



JOHN

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God Revealed

Revealed to the Disciples	Revealed to the World
Four witnesses...5:19-47 True bread...6:26-58 Truth and the light...8:12-59 The good shepherd...10:1-41	Passover...13:1-20 Comfort...14:1-6 The Spirit...14:16-21 Prayer...17:1-12
1-12	13-21

"That you might believe that Jesus is your deliverer" 20:30,31

Welcome to the book of John!

As you observe the overview above answer these questions: how, when, and to whom was Jesus revealed? What do you learn about the purpose of the book of John? How does it differ from the other three Gospels? How is it similar? How has Jesus revealed Himself to you? Are you a follower of Christ?

Two key verses are prominent. For chapters 1-12, we have chosen 8:58 revealing Jesus' specific claim to be the God who created the world. How is this possible? For chapters 13-21, we have chosen 20:30, 31 which reveals the ministry of the Son of God as well as the purpose of the book.

The Writer and Setting

The author is John the Apostle, known as one of the "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17). After the resurrection, he played a leading role in the founding of the Church (Acts 3:1, 8:14; Galatians 2:9) and later went to Ephesus as the head elder and was eventually exiled to Patmos (Revelation 1:9). John was the 'disciple whom Jesus loved' (John 21:7, 20-25) and had great insight into the heart of God. He was entrusted with the care of the mother of Jesus (19:25-27).

Why the book of John?

John emphasizes Christ's existence within the founding of time, which is the most often misunderstood aspect of who Jesus is. The "incarnation" is when the Son took human form only. He existed with the Father before the world was even created.

John gives more information about the Holy Spirit (chapters 14-16) than any of the other Gospel accounts. John teaches about the "secret" of the Christian life in Chapter 15.

John probably experienced one of the most profound human relationships with Jesus. He was there through the entire four year public ministry, through Christ's death, and then as an eye-witness of Christ's resurrection. Along with James and Peter he was one of the only disciples privileged to see Jesus taken up into the air, appearing with Moses and Elijah.

Close Quarters in the book of John!

To have your eyes see what John saw must have been incredible! "Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

Notice John says, "Many other signs ...not written;" but "these are written." John has made his selections. But what is the significance of the signs as John saw it? These signs were selected to produce conviction "that you may believe," as well as a spiritual result, "and that believing you may have life." John chooses eight of Jesus' 33 or so recorded miracles or signs for his Gospel:

1. Water to Wine, Chapter 2 Sadness to Gladness
2. Healing of Nobleman's Son, Chapter 4 Disease to Health
3. Curing of Bethesda Paralytic, Chapter 5 Paralysis to Energy
4. Feeding of 5,000, Chapter 6 Hunger to Fullness
5. Walking on Water, Chapter 6 Agitation to Tranquility
6. Sight to Blind Man, Chapter 9 Darkness to Light
7. Raising of Lazarus, Chapter 11..... Death to Life
8. Miraculous Catch of Fish, Chapter 21 Failure to Success

These eight signs certainly provide proof that Jesus is God. In the words of Nicodemus "no man can do these miracles you are doing unless God is with him." (John 3:2) There was no doubt for John about what he saw - he could reach out and touch them all!

Open your heart as you read!

The Lord Jesus provided ample evidence that He was God. Faith in Christ involves experiencing Christ. Do you know your Creator? Jesus alone is the focus of our faith. In what ways can a person "experience God?" In what ways are you experiencing God?

In Focus

Matthew opens with a revelation of Jesus the King and closes with our response of obedience, as well as the blind rejection of the Jews. Mark begins with a revelation of Divine action through miracles and closes with reproach for the disciples' hard-hearted faith (16:14). Luke reviews in chronological detail the events of Christ's human birth and closes with heart-felt revelation through the Scriptures (24:32, 44, 45).

