He made yet...Inhabitants of the world did not know Him**

- **Creator walking His creation...**
  1. Healing
  2. Loving
  3. Casting out demons
  4. Bringing Salvation

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

- Came to the Jews and was not received but crucified
- Lit/ Did not acknowledge Him as the One He claims to be. "He was a demon"

**Jews waited thousands years for Messiah and missed him/pride blinded their eyes**

- **Not rejected by all Jews.** Apostles are Jewish. Paul is Jewish, etc.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

### **As many as receive Him**

- **Acknowledge Jesus** as who He claimed to be. **God, Savior, Lord, Master**
- **Believe in His Name:**
  1. **Jesus:** Name above every Name.
  2. **Jesus:** No other Name under heaven by which to be saved

### **He gave the right to become children of God**

- **Legal Adoption Papers from the Judge**
  1. I see your sin is paid for in full
  2. Now able to approach Father

3. Now able to crawl up on Father's lap

▪ **Adopted children of God**

1. Not born through ancestry [blood]
2. Not born of natural birth [flesh]
3. Not even because we were searching for God [will of man]

**...But born of God because God desires to be with us**

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

▪ **Saved from sin and hell by loving Father**

1. Born again/Regenerated
2. New Nature seeking to please God because we love God
3. New power to overcome the sin killing us
4. Desire to know Him though His Word walk in newness of Life

### **Children of God**

**1 John 3:1** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

**SUMMARY True Light**

### **III. Word Becomes Flesh**

**14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

- Gr. Lit. "The Word was born flesh"
- God set up His tent among us

To make us His sons/daughters He had to deal with our sin

Perfect sacrifice had to be human to save humanity

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us**

**Incarnation of God... Jesus born of a virgin and God's Holy Spirit**

**Startling Statement: God became Man...**

**1 Timothy 3:16** ...without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

**14b**...and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **Beheld His glory:** Lit. Weight of all Jesus is
- **Beheld:** Lit. Carefully looked upon and studied...

**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, concerning the Word of life

- Beheld the glory of **“the only begotten of the Father”**
  1. When we believe we are adopted sons/daughters of the Father
  2. **Jesus is the only begotten:** One and only. “God gave His only son”
- **Full of Grace:** gr. *khä'-rēs* That which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech. **What we are save by!**

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- **Full of Truth:** gr. *ä-lā'-thā-ä* What is true in any matter under consideration. Who we are saved by

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. [I am Truth]

- **Truth is not relative** to different situations, emotions, what we want it to be
- **Truth is absolute.** Truth is Jesus the Word of God

**NOTE:** Everything Jesus does displays Grace. Everything Jesus says reveals Truth

**God is not Grace without Truth. Not Truth without Grace**

**Not only a God of Love but a God of Judgment**

If the world will not accept the Salvation message of the God of Grace

...They will receive the wrath of the God of Justice.

- We are to be balanced in Grace [Love] and Truth

**Ephesians 4:15** [Speak...] the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ

**What is God like? Jesus reveals the Father: Filled with Grace and Truth**

He is full of grace for your sinnership, and full of truth for your ignorance. He can cleanse and he can teach; there is everything in him that you need. You shall not be deceived, for he is full of truth; you shall not be rejected, for he is full of grace. [Spurgeon]

**15 John [Baptist] bore witness of [Jesus] and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’”**

- John speaks...

**Jesus was before me: Even though I was physically born 6 months before Him**

- **John was a Prophet:** Declared Jesus was Eternal

**16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.**

- Jesus filled with Grace...gives us **Grace...**with no depletion of His grace
  1. Jesus does not only show Grace He is Grace
  2. Jesus does not only show Love He is Love
  3. Jesus does not only speak Truth He is Truth

We have **all received** grace for grace

**Matthew 5:45** [Act like]... sons of your Father in heaven; for **He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.** 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

- **God blesses a world that curses Him:**
  1. Example to us
  2. Even the world blesses those who can benefit them
  3. Be perfect/complete: Unselfish, not entitled to anything, everything a gift

**Of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace...**

**17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

**Lit. Grace and Truth were realized through Jesus Christ**

- **Old Covenant:** *If/Then Contract.* If you keep the Law *then* you will be blessed
- **New Covenant:** *So/and Contract:* So Jesus died for our sins *and* we are made righteous

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For [God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the **righteousness of God in Him.**

- Moses [Law] could not enter the Promise Land: Law could not bring them over
- Joshua [Jesus/Grace] was able to bring them in

