

JOHN CHAPTER ONE  
SEVEN NAMES -- FOUR DAYS

John introduces us to seven of the many names of Jesus

The Word (Vss 1-3, 14)

The Light (Vss 4-13)

The Son of God (Vss 15-28)

The Lamb of God (Vss 29-34)

The Messiah (Vss 35-42)

The King of Israel (Vss 43-49)

The Son of Man (Vsdsd 50-51)

Notice the variety of ways in which first six disciples were introduced to Jesus:

John and Andrew were saved thru a preacher – John the Baptist

Peter found Christ thru his brother's witness

Phillip was personally called by Christ

Nathaniel found Christ thru the study of the Word and Phillip's testimony

The other gospel writes focus on the events in Jesus' life

John focuses on the meaning behind these events

All four gospels record the feeding of the 5000

Only John follows it up with the Bread of Life sermon

Explaining the meaning of the miracle

The crowds that followed John the Baptist

Will soon leave him and follow Jesus

And soon many of those same people will shout "Crucify Him"

As the story progresses the religious leadership hardens their hearts more and more

And the ordinary people hear, believe and receive

And the new believers cross all levels of society

A nobleman, a Samaritan, a paralytic, a blind man, a Pharisee, a Roman soldier

# Synopsis

## THE GOSPEL of JOHN Abide

Different from other Gospels by using events & discourses not found in them  
Focuses on Jesus as the Eternal Word of God  
God in the flesh born to die for the sins of men

### AUTHOR

John, the disciple Jesus referred to as 'Beloved'  
He also nicknamed him and his brother, James, "Sons of Thunder"  
An early follower of John the Baptist who quickly left him and followed Jesus  
After the Ascension, He became a pillar of the Jerusalem Church with Peter & James  
Eventually travelled to Ephesus, arrested by the Romans, exiled to Patmos  
Wrote The Revelation of Jesus Christ around 95 AD  
Last surviving of the 12 disciples

### DATE - SETTING

John was the last of the synoptic Gospels to be written  
Perhaps as early as 60 AD - or - as late as 90 - 100AD  
He was an eyewitness to the events recorded  
Thus he travelled to all of the places in Palestine where Jesus went

### THEME

Seeing is believing  
He wrote of the things that he saw  
To convince others that Jesus is the Messiah / Christ

### KEY VERSES

John 1:11-13 - "He came...received those who came to Him...children born of God"  
John 20:30-31 - "These are written that you may believe... and by believing have eternal life"

### JESUS in JOHN

The Word was with God - the Word became flesh - the Word dwelt among men -  
the Word died for men - the Word rose on the third day - the Word ascended to  
heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father forever interceding for us

## TIMELINE OF JOHN'S LIFE

6 - 10 AD	Born to Zebedee and Salome in Galilee Possibly 10-12 years younger than Jesus
26 AD	First meets Jesus after following John the Baptist in Bethabara
27 AD	Called by Jesus to leave his father's fishing business and become a fisher of men
27-30 AD	Becomes a member of Jesus Inner Circle with Peter and James Present at both Transfiguration and Last Supper
30 AD	Present at the Crucifixion Where Jesus entrusts the care of His mother to John
30 AD	Present at the empty tomb and resurrection
31 - 70 AD	Becomes a key leader of the Christian Church in Jerusalem Works alongside Peter
42 AD	Begins working on his Gospel Ultimately flees Jerusalem because of persecution
64 - 67 AD	Moves to Ephesus Becomes the leader of Christian churches in Asia Minor
94 - 95 AD	Banished by Emperor Domitian to the Isle of Patmos because Of his preaching
95 - 96 AD	While on Patmos receives and records the vision of the Revelation of Jesus Christ
96 AD	Released from Patmos after Domitian's death Returns to Ephesus
90 - 100 AD	Completes the Gospel of John Writes 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> John
100 AD	Dies in his 90's in Ephesus of natural causes

The dates of John's birth, conversion, etc are speculative  
But the dates of his service, writing and imprisonment are confirmed by secular history

# 04-26 Lesson: John Chapter 1 - The Four Gospels and the Seven Names of Jesus

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Date Time: 2026-04-26 14:32:25

Location: First Baptist Church, Tallassee Alabama

Instructor: Sid Edwards

## Summary

This lesson offers a detailed exploration of John, Chapter 1. It begins by contrasting the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), noting their distinct perspectives and audiences. The core focus is on two lenses within John 1: the seven names of Jesus presented in the chapter and a timeline of the first four days of His public ministry. The speaker explains how John presents Jesus as the eternal Son of God, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies and themes for both Jewish and Gentile readers. Key moments—such as the calling of the first disciples (John, Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael)—demonstrate the diverse ways Jesus calls people and the profound, transformative impact of encountering Him.

## Key Points

### 1. Comparison of the Four Gospels

- **The Four Gospels as Different Perspectives**
  - The four Gospels are likened to a family photo album, providing varied “snapshots” of the same events from the unique viewpoints of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
  - Each author wrote to a specific audience with a distinct purpose, as part of God’s plan to give four complementary views.
- **Matthew’s Gospel**
  - Written primarily for a Jewish audience.
  - Emphasizes Jesus as the King of Kings and the King of the Jews, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies.
- **Mark’s Gospel**
  - The first Gospel written, used extensively by Matthew and Luke.
  - Addressed mainly to citizens of the Roman Empire.
  - Highlights Jesus as both a servant and a prophet who came to minister to the needy and hurting.
- **Luke’s Gospel**
  - Written primarily for Greeks, who valued philosophy and debate.
  - Presents Jesus as the Son of Man and the perfect man, often shown in ordinary situations.