John opens with a distinct discussion of Jesus' before the dawn of time existence and closes with stunning reflection on the miraculous earthly wonders and works of the Master. Matthew reveals His true authority to rule (7:28,29; 28:18) and Mark reveals His true right to reign (3:22-30; 4:41). Luke amplifies His true authority to "buy back" souls (Hebrews 4:14-16) and John casts His true authority to reject all but true belief (20:28, 29)!

The Word Revealed

Read Chapters 1-4

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
1		
2		
3		
4		

The following study questions will help you to dig deeply into the meaning of the book of John!

Chapter 1

1. Who is the "Word" and why do you think this name is given to Him?
2. What do you think that it meant to "receive" Him? (vs. 12)
3. Why do you think that John the Baptist called Jesus the "Lamb"?
4. How do you think John viewed Jesus?

Chapter 2

1. What does Jesus mean by His statement in verse 4?
2. What insights about the "temple" do we receive from John when compared to the other gospel writers? What does this tell us about the nature of John's writing and the unique insights he provides?

Chapter 3

1. How did Jesus treat Nicodemus? What do Nicodemus' questions reveal about him?
2. Describe being "born again" in your own words.
What is the difference between being born of water and being born of the Spirit?
3. What was John the Baptist's chief purpose in relationship to Jesus?

Chapter 4

1. Why didn't Jesus baptize people?
2. In what way does Jesus administer the "living water"?
3. What kind of food sustained Jesus?

My thoughts and perspective about being born again:

The Living River Flows!

Read Chapters 5-8

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
5		
6		
7		
8		

Chapter 5

1. Read the account of the handicapped man at Bethsaida, putting yourself in his place. What feelings would you have experienced?
2. Jesus reviews a series of witnesses to the truth. Who are they and in what way do they provide testimony?

Chapter 6

1. There are two kinds of bread mentioned in this chapter. What are they and in what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different?
2. What was the "hard saying" which drove many away?

Chapter 7

1. Note verse 15. Where and how was Jesus educated?
2. What was He looking for in verse 24?
3. Note the insight of John (37-39). How do rivers of water flow inside of a person?
4. Summarize the controversy over who Jesus was.

Chapter 8

1. Why didn't Jesus condemn this adulterous woman? Note 3:16-21 for some help.
2. Why was the phrase "His hour had not yet come" so important to John (8:20)?
3. How is the Son of man lifted up? (8:28) Also note 3:14.
4. Why had Abraham not set the Jews free?

My thoughts about Jesus' value system and "hard sayings:"

Amazing Miracles

Read Chapters 9-12

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
9		
10		
11		
12		

Chapter 9

This is a chapter dealing with the subject of spiritual blindness.

1. What do you learn about the Pharisee's compassion for the people they oversee?
2. What did it mean to be "put out" of the synagogue? (22, 34, 35)
3. What do you feel is the greatest barrier in dealing with a person's spiritual blindness?

Chapter 10

1. What distinguishes a sheep who belongs to Christ?
2. In what ways do you feel the analogy fits people? Fits you?

Chapter 11

1. What do you learn about Jesus' personal relationships from this chapter?
2. How do you feel about what happened to Lazarus? Do you believe it really happened? Why or why not?

Chapter 12

1. What did the interaction with the "Greeks" (vs.20) have to do with Jesus' statement in vs. 23?
2. Note the repeated statement in vs. 32! Where have we seen it before?
3. Why do you think Jesus called Himself the "Light?"

My thoughts about death-raising power and what it has to do with me:

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		

Chapter 13

1. Why did Jesus choose to wash His follower's feet? What does this tell you about who Jesus was? Why was it so hard for Peter to accept having Jesus wash his feet?
2. Why would you give the money box to a thief?
3. What was to distinguish Jesus' followers over everyone else?

Chapter 14

1. What do you think "disclosure" meant? What was the Holy Spirit's role?
2. Why was it important for Jesus' disciples to understand that the Father was greater than Jesus?

Chapter 15

1. How does someone "lay down his life" for his friends?
2. How have you seen someone else set themselves aside for your welfare?
3. What more do you learn about the Holy Spirit from this chapter?