**Jesus came to declare who the Father is...**

**18 No one has seen God at any time.**

- **No one has seen God:** Fullness of His glory

**Exodus 33:20** [God to Moses] "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

- Moses saw the "back" of God

**1 John 4:12** No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

**18b...**The only begotten Son, who is in the **bosom of the Father**, He has declared Him.

- **Jesus is in the bosom of the Father:** Present tense: Always was, is, and will be
- **Jesus declared to us who God is:**
  1. Way Jesus loves is exactly the way the Father loves us
  2. Way Jesus speaks is exactly what the Father has given Him to say
  3. Work Jesus does is exactly the work the Father has given Him done perfectly
  4. Way Jesus cares/weeps is exactly the way Father cares about our infirmities
  5. Truth Jesus declares is exactly what the Father gave Him to declare

**The way Jesus saves, restores, sustains, gives us victory power over sin is directly from the bosom/heart of our heavenly Father and declared to us by His Son**

**Colossians 1:15** He is the image of the invisible God

**Take home: When we see Jesus in the Gospel we see the Father**

#### **IV. Voice in the Wilderness** of this Sinful World

**19** Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, **"Who are you?"**

- Who is this guy eating grasshoppers dipped in honey?
- Who is this long haired leather wearing hippie dunking people in the Jordan...

#### **Screaming Repent!**

**Matthew 3:1** [Read] In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: **'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'**" 4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

- **Herald for the Messiah:** Probably in crowd
- **Baptizing in Jordan**

**Baptism of Repentance:** Turn or burn  
Prepare the way of the Lord...Repent!

**20** [John] confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, **"I am not the Christ."** 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?"

- Not Messiah
- Not Elijah prophesied to come back in end times

**Malachi 4:5** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. 6 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."

- I will send Prophet Elijah before the Day of the Lord; Tribulation Period
- **John:** "I am not Elijah"
  1. Stood up to Satanic pagan priests of Baal
  2. Used by God miraculously: Shut the skies
  3. Incredible faith in midst of opposition
  4. Yet an imperfect human like us: Fell into depression/doubt

**Matthew 11:14** [Read] ... if you are willing to receive it, [John the Baptist] is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

- **John said he was *not* Elijah.**
- Jesus said John is Elijah "if we can receive it"

How do we reconcile what John said and what Jesus said?

John knew who he was and who he was not. Jesus certainly knew who John was

**Luke 1:17** [Read] [Angel prophesying to Zacharias concerning his coming son John the Baptist] He will also go before Him in the **spirit and power of Elijah**, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

If we can receive the message John brought in the *power of Elijah* at 1<sup>st</sup> coming  
**We will not have to endure the message of *actual Elijah* at 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**

- **Elijah will be one of 2 Witnesses God raises up first 3.5 year of Tribulation**

**Revelation 11:3** [Read] And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that **no rain falls** in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to **turn them to blood**, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

- **Two Witness of God's coming judgment during beginning of Tribulation?**
  1. **Moses** turned water into blood [Exodus 7]
  2. **Elijah** stopped rain in Israel for 3 years [1 Kings 18]

**...7** When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, **and kill them.**

- Satan booted out of Heaven by Archangel Michael
- AC possessed by Satan mid-tribulation

- AC will be given power by God to kill two witnesses after 3.5 years

**...8** And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, **make merry, and send gifts** to one another, because these two prophets **tormented those who dwell on the earth.**

**Tormented those on earth:** Judgment is coming! Repent!

- Their death will unite the evil world together
- **Sends gifts to each other**
- **CNN will have live coverage of both bodies in street 3.5 days**

**...11** Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

- **God's passive wrath completed;** i.e. HS restraining power all hell breaks loose
- **God's active wrath begins;** i.e. Seal, Trumpet, Bowl Judgments begin

**1/2 world's population [3.8 Billion] will be dead and headed for 2<sup>nd</sup> death at the End to the Great Tribulation**

**Revelation 20:14** Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the **second death.**

**Revelation 21:8** But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the **second death."**

**Reconciliation:** Is John Literally Elijah...No

**Receive John's message** given in spirit/power of Elijah now at 1<sup>st</sup> coming and be saved Don't wait for actual Prophet Elijah to return at the "great/dreadful Day of the Lord [Mal 11]

- Not Messiah, Not Elijah, and not Prophet Moses said to listen to...

**Deuteronomy 18:15** "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear..."

23 [John said...] "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord,"" as the prophet Isaiah said."

