

John– The Book of Christ the Son of God

Introduction

The name John means “grace of the Lord”. John is known as “the beloved disciple” (13:23) and as one of the “Sons of Thunder” (Mk. 3:17). John owned a fishing business with Peter and his father (Mttw. 4:21), was a man of means who owned his own home and had hired servants (Mk 1:19), and was originally a disciple of John the Baptist (Luke 1:36). He was the only disciple present at the crucifixion (19:26), outran Peter to the empty tomb, and was the first to recognize the risen Savior in Galilee (20:1-4). After the ascension of Jesus, John became a pastor to seven churches and was later banished to the island of Patmos where he wrote the book of Revelation. He was the only disciple not to suffer martyrdom and next to Paul was the leading writer of the New Testament books.

The Gospel of John completes the picture of Jesus Christ. In the other 3 gospels we learned what He was and now John presents the completion of who He was. The other 3 are a presentation of Christ – John is an interpretation of Christ. The earlier 3 are concerned with Jesus public words while John majors on His private conversations and thoughts. The book is written almost as if John sat down with the 3 earlier gospels and decided to write another that included everything that they had not recorded. 90% of the material is John is new.

Key Verse: - 20:31 – *“But 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.”*

Key Chapter: Chapter 1 – *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

The Message of John – Christ – The Son of God

1. The Signs of the Son of God (1-12) – His Public Ministry

A. His Deity is Declared

- **By His Birth** - Jesus is not introduced as one from the line of David as in Matthew, or along the banks of the river as in Mark, or even in a manger as in Luke. Jesus is introduced from the beginning of time as the Creator – God Almighty Himself.
- **By His Signs** – John contains no parables or exorcisms. John gives us seven signs that prove that Jesus is the Son of God
 1. Turning Water into Wine (2:1-11)
 2. Healing of the Official’s Son (4:46-54)
 3. Healing of Lame Man at Gate (5:1-18)
 4. Feeding of the 5000 (6:1-14)
 5. Walking on Water (6:15-21)
 6. Healing of the Blind Man (9:1-41)
 7. Raising of Lazarus (11:1-57)
- **By His Names – Jesus reveals His deity in seven I AM statements**
 1. I AM the bread of life (6:35)
 2. I AM the light of the world (8:12)
 3. Before Abraham was, I AM (8:58)
 4. I AM the Good Shepherd (10:11)
 5. I AM the resurrection and the life (11:25)
 6. I AM the way, the truth, and the life (14:6)
 7. I AM the true vine (15:1)

B. His Deity is Disputed

It is amazing that in this book that is all about believing in Jesus that there are so many people who do not believe. Jesus' claim to be the Son of God was rejected by his own brothers (7:5), some of His original followers (6:66), the Pharisees and religious leaders (7:32, 11:47-57, 12:37), and the Jewish people in general (5:16, 8:57-58, 10:31-33).

2. The Secrets of the Son of God (13-17) – His Private Ministry

A. The Talk in the Upper Room (13-14)

Jesus as God stoops down and washes the dirty feet of his creation to show how much He loves them. He then promises his true followers both eternal life (14:1-6) and peace (14:25-31).

B. The Walk on the Gethsemane Road (15-17)

Jesus teaches His disciples that He has an important mission for them to accomplish – making disciples of all nations. Jesus then tells them that they will only be successful through the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. The Sorrows of the Son of God (18 -21)

A. He is Falsely Condemned (18:1-19:15)

B. He is Finally Crucified (19:16-42)

The major addition in the book of John is the inclusion of the timing of the crucifixion so that the reader knows that Jesus died on the day during the Passover celebration that a lamb was slain for forgiveness of sin. John beautifully shows us that Jesus is the perfect Lamb that was slain to pay the price for our sins. Also note that only in John are the words recorded, "It is finished".

C. He is Fully Conqueror (20-21)

After Jesus defeated death through His resurrection He appears with His new spiritual body 10 different times. Only John records the restoration of Peter by Jesus. For every time he denied Christ, he was restored!

Personal Application:

- Do we Declare or Dispute that Jesus is the Son of God?
- Are we following the example of Christ in his humble service and are we accomplishing the mission of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Do we need to accept His forgiveness because It is Finished?