

**JESUS IS THE ONE
WHO IS GOD**

John 1:1-18

INTRODUCTION

- The Gospel of John is a portrait of Jesus Christ and His saving work.
- It's purpose is clear: “. . . these are written so 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).



INTRODUCTION

- But don't think that John is only written for unbelievers.
- Believers in Jesus must go on believing in Jesus in order to be saved in the end.
- John 15:6 - "If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown in the fire, and burned."

INTRODUCTION

- The gospel of John really has two purposes:
 - Call unbelievers to faith in Christ.
 - Sustain faith in Christ in believers.
- Both of these purposes lead to eternal life.
- There is no better book in the Bible to help you keep on trusting and growing in Christ.

INTRODUCTION

- Notice that this is an eyewitness account by John (the disciple who Jesus loved).
- Five times in the gospel of John, he reminds the reader that he was an eyewitness of these events: 13:24; 19:26; 20:2; 20:7; 21:20.



THE NATURE OF JESUS

JOHN 1:1-4

NATURE OF JESUS

- Main point: Jesus is the One who is God
- Subpoint: Build your faith on a correct understanding of the nature of Jesus.
- Word of God - the Word was with God and the Word was God.
- All four gospels place Jesus within a historical context. But John starts with a theological prologue.

NATURE OF JESUS

- These first four verses provide the foundation for understanding the nature of Jesus.
- In order to understand who Jesus is, you must be able to understand His divine nature.
- In the beginning was the Word - Jesus existed from the beginning. Jesus doesn't have a beginning. He is self-existent, and He is powerful. He is the second person of the Trinity and had an eternal relationship with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

NATURE OF JESUS

- And the Word was with God - Jesus always had a personal relationship with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.
- And the Word was God - Whatever Jesus does, God does. Whatever is true about God, is true about Jesus.
- All things were made through Him - Jesus was necessary for creation. We see Jesus in creation and in various books in the Old Testament.

JESUS - MAJESTY

- We also see Jesus in His majesty.
- John meant for us to read this gospel worshipfully and submissively.
- John starts his gospel by hitting us between the eyes.
- We are worshipping the creator of the universe!
- We are also worshipping God who laid down His life for us (John 15:13).

JESUS - MAJESTY

- We also see the majesty of Jesus in another book written by John: *The Revelation to John*.
- In Revelation 19, he describes the glorious return of Jesus: “He is clothed in a robe dripped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God.”
- It says that “from His mouth comes a sharp sword” - He strikes the nations with the power of the Word of God, He speaks the Word of God (which is the sword of the Spirit - Ephesians 6:17).

**FOUR
CHARACTERISTICS
OF JESUS**

1. HIS EXISTENCE

- Verse 1 - “in the beginning” are identical to the first two words in the Greek Old Testament.
- John uses this construction to take his readers back to the creation of the world.
- Jude 1:25 - “Jesus Christ our Lord . . . before all time and now and forever.”
- 2 Timothy 1:9 - Jesus Christ was “before the times of the ages.”

2. HIS ESSENCE

- Verse 1 - “the Word was God” - God became flesh and dwelt among us.
- Jesus Christ was and is God.
- Those who want to mistranslate this verse must ignore the reaction to the claims of Jesus (John 10:33).
- John isn't trying to say Jesus was another god or a prophet in this passage.

3. RELATIONSHIP

- Verse 1 - “the Word was with God” - this is the relationship of Jesus to God the Father.
- This is at the heart of the doctrine of the Trinity.
- He is God. He is the image of God.
- One Divine Essence and three Persons.

A logo featuring the word 'JESUS' in a large, elegant, black serif font. Below it, the words 'The Word of God' are written in a smaller, simpler serif font, stacked vertically. The entire logo is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

JESUS
The
Word
of God

4. RELATIONSHIP

- Verses 2-3 - “All things were made through Him” - this is His relationship to the world.
- Unfortunately, when we think of creation, we usually think of God the Father.
- This verse reminds us that Jesus is also the creator of heaven and earth.

A logo featuring the word 'JESUS' in a large, ornate, gothic-style font. Below it, the words 'The Word of God' are written in a smaller, simpler font, stacked vertically. The entire logo is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

JESUS
The
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SALVATION
IN JESUS ALONE

JOHN 1:5-13

LIGHT - DARKNESS

- John says that Jesus is light and that this light shines in the darkness. The darkness cannot win.
- First, this is a connection to Genesis - God speaking light into a dark and formless world.
- Second, God is coming down to the dark earth to break through the darkness Himself.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

- John the Baptist came as a witness to Jesus.
- He knew of this light. He witnessed it and from there spread the news of this Great Light.
- John knew that it was his job to tell people of this great, good news.
- This light would soon eradicate the darkness.

DID NOT RECEIVE HIM

- John tells us about apathy toward the message of regeneration.
- Jesus was in the world, the world was made through Him, but the world did not know him.
- John uses the word “world” 77 times in the gospel.
- “His own people did not receive him” - rejected by his own people, by the priests, the Sanhedrin, even one of his own disciples.

WE RECEIVE HIM

- We should receive him - first gospel claim even before we get to John 3:16.
- To all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.
- There is a right way and a wrong way to respond to God.
- The right way is to believe the gospel, receive the Savior, and be born again.

