

## JESUS, LIGHT AND LIFE

By Grant Neuper  
Christian Centre Abbotsford

5 February 2023

---

### **Key verses: John 1:1-5, 14-17**

#### **Introduction**

Today we will look at the four Gospels, then the book of John; then the first part of John chapter 1 in more detail.

All the Gospels focus on Jesus and tell His story from birth to death and beyond.

#### **1. Jesus revealed in the four faces of the Gospels:**

(Ezekiel 1:10; 10:14; Revelation 4:7 - Heavenly beings – living creatures - Perfection)

##### **Matthew – The Lion**

(Matthew 1 Genealogy: of the tribe of Judah; Jewish roots)

Jewish audience

Jesus is presented as the son of David who establishes the Kingdom of heaven.

##### **Mark – The Ox**

(Mark 1 Jesus at work. v 14 Jesus is preaching / The KOG at hand / repent / believe / deliverance / healing)

Roman audience; Aramaic / Gentile converts

Jesus is presented as the Son of God who suffers to ransom others.

##### **Luke – The Man**

(Luke 1 His earthly parents. Zacharias/Elizabeth/John the Baptist; Mary/Joseph, early life as a boy, teenager; Son of Man; ends with ch 24 Emmaus Road)

Gentile audience; Samaritans and outcasts welcomed by Jesus.

Jesus is presented as the Saviour of the world, the One who came to seek the lost

##### **John – The Eagle**

(John 1 In the beginning...and the Word was God!)

Evangelism and instruction are John's motivation. He wants us to know that Jesus is God.

Jesus is presented as the Lamb of God who brings eternal life to those who believe.

#### **Why are we studying the Gospel of John?**

- Placing the focus on Jesus (every verse!)
- Seeing the Majesty of Jesus (surrender, worship, adoration, loving obedience)
- Finding intimacy with Jesus / Encounter (John had this)
- Discovering life and light in Jesus

#### **2. Themes in the Gospel of John:**

- A clear declaration of Jesus as God
- Jesus as the source of Life and Light
- Chosen incidents from His public ministry (ch.2-12)

- Ministry to the disciples leading up to His death (ch.13-20)
- Seven “I am” statements
- Seven miracles – each a sign

We encourage you to get into the Scriptures, dig deep, read and study. (Michael Eaton’s commentary on John is available to all)

#### **Four segments:**

- Prologue (1)
- Public ministry (2-12)
- Ministry to disciples & death (13-20)
- Epilogue (21)

#### **The seven “I am” statements:**

- I am the bread of life (6:35)
- I am the light of the world (8:12)
- I am the door (10:7)
- I am the good shepherd (10:11,14)
- I am the resurrection and the life (11:25)
- I am the way, the truth and the life (14:6)
- I am the true vine (15:1)

#### **The seven miracles (each a sign):**

- Jesus multiplies the loaves – He is the bread of life
- Jesus heals a man born blind – He is the light of the world
- Jesus raises Lazarus – He is the resurrection and the life
- Jesus turns water into wine – He makes grace available to all
- Jesus heals a nobleman’s son – He is not limited by time and space
- Jesus walks on water – He has power over nature and natural laws
- Jesus heals a man at the pool – He is Lord over time and disease

#### **John’s purpose in writing and choosing these signs:**

**John 20:30-31** *Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 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!*

### **3. John introduces us to Jesus**

Now that we have considered a few themes in this Gospel, and John’s purpose in writing, let’s take a closer look at how John introduces us to Jesus, as God, in John 1:1-18...

Chapter 1:1-18 is an introduction to all the themes of the book from 1:19-21:25

#### **i. Jesus is eternal**

The pre-existent Jesus: v.1 In the beginning the Word was already there...

The Word, the Son of God, had no beginning. He is as much eternal as the Father is eternal.

He is distinct from the Father and yet He Himself is divine. He is God. (John 8:58 Before Abraham was, I am)

He was in the beginning with God – not just sharing the same house, but enjoying eternal loving fellowship with one another. The Trinity, God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## **ii. Jesus is creator**

The Father and Son shared in the work of creation. The Son, the Word, was the agent of creation. When you are in the hands of Jesus, you are in the hands of the creator of the universe.

## **iii. Jesus is Life**

The Word is the source of every kind of life – the breath you have in your body; life within your soul; the life of God in your spirit; eternal life that comes with salvation. He is the source of every kind of life.

## **iv. Jesus is Light**

The Word is the source of every kind of light – seeing and observing and understanding! Sinful man's world is full of darkness, but the light is victorious over that. The light cannot be extinguished; it can only be rejected.

