

The Book of John - Introduction 2



Introduction - Last week, we looked at the Apostle John Himself. This week we will continue the introduction to the book of John by surveying the book itself.

John Philips said this, *“John had known all the apostles, all the disciples, all the early members of the church. He was a charter member, now the last one left. He had seen the church grow from 120 to over 3,000 in a single day. He had seen it take root and spread, until now, near the end of the first century, its branches were reaching all the world. No living man knew that story better than he.”*

John the Apostle presents the truth concerning the Lord Jesus Christ: He is fully God and fully man. As we have discovered, John the Apostle is unique. The book of John likewise is unique.

The book of John is 21 chapters in length. **28 – Matthew; 16 – Mark; 24 - Luke**

Matthew, Mark, and Luke are what has been termed the synoptic Gospel records. Each of these records are significant. God has given us the exact revelation we need of His Son in these records.

J. Sidlow Baxter said this concerning the differing Gospel records:

In **Matthew**, we have impressionist groupings.

In **Mark**, a rapid succession of camera-shots.

In **Luke**, a beautifully unfolding story.

In **John**, everything subserves the development of certain recurrent ideas or spiritual truths.

What are these certain spiritual truths?

I believe we will discover the answer as we look at this explanatory verse in the book of John found in John chapter 20.

John 20:30-31 *“30 And many other **signs** truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 **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.**”*

We see these **three words** in this verse, giving us great insight into the main thrusts of the book of John.

Signs -These 'signs' are often translated in this book of the Bible by the word 'miracle.'

"The 'signs' refer to miracles with a special background significance. That is, they were given to reveal something about the person of Christ." - R. Hester

The "Signs" penned by John:

Turning the water into wine (**2:2-11**)

Healing nobleman's son (**4:46-54**)

Healing the impotent man (**5:1-15**)

Feeding the five thousand (**6:1-14**)

Walking on water (**6:16-21**)

Healing the blind man (**9:1-41**)

Raising Lazarus from the dead (**11:1-44**)

Providing the catch of fish after the resurrection. (**21:6-11**) *

The resurrection of Jesus Christ *

*You will see in different lists that some exclude these last two from the previous seven.

Believe - Is used in this book of the Bible means to be persuaded. (The word translated as 'believe' — πιστευω πιστεύω - is used **86 times** in this Gospel record.)

The Bible tells us that God *"...will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."* **I Timothy 2:4**

This does not mean that **all men will be saved**, but God's will is that all men would be saved. We understand from **II Peter 3:9** *"9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**"*

It is evident that the Gospel is intended for all men.

In addition, we who are His children would be strengthened or, we might say, increased in faith.

I am reminded of the father's cry whose child was possessed, He exclaimed in **Mark 9:24**, *"I believe; help thou mine unbelief."*

All of us need to have our faith strengthened. In this matter of correct belief concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, we have many I AM statements.

Hebrews chapter 1:3 tells us that our Lord Jesus Christ is “... *the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*”

The I AM statements in this Gospel record declare to us the deity of Jesus Christ, revealing God to us. (**Exodus 3:14**)

I AM the bread of life. (**6:35**)

I AM the light of the world. (**8:12; 9:5**)

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**)

Life - The Bible says, “*He that hath the Son **hath life**; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*” (**I John 5:12**)

We asked a similar question which is also discussed in this Gospel record which is “What is truth?” (**John 18:38**)

I want you to think about this question and ponder it, “What is life?”

The answer to this question concerning life is so important that Holy Spirit has given us some profound revelation concerning this word.

The Bible tells us of the Lord Jesus Christ, “*In him [Jesus Christ] was **life**; and **the life** was the light of men.*” **John 1:4**

John 3:36 states, “*He that believeth on the Son hath **everlasting life**: and he that believeth not the Son **shall not see life**; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*”

In **John 5:26** concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, “*For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have **life in himself**;*”

This remarkable declaration of Peter is found in **John 6:68** “*68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? **thou hast the words of eternal life.***”

John 10:10 Jesus said to his concerning His disciples, *“10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**”*

Jesus stated this seeming paradox concerning life, **John 12:25**, *“He that loveth **his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.**”*

Of course, we all know that most famous passage, where the Lord Jesus said these words in **John 14:6**, *“... I am the way, the truth, **and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**”*

And perhaps to sum all of this up, we find again the Savior’s words in **John 17:3** *“3 **And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**”*

As we close this week’s lesson, these three keywords will be presented as we go through the book of John over and over again,

Signs - miracles that have a specific purpose to teach us about the Lord Jesus Christ and convey spiritual truth.

Believe - that our faith may be strengthened, and we will know our wonderful Savior more and more.

And lastly, this matter of **Life**. What is life? What is true life? What is the life that God would have me to live? What do we mean by the phrase living the abundant life?