KNOWING
JESUS

JOHN 1:14-18

WORD BECOME FLESH

- Jesus becomes man so that man could know God.
- John tells us that God has come in a way that is more personal than ever before.
- Jesus put on display for the people of earth the true and magnificent glory of God.
- Verse 17- For the first time, John gives the Word a name, and His name is Jesus Christ.

GRACE UPON GRACE

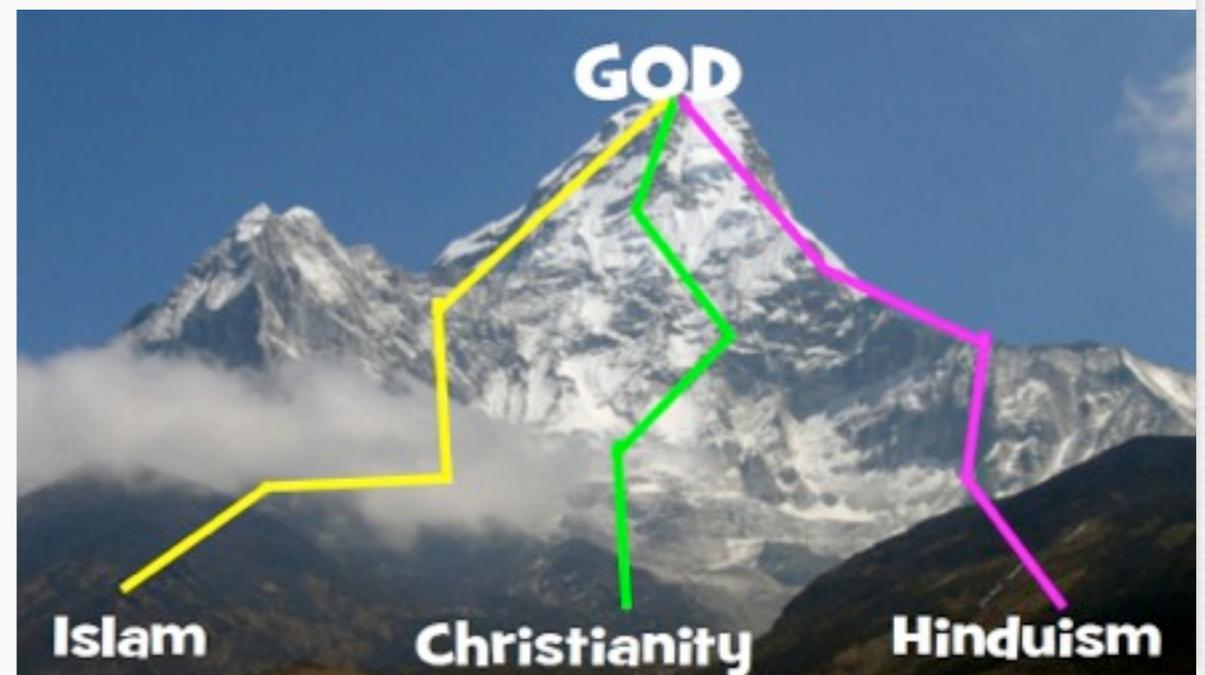
- John uses a phrase to testify to God's grace:
 - ESV - grace upon grace
 - NIV - one blessing after another
 - KJV - grace for grace
- No one has seen God. Didn't Moses see God?
- Actually he saw a "theophany" - God's appearance in some temporary form. But those who saw Jesus have seen the incarnation of God.

BIBLE VERSES

- Two key verses:
- Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6).
- And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

PLURALISM

- Religious pluralism is the view that all religions are equally valid as ways to God.
- Pluralists often refer to the fact that, just as there are many paths up a mountain, so there are many paths to God.
- All religions lead to God.



PLURALISM

- The teachings of the major religions about God or and religion are contradictory.
 - Hindus are pantheists or polytheists.
 - Buddhists are atheists or pantheists.
 - Muslims are theists and unitarian.
 - Christians are theists but trinitarian.



INCLUSIVISM

- Inclusivism is the view that, although Jesus is the exclusive Savior, many are included in His salvation who have never explicitly trusted in Him, nor perhaps even heard of Him.
- Inclusivists believe that God accepts an “implicit” faith in lieu of explicit faith in Christ.
- Most inclusivists believe that their view is supported by Scripture.

INCLUSIVISM

- Acts 10:34-35: “God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.”
- This verse does not state that anyone who does these things is saved.
- It says that such a person is welcome by God, when he comes to Him through faith in Christ.

INCLUSIVISM

- In Acts 17:23, Paul says that he had come to Athens to tell them about God whom they worshipped in ignorance by constructing an altar “to the unknown God.”
- He did not say, however, that this “ignorant worship” was sufficient to save them.
- He later called on them to repent and turn to the true God through faith in Jesus (Acts 17:30-31).

JESUS THE ONLY WAY?



CONCLUSION

- Romans 10:17 - “So faith come from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”
- 2 Timothy 3:15 - “salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ.”
- Romans 10:14-15 - “How shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? . . . How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things.”