**Isaiah 40:3** The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "**Prepare 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 brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

- Prepare the way of the Lord
- Prepare the way of Salvation



**Salvation begins with a sober understanding of our plight.  
John preached repentance...Turn or Burn**

- Some came to the Jordan to confess their sins
- Some came to watch

**Matthew 3:7** [Read] But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

- **Fruit:** Good change proving your repentance

**...9** [Don't] think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

- **Your great grandfather can't save you:** This is about you and God
- **Time is short:** Make your decision...

**...10** And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

- Ax laid to the root and being brought back to strike
- Bear fruit or be judged

**...11** I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

- **I baptize with water:** Not unto Salvation but only repentance
- **Note audience...prideful religious leaders**
- **He will baptize you with: Immerse you in...**
  1. His Holy Spirit
  2. His Fire

Nothing will be hidden from His Spirit. He will test you with fire and see what is pure. He is the One who pardons, the One who judges and the One who executes Judgment.

**...12** His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

**Jesus separate the wheat from chaff; i.e. believers from make-believers**

- **Unquenchable fire?**

**Isaiah 66:24** "And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched.

**Mark 9:43** If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 44 where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' 'Their worm does not die And the **fire is not quenched.**'

- **Penalty for Sin:** Eternal Wrath of God
- Wrath that begins with Tribulation and lasts for eternity

**1 Thessalonians 1:10** [Serve the living God and...] wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- **Choice:**
  1. Wrath poured out on sinless Lamb of God
  2. Wrath poured out on sinful us?

24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

- **What authority do you have to be a "religious leader"?**
  1. You're not the Messiah
  2. You're not Elijah
  3. You're not the Prophet

You're a long haired freak eating bugs and honey...Wearing leather belt and hairy vest!  
Who do you think you are?

**1 Corinthians 1:27** But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen

- God uses unlikely characters

26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."

**John 3:30** He must increase, but I must decrease.

**Not about me. You are standing next to the One everything is about**

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

**SUMMARY Voice in the Wilderness of this sinful world**

1. Hope is here
2. Salvation is here
3. Healing is here
4. Deliverance is here

**He is here and He is among you now**

## Bear fruit worthy of repentance

### V. The Lamb of God: Hope of Man

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who **takes away** the sin of the world!"

**Psalm 32:1** [ David] Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.

**Psalm 85:2** You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin.  
Selah

Old Testament animal sacrifices only "covered sin" until the Perfect Sacrifice came to take away the sin of the world

- Jesus "takes away" our sin. Selah

**Psalm 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

- **Lamb of God:**
  1. Jesus came to die
  2. **His death takes away out sin**

30 This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' 31 **I did not know Him**; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."

- **As a child...**
  1. My spirit recognized Him in my mother womb...I jumped
  2. I didn't get who He was when we were playing football
- **Now I understand...**
  1. Though He was born after me he existed before me...before anything
  2. **My mission:** To reveal to Israel who He is and what He has come to do

32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

- Godhead revealed at Jesus Baptism

**Luke 3:21** [Read] When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. 22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

- **Why was Jesus baptized:** Numbered with transgressors though without sin

**Hebrews 4:15** ...we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** [God the Father] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us

- **Godhead: Triune God revealed at Jesus baptism**

1. **Jesus** baptized
2. **Spirit** descending
3. **Father** Speaking

- Jesus revealed to John at Jesus baptism

34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

**The One that the HS in the form of a Dove lands upon...This is the Son of God**  
**Message: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**

**SUMMARY Lamb of God:** Hope of Man

**John the Baptist:** Last of OT Prophets. Rock Star of the Desert wants to shout about Jesus

## **VI. Greatest Man in the Old Testament**

**Matthew 11: 1** [Read] [John spoke truth to political leaders and ended up in jail...] 2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples 3 and said to Him, "**Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?**"

- What is our thought process when it gets tough? Confusing?
  1. **Q.** If you are He why is this happening to Me
  2. **A.** Because as you said it's not about you

**Prophet Elijah also had doubts:** I'm the only one. I want to die.

Elijah's doubt morphed into self-pity. When doubt morphs into self-pity it is then Satanic

Beware of allowing your self-awareness to continue, because slowly but surely it will awaken self-pity, and self-pity is satanic [Oswald Chambers]

- Self-pity is always sin...always Satanic. You on throne is same as devil on throne
- Do not let doubt degrade into self-pity and worse yet unbelief...both heinous sins

What is the response of Jesus to John doubts, questions, confusion?

