

Week one of John October 11 and October 18, 2010

Author of the gospel of John-the Apostle John, is not to be confused with John the Baptist. John referred to himself as “the disciple Jesus loved”

Time of writing-about 80 AD, was after all the other New Testament books were completed. The three other gospels had been completed years before and give the details of Jesus life, Luke’s is chronological.

John’s gospel had purpose:

JOHN 20:30,31 “THEREFORE MANY OTHER SIGNS JESUS ALSO PERFORMED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE DISCIPLES, WHICH ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK; BUT THESE HAVE BEEN WRITTEN SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD AND THAT BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME.

John’s emphasis is on the deity of Christ and he set out to prove it by recording the signs or miracles of Jesus. We will keep looking at these signs remembering their purpose is to cause us to believe in Jesus to eternal life.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God, the same was in the beginning with God, That is, In the beginning of the universe and before. Three times we have the term, “the word” in this first verse. It is a name for the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Word of God, the Revelation of God, and Manifestation of God. It is right that the same term is used for Christ and the Bible. Christ was “in the beginning with God” and in the Word of the Scriptures it says; “forever, O Lord, thy Word is settled in heaven”.

Why did John call Jesus “the Word”, what does that mean? It is the Greek word, Logos, and the meaning of “logos” is “all truth and everything that can be known” or “the reason for all things”. The Hebrew meaning of “logos” is revelation.

Christ and the Word of God stand or fall together. No one who refuses the Bible as God’s Word can trust Christ as Savior. To refuse one is to refuse the other. Both Scripture and Christ are the eternal Word of God.

Jesus was in the beginning with God and He was God. He took on human flesh-incarnation-at a specific time, in a specific place, in order to reveal God to man and to provide the final perfect sacrifice for sin. We celebrate this incarnation event every year at Christmas. He will come again to judge the world, He will rule eternally.

V4 in Him was Life and the life was the Light of men- This word Light “Zoë” in the Greek means-spiritual or eternal life. There is a difference between life of men

and life in animals-people is eternal. Jesus contains the life which can be received into us by faith and cause us to live eternally in heaven with Him. There is no way anyone can have eternal life except by coming to Jesus. In Acts Peter says; Salvation is found in no other". Jesus is the Light of the world. Later in Chapter 14 John quoted Jesus saying: I am the Way the Truth and the Life, no man comes to the Father except by Me. This Greek word light or "phos" means; truth or knowledge with spiritual purity, another meaning of this word is "the power of understanding"

V5 - The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it.- later on John 3:19 will tell us that people love darkness because their deeds are evil. This word "darkness" this is a Greek word meaning "ignorance of divine things and the wickedness associated with it." Wickedness is a word we don't hear much anymore but we do see plenty of wickedness all around us. We just call it something else to make it seem not so bad. God never minces words, "He tells it like it is". Those who are spiritually blind and living in darkness can have their eyes opened and witness His powerful light. The Light of the world exposes our real problem: the darkness of our sin and our need for a Savior. Isn't it exciting to see the truth in God's Word? Here we see our God in 3 persons, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in the beginning creating an incredible universe for us to see and earth to enjoy. That creation plan included Light and eternal life for us in heaven with Him.

Let's consider what we have learned:

First, what do we know about the Word?

He was in the beginning with God,

He is God, He is Creator,

He is Life; He is the Light that shines in the darkness.

Then the Word became flesh and what do we know about that?

What was Mary told about Jesus: He will be called the Son of the Most High, He will be called the Son of God, He will be conceived by the Holy Spirit, His Name will be Jesus, He will save His people from their sins.

What was Joseph told about Jesus? He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, His Name would be Jesus-He will save His people from their sins. This is inductive bible study.

What did we learn about the Light? Jesus is the Light of men. In Psalm 27:1 We read "the Lord is my light and my salvation Psalm 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light Psalm 119:105 Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

From cover to cover the Bible is the story of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Light who brings Light and Life to us.

There is no other Name given under heaven by which you must be saved.