- Stresses Jesus as both man and God, prompting the audience to ponder how this is possible.
- **John's Gospel**
  - Written for both Jews and Gentiles, likely the last of the four Gospels, possibly after Revelation.
  - The speaker describes John as writing a “scrapbook” of his time with Jesus, with 50–60 years of hindsight.
  - Presents Jesus as the eternal Son of God.
  - Explains Jewish customs and terms for Gentile readers.
  - Emphasizes to Jewish readers how Jesus fulfills the Law and prophecies (e.g., Passover Lamb, Jacob's ladder, manna in the wilderness).
  - John records and interprets events—for example, pairing the “bread of life” sermon with the feeding of the five thousand.

## 2. Analysis of John Chapter 1: The Seven Names of Jesus

- **1. The Word**
  - The first name identified for Jesus. He was, is, and always has been “The Word.”
  - He was with God and was God, participating in creation and sustaining it (e.g., the sun rising).
  - “The Word” encompasses both spoken and written revelation, providing everything needed to know about God.
  - As “The Alpha and the Omega,” the first and last letters of the alphabet, He is all we need from beginning to end.
- **2. The Son of God**
  - John the Baptist was sent to introduce Jesus as the Son of God. He clarified he was not the Messiah but a witness to the Light (Jesus).
  - John the Baptist testified that he saw the Spirit descend like a dove and remain on Jesus—the sign God gave him to identify the Messiah.
  - Jesus is the “only begotten,” uniquely the Son, always in the “arms of the Father,” indicating their close relationship until the separation on the cross.
- **3. The Lamb of God**
  - Introduced on the second day of Jesus' public ministry.
  - John the Baptist declared, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”
  - Connects to the Passover lamb, pointing to Jesus's perfect, spotless sacrifice—He is the fulfillment, the “real thing.”
- **4. The Messiah**
  - Introduced on day three of Jesus' ministry.
  - After Andrew followed Jesus, he found his brother Simon (Peter) and said, “We have found the Messiah,” which means “the Christ.”
- **5. The King of Israel**
  - On day four, Jesus found Philip, who then found Nathanael.

- Philip said they had found the one “Moses wrote in the law, and the prophets also wrote about,” identifying Him as the King of Israel.
- After a personal encounter, Nathanael confessed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.”

- **6. The Son of Man**

- Jesus’s preferred self-description, used over 80 times in the Gospels.
- Highlights His dual nature: fully God and fully human.
- Linked to Jacob’s ladder—Jesus as the connection between Heaven and Earth, God and man.

- **7. Rabbi (Teacher)**

- Andrew and another disciple first addressed Jesus as “Rabbi,” meaning “Teacher.”
- Nathanael also calls Jesus “Rabbi” upon recognizing Him.

### 3. Analysis of John Chapter 1: The First Four Days of Jesus’ Public Ministry

- **Day 1: The Testimony of John the Baptist**

- Jewish religious leaders sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to question John the Baptist.
- They felt threatened by his authority and the crowds he drew.
- They asked who he was (he denied being the Christ, Elijah, or the Prophet) and by what authority he baptized.
- John identified himself as “the voice of one calling out in the wilderness,” quoting Isaiah, and said his authority came from one “greater than me.”

- **Day 2: The Lamb of God Revealed**

- John the Baptist saw Jesus approaching and identified Him as “the Lamb of God.”
- Though Jesus was his cousin, John did not recognize Him as the Messiah until God revealed it at Jesus’s baptism, when the Spirit descended like a dove.

- **Day 3: The First Disciples Follow Jesus**

- A Sabbath day. Two of John’s disciples (John, the author, and Andrew) heard John point to Jesus and began following Him.
- Jesus asked, “What are you seeking?” They replied, “Rabbi, where are you staying?”
- Jesus invited, “Come and you will see.” They spent the rest of the day with Him; John remembers it was the “tenth hour” (about 4:00 p.m.).
- Andrew found his brother Simon and brought him to Jesus. Jesus renamed him Cephas (Peter), meaning “the Rock.”

- **Day 4: Philip and Nathanael Called**

- Jesus traveled to Galilee and personally called Philip: “Follow me.”
- Philip, from Bethsaida (the same city as Andrew and Peter), found Nathanael and said they had found the Messiah, “Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.”
- Nathanael was skeptical (“Can anything good come from Nazareth?”), but Philip urged, “Come and see.”

- Jesus described Nathanael as “an Israelite in whom there is no guile.” When Nathanael asked how Jesus knew him, Jesus replied, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”
- Nathanael then confessed Jesus as the Son of God and King of Israel.

## Assignments

1. 
  1. Study the seven names of Jesus in John Chapter 1 and their significance.
2. 
  2. Reflect on the different ways the first disciples were called (through preaching, personal witness, direct call) and how they inform modern evangelism.
3. 
  3. Read the four Gospels to compare and contrast their accounts of shared events, as discussed in the lecture.