



Gospel of John 1-12

Introduction to John 1

The first chapter of John's gospel sets the stage for the whole account of Jesus in the rest of the book. Here we learn of the character and purpose of Jesus in relation to the creation—including us.

John the Baptist identifies Jesus (*the Word who became flesh*), as the means through which God would remove the world's sin.

Finally, after His baptism He calls His first disciples.

A. Jesus

1. It's all about Him: The entire first chapter is a treasure trove of truth about Jesus the Messiah. In the prologue John presents Jesus as the eternal, preexistent, now incarnate Word and as the one-of-a-kind Son of the Father who is himself God.

2. He is revealed: The prologue introduces many of the major themes developed later in the Gospel:

- (a) Jesus as the life :4
- (b) Jesus as the light :5-9)
- (c) Jesus as the truth :14, 16-17
- (d) Believers as God's children :12-13

B. John the Baptist

1. John and John the Baptist: John the Baptizer is always referred to as merely "John." John the author of this Gospel, John the disciple, calls himself, "the disciple whom Jesus loved" *John 21:20*.

2. Who was John the Baptist? Most of what we know about the Baptist and his parents comes from Luke chapter 1. He was from a priestly line and his diet indicates that he may have been a part of the Qumran community. He ministered primarily in desert areas surrounding the Jordan valley.

3. John the Baptist as the Forerunner: The Baptist had a divine commission as the one who fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies regarding Messiah's forerunner. Isaiah predicted him (*Isa. 40:3; cf. Matt. 3:3; Mark 1:2-3*). The OT closes with Malachi's prophecy of the Elijah-like prophet to come before the Day of the Lord (*Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6*), which the angel of the Lord told Zacharias referred to John (*Luke 1:17*).

C. The First Disciples

1. Andrew, Peter and John: Verse :40 seems to indicate that John was one of the two disciples of the Baptist. The other was Andrew who went to find his brother Peter.

2. Philip and Nathanael: Both of these accounts have similar challenges from Jesus: "Come and see," or "Follow me."

NOTE: In these early 'calls' or encounters with His future disciples Jesus never asks them to believe in Him or believe a doctrine—He simply asks them to follow Him. Those who kept company with him usually arrived at a vital personal faith. It is never faith in a doctrine or religion, but in a person.

Jesus' call is still the same, "Follow Me."

John Chapter 1 Outline

A. The Prologue 1:1-18

1. The Deity of Christ

John 1:1-2 — He was in the beginning.

2. The Preincarnate Work of Christ

John 1:3-5 — All things were made through Him. *Col 1:15-17*

3-The Forerunner of Christ

John 1:6-8 — John the Baptist announces that Jesus is the Light.

4-The Rejection of Christ

John 1:9-11 — The world He made and the people He made did not receive Him.

5-The Acceptance of Christ

John 1:12-13 — But some will receive Him and become the children of God.

6-The Incarnation of Christ

John 1:14-18 — Jesus is born in the flesh and lives among us and we behold His glory.

B. The New Has Come 1:19-51

1-John's Witness to the Priests and Levites

John 1:19-28 — John clarifies who he IS and who he is NOT and hints at who it is that comes after him.

2-John's Witness at Christ's Baptism

John 1:29-34 — Behold the Lamb of God!!! John see's the Holy Spirit descend.

3-Andrew and Peter Follow Christ

John 1:35-42 — Come and see...

4.Philip and Nathanael Follow Christ

John 1:43-51 — Come and see...