



INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, PART I



I. John's purpose in writing

“And many other signs did Jesus in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book.

But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through his name”-John 20:30 & 31.

Note: The 3 underlined verbs in verse 31 are present tense verbs.

Therefore, John is writing to Christians, and he is telling them they must keep on trusting and obeying the Lord, and they will keep on having life through his name!!

Counting the resurrection of Christ, there are 9 miracles recorded in John's gospel.

Note the statement in John 21:25,

“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they were all written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”

Christ's ministry lasted about 1277 days. If he worked a miracle only once every other day, He would have performed about 638 miracles!

THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST WERE/ARE DEMONSTRATIONS OF DIETY!!

II. The human writer of the gospel of John

A. By tradition, it is assumed that John the apostle, brother of James, and son of Zebedee was the writer.

B. The writer is called, “The disciple whom Jesus loved”-see 13:23; 19:26; 20:2 & 8; and 21:7 & 20.

C. If the assumption is made that Peter, James, and John were the “inner three” of the Lord, James is ruled out because he was beheaded by Herod in about 44AD-Acts 12:1 & 2. Peter is also ruled out because of the statement in John 13:23 & 24.

Note: I’ve never known of anyone to make any kind of serious objection to John the apostle being the human author!

If it is assumed that John the apostle wrote the gospel of John, Revelation, and I, II, & III John, he was the author of 50 NT chapters!

III. The troublesome and very trying times of John

A. Many would profess to be Christ and deceive, or lead many astray-Matthew 24:5.

B. Jesus warned His disciples that they would be hated-Matthew 24:9 & 10.

C. Many would be offended, or stumble (skandalisthesontai, “fall away”)-Matthew 24:10.

D. Iniquity would abound and the love of many would wax cold-Matthew 24:12.

E. Great tribulation (thlipsis, “pressure, compression, straitness; severe pressure from evils and distress) would come-Matthew 24:21. God’s people during this period of time were in Satan’s vise and he tightened it severely upon them!

F. Many false Christs and false prophets would arise to lead astray the very elect-Matthew 24:24.

G. Some would be killed-Matthew 24:9.

H. Study also the parallel accounts in Mark 13; Luke 17 & 21.

This very difficult period lasted about 40 years!

Question: Do we have things like this happening in America today? If so, God's people need the message of John to prevent their love from waxing cold and falling away from the Lord!!

V. The gospel of John gives us an exegesis of God!

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him”-John 1:1, 14, & 18.

The word “declared” (exegeomai, English, exegesis) means to “bring out, unfold, explain, or make known.”

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: SOME PEOPLE HAVE SEEN GOD!

1. Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, seventy elders, and the nobles of the children of Israel saw God-Exodus 24:9-11.

2. Isaiah saw the Lord-Isaiah 6:1.

3. Paul saw the Lord-Acts 22:14.

BUT GOD SAID, *“Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live”*-Exodus 33:20.

I like to throw out challenges every now and then! It is challenging to reconcile these scriptures!

Don't fall into the trap of accepting one, but not the other/others!

IV. Please note the very powerful opening statement in John!

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

The statement means that at the time of creation, Christ as the eternal Word already existed, and He was with God, and He was God!

The Greek word for God is Theos, and has reference to the true and living God, who is the Almighty and Supreme God.

One of the key characteristics of God is His eternality, and He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and present everywhere!

Jesus said to Thomas, “*He that hath seen me hath seen the Father*”-John 14:9.

Afterwards He gave a gentle rebuke to Thomas by saying, “*How sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*”

Jesus was saying to Thomas and the rest of the apostles, “Don’t you understand yet that everything you see and hear me do is an explanation of the Father?”

Brethren, whatever we learn of the Lord Jesus Christ in the NT is an explanation of the Father. Jesus came to show us the Father!

Examples:

1. When the Lord healed the nobleman's son, He was revealing, showing, explaining, and making known both the power of God, and the compassion of God!

2. When Jesus figuratively "ripped the hide" off of the hypocritical scribes, and Pharisees per the record in Matthew 23, He was explaining how God would have dealt with those false teachers and hypocrites!

Story of the lady I talked to Friday.

3. *"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you (umas, plural), that he may sift you as wheat.*

But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted strengthen thy brethren"-Luke 22:31 & 32.

The word “sift” means that Satan tried the apostles severely that day with the intent of causing them to fall away!

Though they stumbled, their faith wasn't eclipsed, and they returned to faithfulness and served the Lord faithfully!

One of the reasons the Lord was exceeding sorrowful that night was the fact the Lord knew all the apostles would forsake Him and flee; but He loved them, had faith in them, and prayed for them that they wouldn't fall away!

Jesus was “showing the Father” to the apostles, AND, to you and me today!

**IT IS VITAL THAT CHRISTIANS KNOW
THAT WHATEVER CHRIST SAID AND DID
DURING HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY WAS AN
EXEGETIC OF THE FATHER!**

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHATEVER
YOU DO, DON'T EVER GIVE UP TRYING
TO FINISH YOUR WALK WITH GOD!**