## **v. Jesus is the Message**

The Son of God carries this special title – The Word. He is God's way of speaking; God's way of revealing Himself; God's way of relating and communicating with us. The perfect ambassador; the perfect representative – (Col.1:15 NLT Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation.)

## **Our response to the Message**

- We can reject Him - as many did
- We can receive Him – as others did

Those who receive Him become children of God

- The Spirit of sonship (Rom.8:15,16 NIV)
- This is freely given by God

Jesus is Life; Jesus is Light. We receive life & light when we put our faith in Jesus! But we can reject Him.

John the Baptist was a forerunner; he showed us who the true light was. He was not the Messiah, but he showed us who the Lamb of God was. (v. 6-9)

Jesus was rejected by many of His own people; but in stark contrast, others put their faith in Him and something very dramatic happened to them – they became children of God. (Not religious, not church-goers, not good people – children of God.) That is a totally new identity; a new family name; a total change! A new life altogether! A new birth! We receive sonship. (v. 10-13)

**Romans 8:15-16 NIV** *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

"This new birth comes entirely from God. Even faith is nothing more than putting out an empty hand to receive what God is giving." (Michael Eaton, pg 20)

## **Our response to the Messenger**

- The Word became flesh (Mary's boy – Mt.13:55)
- He dwelt among us (see also 1 John 1:1-4)
- We have seen His glory

- Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ:
  - Of His fullness we have all received
  - He showed us the Father

The Word, the eternal Creator, the source of life, the source of light – became flesh! Incredible! v.14. The Word became flesh: He is the Word of the Father made flesh and walking amongst us (1 John 1:1-4). He took on the form of a human body. He took upon Himself the weakness of a human nature.

Think of a woman who becomes queen or a man who becomes king of his country. He does not cease to be a man; he takes on an additional title, he becomes something more than what he was. Jesus did not cease to be God; he laid aside His privileges and walked in the flesh as a human being.

We have seen His glory! He revealed the father; He showed the power, the wisdom, the purity, the full character of God. Jesus was full of grace and truth!

### **John's experience of Jesus:**

John experienced Jesus. He saw Him; he heard the Son of God speak; he watched the Word of God in action; He took on the responsibility of Jesus' earthly mother; then He understood why He came; He understood why He died; He saw Him ascend to heaven – and then He had time to reflect on all that He had experienced ... and He concluded, Jesus was God. The One that I have walked with and leaned upon and eaten with and grown weary alongside and been hungry on travels with – He was God; He is God.

What insight. What revelation. Imagine trying to pull all of these aspects of one man together... John had to make a huge transition in His thinking.

Sometimes we think it was easy... perhaps it was more difficult! (Matthew 13:55 Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?)

### **Grace and truth came through Jesus**

**John 1:16 NKJV** *And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.*

(One gracious blessing in exchange for another – the law was given by God in His grace, but now we have exchanged that for what comes through Jesus, which is grace and truth.)

What is the fullness of Jesus that we have all received?

We receive His righteousness; we share His status before God – holy, accepted, with unlimited access to the throne room. We become a 'son' of God, as Jesus is the Son of God. We receive the Holy Spirit, we have the mind of Christ. We die to our old nature and are raised to a new life in Christ. We share in His glory. When He comes back in glory, we will come with Him. His heavenly home becomes ours to share with Him eternally.

And of His fullness, we have all received, and grace for grace...

**John 1:17 NKJV** *For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

The law was *given*; grace and truth *came*. Jesus was the grace of God in human form. Jesus is the ultimate truth of God.

Jesus is the complete expression and visible image of the invisible God. As we get to know Him, we get to know the Father.

**John 1:18 NKJV** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

No one has ever seen God. But God the One and Only (The only begotten Son) Who is at the Father's side / who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him / has made Him known (has manifest Him) = explained / related / declared fully (exegesis). To unpack something.

## **Conclusion:**

### **How well do you know Jesus?**

Are you a -

- "Well-weathered" saint
- New believer
- Enquirer?

Isn't it time to join in as we dig into this book that John wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to give us the revelation of Jesus as eternal; Jesus as God; Jesus as Creator; Jesus as Life; Jesus as Light; Jesus as the message/messenger/full revelation of the Father?

---

## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

1. When you think of Jesus, do you think of Him starting out life in Bethlehem or do you think of Him as being in amazing fellowship with the Father and the Holy Spirit from eternity past?
2. When you think about the creation of the world, do you think of Jesus as an active role player or just of the Spirit moving over the waters and the Father speaking 'Let there be...?'
3. What aspect of the person of Jesus that John introduces us to in chapter 1:1-18 is particularly striking to you and why?
4. What can you do practically to get to know Jesus better?
5. How can we encourage one another in our exploration of the Gospel according to John?