



## *The DAY the WORLD CHANGED*

AN ADVENT SERIES

BELIEF OR DOUBT

**JOHN 1:9**

*The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

**Scripture: JOHN 1:6-8**

**SUMMARY:**

The day Jesus was born changed the world. God became flesh to live among us, to show us His love and to save those who believe. Jesus came to change the lives of all who receive Him. While Jesus draws people to Himself, He never forces obedience. To believe, receive, love and serve Him are choices. Jesus presents clear and definitive choices! Choose today; Belief or Doubt!

**John was sent to bear witness!**

All believers are sent as witnesses. Jesus said, "As the father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (John 10:21). The purpose of the witness is to share the truth so that everyone might believe and not doubt.

**JOHN 1:1-8 NLT**

- 1 In the beginning the Word already existed.  
The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.*
- 2 He existed in the beginning with God.*
- 3 God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.*
- 4 The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.*

5 *The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.*  
6 *God sent a man, John the Baptist, 7 to tell about the light so that everyone  
might believe because of his testimony. 8 John himself was not the light; he was  
simply a witness to tell about the light.*

- Jesus already existed
- Jesus was with God
- Jesus was God
- Jesus existed in the beginning
- Jesus existed with God
- Everything created through Jesus
- Nothing created except through Jesus
- Jesus gave life to everything
- Jesus brought light to everyone
- Jesus shines in darkness
- Darkness can never extinguish Jesus

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

OT Prophecy concerning John the Baptist:

- Isaiah 40:3-5,
- Matthew 3:1, 3 (700 BC)
- Malachi 3:1, 4:5 (430 BC)

Luke's gospel focuses on the birth and life of John the Baptist.

John's gospel focuses on why John the Baptist was sent and who sent him.

Luke 1:11-17 John's Birth foretold; Luke 1:76-79 John's Life foretold. John is the prototype of all witnesses. He is the prophet of the New Testament pointing people to Jesus whom he baptized. All believers are to be witnesses in the pattern of John.

"A good witness does not attract attention to himself but to the person or fact he represents. The Greek word for witness by John in this gospel appears only three times in Mark and only once in Luke. The verb usually rendered "testify" shows up 33 times in John and only once in each of Matthew and Luke. All this points up the uniqueness of each account and particularly the intensity with which John will seek to fulfill his purpose"

(Kenneth Gangle, Max Anders Editor, *Holman New Testament Commentary*, p. 11).

"Although verses six through eight seem alien to the general content of the text, they are not irrelevant. As the word came to bring the heavenly light to humanity, so John came to speak from a human level and to awaken people to their need of God's revelation"

(Merrill Tenney, *The Expositors Bible Commentary*, p. 31).

## 1. Live Sent! (John 1:6)

**JOHN 1:6 ESV**

*[6] There was a man sent from God,*

- Believers are to live sent as light in the darkness.

**JOHN 20:21**

*Peace be with you. As the father has sent me, even so I am sending you.*

## 2. Bear Witness! (John 1:7)

**JOHN 1:7 ESV**

*[7] He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light,*

- Believers are to bear witness to the light and life that is found only in Jesus!

## 3. That All Might Believe (John 1:8)!

**JOHN 1:7B-8 ESV**

*that all might believe through him. [8] He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

- Witness that all might believe.

**2 PETER 3:9 ESV**

*[9] The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

**MARK 11:23-24 ESV**

*[23] Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. [24] Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

## *Life Application Guide*

1. Describe a time when you were sent to do something. Where were you sent? Who sent you? What were you sent to do? What happened? How did your belong sent play out?
2. God sent John to bear witness to the light and life of Jesus. The sending of Jesus and the one who would prepare the way were prophesied hundreds of years earlier. How do we know that we have been sent today? (Matthew 28:18-20, John 20:21)
3. To whom have you been sent to testify about Jesus? Describe. Where have you been sent to testify about Jesus? Describe.
4. To whom and where might the Lord send you to testify in 2024? *Here? There? Everywhere?*
5. What is required for one who is sent? What is expected?
6. Is there someone, some group or some place right now that you have a burden to go and witness to Jesus?
7. PRAY: Ask the Lord to give you direction on the *who*, *when* and *where* of being sent as a witness to Jesus!