**How Jesus responds to doubt is exactly how God responds!**

**...4** Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And **blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.**"

Blessed [happy] is the man/woman who does not turn away from Me  
**When he does not understand what I am doing**

**John 20:24** Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came... [Confused by Jesus death...so he sunk into himself]

"Thomas did the very worst thing that a melancholy man can do, went away to brood in a corner by himself, and so to exaggerate all his idiosyncrasies, to distort the proportion of the truth, and hug his despair, by separating himself from his fellows. Therefore he lost what they got, the sight of the Lord." [Maclaren]

...The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

- **God's Response:** Gentleness.
- **8 Days later:** "Thomas, put your finger in my the hole in my side"

### **My Lord and my God**

**Matthew 12:20** [Gentleness] A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench...

... Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus' interaction with Thomas shows that the resurrected Jesus is full of love and graciousness and gentleness to His people. That didn't change. "The whole conversation was indeed a rebuke, but so veiled with love that Thomas could scarcely think it so." [Spurgeon]

**John was confused. Thomas had doubt**  
**Jesus gave mild rebuke "Don't turn away when you don't understand"...Don't live there**

[Matthew 11 cont.] **7** As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? **8** But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. **9** But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. **10** For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.' **11** "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there **has not risen one greater than John the Baptist**

- **Jesus lifts up John:** Period of confusion does take away from who John is...
  1. Not a guy easily shaken
  2. Not a guy wearing fuzzy slippers
  3. He is a prophet of God
  4. He was greater than **anyone born of a woman to that moment...**

*Greater than Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Deborah, Jacob, Joseph, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Esther, Nehemiah, Mary...*

**2 Samuel 23:20** [even greater than...] Benaiah ...killed a lion in a pit... on a snowy day.

**None greater than John the Baptist...**  
**...but he who is *least in the kingdom of heaven* is greater than John?**

- **I will pour out my Spirit on the Day of Pentecost;** the Church will be birthed

The least of the Bride of Christ/The Church will be greater than John who was the greatest  
**Bride of Christ: Highly prized position in history of man**

## VII. Jesus First Disciples

- **NOTE:** Jesus already tempted by devil and victorious immediately after baptism
- VV 19- 51 **Four Days:** Disciples leave John to become disciples of Jesus
- **Day One:** John declares *who he is...*

**John 1:23** "...Voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord,""

- **Day Two:** John declares *who Jesus is...*

**John 1:29** ... John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! **The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"

- He is the lamb slain before the foundation of the world
- He is the animal slain in the Garden of Eden to cover the nakedness of the first sinners
- He is the lamb God would Himself provide for Abraham as a substitute for Isaac
- He is the Passover lamb for Israel
- He is the lamb for the guilt offering in the Levitical sacrifices
- He is Isaiah's lamb to the slaughter, ready to be shorn [Guzik]
- Day Two: John declares who Jesus is... "**Lamb of God**"
- **Day Three:** John passes the *Baton to Jesus*

1. **John had been acquiring followers**
2. **Disciples of John must now move on**

35 Again, the **next day, John stood with two of his disciples.** 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "**Behold the Lamb of God!**" 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and **they followed Jesus.**

- **John lets them go to Jesus. Encourages them to go to Jesus**

Thus John was losing his own disciples. By his testimony to the truth, he was sending them to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, and he did it well and gracefully. There are many who would find it a hard task to reduce the number of their disciples; but it was not so with John. [Spurgeon]

38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and

see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

- Where are You staying? Can we stay with You?

40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon...

- **Andrew**
  1. One of John the Baptists Disciples
  2. Peter's brother

**41b...**and [Andrew] said to [his brother Peter], "**We have found the Messiah**" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus.

### **We have found the Messiah!**

- Andrew brought his brother to Jesus: That's Andrew's thing...bringing people to Jesus
- Little kid...

**John 6:9** [Andrew to Jesus] "[Here's] a lad here who has five loaves/two small fish..."

- Loved to introduce people to Jesus...

**John 12:20** ... certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. 21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

### **"Sir, we wish to see Jesus."**

- Andrew brings Peter to Jesus...
- First thing Jesus does with Peter is change his name...

**42b...** Now when Jesus **looked at him**, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephass" (which is translated, A Stone/Peter).

- Simon now Called Cephass after Jesus looked at him; i.e. his heart?

**1 Samuel 16:7** ...man looks at the outward appearance, but the **Lord looks at the heart.**"

[Ungodly Psychology] You are not who you think you are. You are not who others think you are. You are who you think others think you are.

