

SALVATION IS FOR BELIEVERS

JOHN

Whereas Matthew wrote especially to the Jews, Mark to the Romans, and Luke to the Greeks and all Gentiles, John reflected on why Christ came—for the whole world to hear! Matthew, Mark and Luke are referred to as the “synoptic” or “parallel” gospels, and gave complementary accounts of the life on earth of Christ. John, on the other hand, explained the person of the Divine Christ, His oneness with the Father God, and the successive roles of the Holy Spirit.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Read John 1:1-18—The Word Became Flesh

a. What meanings might “Word” have?

b. How did the Word become flesh?

c. Compare 1:1-3 to Heb. 13:8 and Rev. 1:8, 22:13.

2. Read John 3:1-8—Born Again of Water, Spirit

- a. In your own words, compare physical birth to spiritual rebirth.

- b. Read 1 Pet. 1:3, 23. Compare Peter's and John's descriptions.

3. Read John 3:16-21—God So Loved the World

- a. What is the result of God's love for His world?

- b. Who will be saved? Who will come into the light? Compare also 2 Pet. 3:9.

4. Read John 4:31-38—One Sows, Another Reaps

What are the gospel roles of the sower and reaper?

5. Read John 5:37-47—Searching the Scriptures

- a. What are some of the reasons the Jews did not believe Jesus?

- b. What is the purpose Jesus gives for the Scriptures?

6. Read John 6:26-40—I Am the Bread of Life

What is the “food that endures to eternal life”? What is the will of God, according to verse 40?

7. Read John 10:1-9 and 14:1-7—The Good Shepherd’s Door; The Way, Truth and Life

Compare the door (or gate) to the “way” to the Father. What is the only way to the Father?

8. Read John 11:17-27—The Resurrection and Life

Compare Lazarus’ resurrection with Jesus’ promises.

9. Read John 14:15-26 and 16:4-15—Jesus Promised to Send the Holy Spirit

a. What are some of the roles of the Holy Spirit?

b. When did Jesus send the Holy Spirit for His believers?

10. Read John 15:12-19—Jesus Chose His Own

According to verse 16, who chooses servants of God?

11. Read John 19:38-42, 20:1-29—Burial, Resurrection and Empty Tomb: Christ Is Alive!

a. Who brought Jesus for burial? (See also 3:1-15.)

b. Which two disciples ran to the tomb? Who was fastest? Who stated his confession of belief?

c. How did Jesus prove Himself to Mary? To Thomas?

*LESSON 19 SUMMARY***SALVATION IS FOR BELIEVERS**

JOHN

In Him Was Life Created—the Light of Men

John, the last gospel sequentially and the last written, draws mainly on explanations, discussions and events not found in the other gospels. John proves to his readers that Jesus is God, flesh, the Word for the earth's people, and a sacrifice for believers to have life in His name.

John's three letters and Revelation were written after this gospel, dating it around 70-90 A.D. (See Appendix VI, page 257.) This makes John one of the last surviving eyewitnesses of the Lord. This gospel has the clearest purpose stated of any in the Bible, "*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,*" (John 20:31).

John's key word is "*believe,*" which requires both knowledge, "*you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free,*" (John 8:32) and response, "*to all...who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,*" (John 1:12). Therefore, if you want to understand the meaning of life, and receive grace to have it eternally, you will find in John's gospel these truths most directly from Jesus Christ.

CONSIDER how God gave Christ's Light as salvation for believers to have Life in His name. As we walk in His Light we shine His blessings as promised through Abraham, the patriarchs and the prophets. Consider how

the Old Covenant promised that we receive God's blessings and then give them to others as a blessing. Consider daily to whom you might pass a blessing of Christ in the name of your Christ Redeemer and Savior.

Christ Was Here From the Beginning

Like no other Bible writer, John gives us the “big picture” of the Creator God’s purpose and relationship to the Son’s Light and Word for the world. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*... *“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth,”* (John 1:1-5, 12-14).

The Word, Jesus Christ, is God’s mouthpiece for His created. The Son of God became man—and is for us the Son of Man. In this divine combination we can relate with and learn from God (2 Tim. 3:16).

Jesus explained being “*born again*” while teaching Nicodemus (John 3). Jesus told him, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* (John 3:3). Jesus continued, *“that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him,”* (John 3:15-17). This dialogue helps to clarify and explain the purpose of life itself.

Jesus later met the Samaritan woman at the well and told her all that she ever did (John 4). And so, she told others, *“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”* John summarized

this saying, *“Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, ‘He told me all that I ever did.’”*

He asked them to reap what has already been sown (John 4). When his disciples asked Him to eat, He said His food was *“to do the will”* of His Father, by His authority (John 5). After feeding over 5,000 people (John 6) with five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus dealt with the peoples’ desires for signs and temporal sustenance. He walked on water to get their attention.

Christ Describes Himself with the “I Am” Series

John recorded a series of Jesus’ *“I Am”* self-identifying statements. The first was, *“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”* (John 6:22-35).

In the second, Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”* (John 8:12). The Pharisees argued His authority for such a statement, and Jesus clarified His relation to God, and their lack thereof. He said *“I am the Door, I came that they might have life; and I am the Good Shepherd”* (John 10:1-12). He then said, *“I and the Father are one, and the Jews took up stones again to stone him,”* (John 10:30).

Before raising Lazarus from the dead, He prophesied, *“I am the resurrection and the life”* (John 11). When Jesus had entered Jerusalem, He told them that the hour had come for the Son of Man to be glorified (John 12), and that *“Some love to praise men more than God.”*

Jesus gave the people a view of the heaven where He was going and would prepare for them places. He described his Father’s house *“with many rooms,”* and told them to believe as the way to find it (John 14). *“Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’... ‘Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works,’”* (John 14:5-6, 10).

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His disciples and He offered to pray on each person's behalf to the Father (John 14). Each would receive the Holy Spirit as their Helper, as the Spirit is constantly with each believer, and is convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 14-17).

Jesus said, *"I am the true vine, ... If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you,"* (John 15). He added, *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."*

Jesus' final days on earth were a combination of proving His identity, and fulfilling prophesies of His death and resurrection. As He was arrested He said, *"Whom do you seek?" They answered him, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus said to them, 'I am he.'"* (John 18:4-5).

The Crucified Christ Lives and Saves!

After Peter denied Christ, they brought Jesus to Pilate at the governor's headquarters. *"Pilate said to him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king.' ... Pilate said to him, 'What is truth?' After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, 'I find no guilt in him.'"* Following this testimony and judgment, Pilate sought to release Him back to the Jews. They demanded that He be crucified (John 19). He died and was buried in a tomb authorized by Pilate.

The risen Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene and then to the disciples in Jerusalem. A few days later, Thomas was with them all when Jesus said, *"Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'"* (John 20:27-28).

CONSIDER how God used unbelievers, doubters and believers all to prove the Christ's identity. Consider the wonderful news to many of the Redeemer's resurrection!