Chapter 16

1. What were the prospects for the future popularity for the disciples?
2. What more do you learn about the Holy Spirit from this chapter?
3. Why was it necessary for the disciples to be scattered?

Chapter 17

1. What are the specific requests Jesus makes concerning His "followers?"
2. How long has the Father loved the Son and how is this possible?

My thoughts about closeness to Christ in my own life:

God is Giving Himself!

Read Chapters 18-21

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
18		
19		
20		
21		

Chapter 18

1. 18:6 is curious. Why did this happen and why do you think John recorded it inasmuch as no other Gospel writers did?
2. What is Jesus' attitude toward the religious and political leaders He stands before?

Chapter 19

1. Why did Jesus say what He said about His mother as He was dying?
2. Who was "the disciple whom Jesus loved?"

Chapter 20

1. Why were the disciples to refrain from clinging to Christ?
2. Why was Thomas permitted to place His hand in Christ's side?

Chapter 21

1. Why was it hard for the disciples to recognize Jesus after He was raised from the dead?
2. We have about 40 days of accounts of Jesus' 3 year public ministry where He was teaching and performing signs and wonders. How many books would it take to hold ALL of the things that the writer of this Gospel observed firsthand?

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

The flavor and insight of John's gospel is totally unique! Which gospel speaks most directly to you at this point in your life? Do you feel you have embraced Jesus as the Son of God? What does the Gospel of John uniquely add to your picture of Christ?

GOD IS WITH US!

The name Immanuel means "God with us." "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."
- Isaiah 7:14 (Matthew 1:23)

One common misconception about Jesus Christ is that Christianity (and Christ) originated 2000 years ago. The Scriptures make it absolutely clear that the Hebrew God (Yahweh) is the same God as the Son (Jesus Christ), and as such, has always existed. Jesus was killed because He claimed to be the Son of God. He was raised from the dead because He is the Son of God Who came to accomplish His Father's will.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the Word was God." With these words John begins his gospel and gives his resounding belief that the incarnation (God becoming man) was not the beginning, but a continuation of the Son's devotion to His Father. John believed that Jesus had always existed.

Psalm 2:12

What is to be our response to the Son?

John 1:15,30

This seems like a curious statement in that John the Baptist is physically older than Jesus. What do you think he meant?

In what ways do you feel God is with you?

How does He (and has He) "shown up" in your life?

Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son?

You may wish to read **Hebrews 1-2** and take a look at all of the things God says about His Son. Obviously, this is something more than a metaphor!

Take a look at **John 5:25-47** and **Revelation 1:12-20; 19:6-21** for a more complete picture of God's Son. Thank goodness He is with us and not against us!

4 LIKE GOD SPEAKS TO HIS FRIEND

Moses had a special relationship with the Living God (Exodus 33:11). He not only knew God face to face but he apparently was part of a select group who were allowed to draw very near to God.

What **value** do you suppose such friendship had for Jesus' disciples? For men like Elijah and Samuel? The apostle Paul?

At one point King David comes "before the Lord" and talks like he is speaking with his friend (2 Samuel 7:18). Do you feel this comfortable or **familiar** in God's presence?

"And Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God." (James 2:23) Do you feel you are a friend of God? Why or why not?

How does Jesus feel about friendship?

"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. - John 15:15 How do you feel about your friendship with God?

How does God feel about being friends with the world?

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. - James 4:4

2 Corinthians 3:12-18 talks about the special friendship we can enjoy with God. What do you think about this passage?

Apparently humans have a great capacity for friendship (1 Samuel 18:1). How do you think this kind of friendship develops? Who would you count among your closest friends and why? Would God make the list?

Here are some insights on friendship from Psalms and Proverbs:
What do you see?!

Psalms

41:9

5:13

88:18

Proverbs

7:4

7:17

18:24

19:4

19:6

22:11

27:6

27:9,10