

From the Garden to Glory

John

Author: John, one of the twelve apostles

Written to: the world

Timeline: c. 27 - 30 A.D.

Theme: The Deity of Christ

Purpose of writing: that all would know and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing in Him they might have life in His name (John 20:31)

Introduction:

John referred to himself as *the disciple whom Jesus loved* (21:7) and was probably the youngest of the twelve disciples called by Jesus. John knew Jesus not only as his Lord but also as his friend. John portrayed the deity of Christ, presenting Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus' deity was portrayed through seven "I AM" statements which revealed His divine nature (6:35, 8:12, 8:58, 10:11, 11:25, 14:6 and 15:1). John's purpose for writing was that his readers would *believe*. The word *believe* is used almost one hundred times in John's Gospel; the most well-known being the sixteenth verse of chapter three: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

As we begin our study of the book of John consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. John states his purpose for writing his gospel in John 20:31. Rewrite this verse in your own words. What has believing this meant in your own life?

2. John portrays Jesus as the Son of God and the theme of his gospel is the deity of Christ. Look up the word *deity* and write the definition.

3. Read the following verses: John 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 20. How does John refer to himself in these verses? How do *you* describe yourself in relationship to the Lord?

Christ Became Flesh

Read John 1:1-51

1. Read verses 1-5 slowly and carefully. *The Word* refers to Jesus. Comment on each of these statements about our Lord Jesus Christ:
 - 1:1 *The Word* was from the beginning--Jesus Christ is eternal.

 - 1:1-2 *The Word* was with God--Jesus Christ is distinct from God the Father and yet at the same time is one with Him.

 - 1:1 *The Word* was God--Jesus Christ is God Himself.

 - 1:3 All things were made through *the Word*--Jesus Christ is the Creator of everything.

 - 1:4 In *the Word* was life and that life was the light of men--Jesus Christ is the source of all life and light whether spiritual or material.

2. Meditate on these words from verse 14: *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us*. How does this add to your understanding of the incredible sacrifice that our Lord Jesus Christ made?

3. Read verse 14 once more. John described Jesus as *full of grace and truth*. Look up these words in a dictionary and write the definitions.

- grace
- truth

Christ So Loved

Read John 3:1-36

1. Look at verses 3-8. How would you explain the concept of being *born again* to an unbeliever?
2. Set aside time to get alone with the Lord today and meditate on John 3:16-17. Ask the Lord to enable you to see this verse in a fresh way. Write down anything He shows you. Thank Him and praise Him for His marvelous love.
3. Read verse 30. How do you make the truth of this verse a reality in your own life?

Christ Satisfies

Read John 4:1-54

1. Read verses 10-15. The metaphor of *living water* speaks of the cleansing and transforming power of the Holy Spirit with which the Lord blesses us as we come to know Him and experience His grace. How have you experienced this *living water* in your own life?

2. Jesus said *true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth* (verse 23). What does this mean? How do *you* do this?

3. Look at verses 27-38 concentrating on verse 34. Obedience to the Father's will was not merely a duty or pleasure for Jesus; it was a basic need. How do *you* view the Lord's will for your life? How can your attitude toward the Father's will be more like the one Jesus expressed in this verse?

Christ, the Bread of Life

Read John 6:1-59

1. Look at verses 26-27. Jesus exhorted the people because they were more motivated by physical food than by the spiritual desire to know Him. What superficial (physical or material) things in our world can be a hindrance to intimacy with the Lord? How do you avoid these in your own life?

2. In verse 29 Jesus told the crowds: *This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.* When did you first believe in Jesus? List one way your life has changed since that time.

3. Read verse 35. How were you *starving and famished* before coming to know Jesus Christ as the *bread of life*? How has He satisfied your deepest hunger?

Christ, the Light of the World

Read John 9:1-41

1. Read verses 1-3. The disciples assumed that the man's blindness was the result of sin in either the man's life or in his parents' life. Although suffering may be the result of sin, this is not always the case. What do you learn about suffering from these verses? Share a time in your life when you saw the works of God revealed in the life of someone who was suffering.
2. In verse 5 Jesus proclaimed that as long as He is in the world, He is *the light of the world*. Make a list of the characteristics of light. How is Jesus the light of *your* life?
3. Consider the words of the blind man in verse 25: *One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see*. What is one area of your life where *you* were blind but now you see?

Christ, Our Shepherd

Read John 10:1-42

1. Look at verse 10b. Look up the word *abundant* in a dictionary. How has your relationship with the Lord caused your life to be an *abundant* one?
2. In verse 11 Jesus said that He was the *good shepherd*. Sheep by nature are naive, directionless, defenseless and in need of constant care. How has your Good Shepherd provided for you as one of His sheep in the following areas?
 - led you

- guided you
- protected you
- cared for you

3. Read verses 25-30. What do you learn about your Good Shepherd from these verses? How does this impact your life?

Christ Promises the Comforter

Read John 14:1-31

1. Look at verses 1-4. How is your heart *troubled* today? How are these words of our Lord an encouragement to you?
2. After you have read verse 26 from The Amplified Bible, look up each of the words that describe the Holy Spirit. Make a note of what each one means and how it encourages you.

But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name (in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf), He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.

Comforter:

Counselor:

Helper:

Intercessor:

Advocate:

Strengtheners:

Standby:

3. In verse 27 Jesus tells His followers that He does not give peace as the world gives it. How does the world attempt to give peace? How is the peace that the Lord provides different from that of the world? List one area of your life where you have experienced the Lord's peace.

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of John consider the following questions and write your answer:

1. What is the most significant thing that you have learned from your study about the Lord, His character, or His attributes? How does this encourage you? Take a few moments to thank and praise the Lord for the things that you learned about Him.
2. What is the most important lesson or new insight that you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?