You are not who you think you are Simon...not who you will be...you will be just who I created you to be. **From Simon the betrayer to Peter the Elder**

This man, Simon, was as weak as water. Our Lord told him he would be a stone man. [JV McGee]

**So Far Jesus has Andrew, Peter and one more  
...writer John v 39 who knew it was 10<sup>th</sup> hour**

### 43 The following day **Jesus wanted to go to Galilee...**

- **Day Four:** Jesus reveals Himself as the **Only Way to God the Father**
- Jesus heads to Galilee with **Andrew, Peter and John**

### **43b...** and [Jesus] found Philip and said to him, **"Follow Me."**

- **Found Philip:** Jesus was looking for him

**Matthew 13:44** "[Jesus said...] the kingdom of heaven is like **treasure** hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

**Matthew 13:45** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one **pearl of great price**, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

You are a treasure and a pearl of great price. Jesus gave up everything and sought you out

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, **the son of Joseph.**"

- **Jesus in Bethsaida**
- So far...
  1. Andrew and John follow at J the B's declaration of Jesus as Lamb
  2. Andrew tells his brother Peter
  3. Jesus call Philip to Himself
  4. Philip finds Nathaniel...

#### **We found the One Moses and the Prophets wrote about?**

**Hebrews 10:7** Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'"

**Luke 24:25** Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

- **Son of Joseph:** This part Philip got wrong
- **Nathaniel...**We found the Messiah Jesus of Nazareth

46 And Nathanael said to him, **"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"**

- **Nathanael:** *Gr.* "Gift of God"
  1. **Sarcasm/Prejudice:** Can anything good come out of Nazareth
  2. A Bible student studying under fig tree: Messiah born in Bethlehem!
  3. Some seminary students wouldn't know Jesus was standing in front of them



Salvation is not an intellectual pursuit. Gnosticism is making a comeback

- **Gnostics:** Love of knowledge. Worship of knowledge. Knowledge as God
  1. **Free-masonry:** Steps/Secrets leading to greater revelation
  2. **“Religious” porn**
    - **Theistic Evolution:** God using evolution? Blown out water next Ch.
    - **Hyper-Calvinism** or hyper-Armenian-ism: Doctrinal Construct that attempt to put God in a box

### **1 Corinthians 8:1 Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.**

**Gnosticism: Believing our knowledge of God is in direct proportion to our relationship with God**

If our knowledge does not translate into loving others our knowledge is useless, harmful, or worse demonic.

**James 3:13** [Read] Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- **Nathanael:** Nazareth doesn't fit my "schema" of the way things should be
- NOTE: Fact is Jesus was born in Bethlehem as Scripture prophesied

### **46b... Philip said to him, "Come and see."**

- Philip relentless to bring Nate to Jesus/ Nate gets up to go

**47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"**

- Nathanael; the guy who has it together, not trickery...no deceit

"This [word] deceit means" as a 'bait' (for catching fish). [It came] to signify 'any cunning contrivance for deceiving or catching... It thus has the notion of 'deceit' or 'craft'. It is used in the Bible of Jacob before his change of heart.

**Literally** "Here comes an Israelite in whom there is not Jacob"

You see although this man is a wisecracker he is not deceitful or cunning. [JV McGee]

**48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."**

- I had my eye on you when you were studying under the fig tree
- Jesus reveals His omnipresence and care
  1. **Omnipresence:** Always everywhere
  2. **Personal Care:** Every hair of our head

49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

- **Nathanael's Testimony:** All Titles referring to the Messiah
  1. **Rabbi:** You are a Teacher
  2. **Son of God:** You are Deity
  3. **King of Israel:** Looking forward to Jesus earthly reign

50 Jesus answered and said to [Nathanael], "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

- Just because I said I saw you when I wasn't there?
- You're going to see greater things than that...**and here's just one...**

51 And [Jesus] said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see **heaven open**, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

**Genesis 28:10** [Jacob's first night away from home] Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. 12 Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the **angels of God were ascending and descending on it.** 13 And behold, the **Lord stood above it** and said: "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac..."

- Was Nathaniel meditating on this section on Scripture?

#### **Jesus explains it... as all Scripture... speaks of Him**

1. I am that ladder between man and God
2. I am that ladder between earth and heaven

**1 Timothy 2:3** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and **one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus**

**Your ladder of religion and good works are missing too many rungs  
I am the only safe ladder that can get you to heaven**

**John 14:6** "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- **Angels ascending/descending and Jesus command...**

**Hebrews 1:6** [Of Jesus] "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

1. Andrew and John follow at J the B's declaration of Jesus as Lamb
2. Andrew tells his brother Peter
3. Jesus call Philip to Himself
4. Philip finds Nathaniel and takes him to Jesus who fillet him and touches his heart

**Exciting Four Days of Show and Tell:** Discovering the Savior/Revealing Him to others