

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

The Book of John

Lesson 3

Return pages 6 & 7 only

Read John 1:1-34

The book of John is going to declare seven things about Jesus Christ turn to John 1:15 through 1:34. Let us count them as we go through.

1. His pre-existence John 1:15. *John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.* John the Baptist knew who he was talking about. He is preaching Jesus Christ. John has been preaching the coming of the pre-existent Lord before the arrival. He is preparing the way, making straight the path.

2. John declared the Lordship of Jesus Christ. John 1:23 *He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord...*

3. John preached His superiority. Jesus is superior to me. John 1:27. *He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.*

4. His sacrificial work. John 1:29. *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

5. His moral perfection. John 1:32. *And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.* That never happened to anybody else in history.

6. His divine right to baptize with the Spirit. John 1:33. *...Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.* Jesus would give His disciples the divine right to baptize with water; but only God the Father to God the Son was given the divine right to baptize with the Spirit.

7. His divine Son-ship. John 1:34 *And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.* From verse 12 to verse 34. What did God give you the power to become? Look at the word *sons*. Small "s". Verse 34, *Son of God*. See the word *Son*? Capital "S". You are not His equal. Even saved you are not His equal. Even born again you're not His equal. This belief "you're everything God is... you can do everything God can do... you are just as much God as Jesus was..." That is non-sense!

Turn back to John 1:16,17. *And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, [Note the order.] but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.* We are all glad for that? Through Jesus Christ, it is grace first and then truth. Hallelujah.

John 1:18. *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.* I would submit to you that Jesus Christ appeared on this earth many times before His birth in Bethlehem. Here is the reason I say that. If no man had seen God at any time, Adam talked to somebody in the garden. Abraham talked to somebody on the mountain. Moses talked to somebody at the burning bush. Jacob wrestled with somebody out there in the desert that night. There have been many pre-incarnation appearances of Jesus Christ. He was manifested – that is He came to dwell among us in a body of flesh at Bethlehem when He was born of Mary the virgin. But the invisible God, the Father (no man hath seen him), but Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up in Isaiah in Isaiah 6. So the only way for this verse to be true, *No man hath seen God at*

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any time; it must be a reference to the Father and those appearances of God in the Old Testament had to be pre-incarnate appearances of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So Jesus has been here before. For example, Jesus is the Word, correct? In Genesis 3 The voice of the Lord was walking in the garden. That is the Word. So Jesus Christ has been here. He just was not to dwell in a body of flesh. But He has made visible appearances in the past and that is one reason John can say he was before me. He has been here. That rock that followed was Christ – in Numbers. How frequently the Lord has showed up in time past, we do not know. The hand of God, remember that? They saw His hand writing on the wall, in Daniel 5. How do you see the hand of the invisible God? That has to be Jesus reaching down there. So these are mysteries that we do not fully understand, but rather run a say they are contradictions in the scripture. I would rather just say they are mysteries and ask God when we get there, Lets look at another possibly. God, *no man hath seen God at any time*, that is the Holy Spirit, the *only begotten Son*, that would be Jesus *which is in the bosom of the Father*, that would be God the Father, *he hath declared him*. So that is a possibility. Jesus Christ is the visible representation or manifestation of the Father and of the Holy Spirit as well of Himself. I am not saying that is wrong, I am just not comfortable with that interpretation. Let me explain why.

This term begotten, *only begotten Son*, that does not have to do with birth. That has to do with rank or placement. There is three times when Jesus is referred to as the only begotten Son. At His birth, at His resurrection and at His ascension. *Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee*. That is a reference in one to Him being born. That is a reference in another place to Him rising from the dead. That is a reference in one place to Him ascending and sitting at the right hand of the Father. So begotten does not necessarily mean born or to give birth to; it means to give rank or place or exaltation. Psalm 2:7. *I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee*. That has to do with Him being enthroned. Hebrews 1:5. *For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee...* Look at verse 6. *And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world...* He is already begotten before He is brought into the world. He is the only begotten Son before He is born of Mary. So, "*begotten*" is a very interesting Bible word.

John 1:19. *And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?* The scribes and Pharisee's were just talking about a little while ago – from faith to faith, light to light, if they were so interested, why didn't they come and just ask Him who He is? Why? because you do not want to find out, nothing has changed in the 21st century either. You want to know, why not go find out for yourself? Do not send your wife or your kids on the church bus, take your family, go find out for yourself what they are teach at the Church house. Get in the car and take them! But *the Jews sent to ask him, Who art thou?*

John 1:20 *And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ*. This idea that the Christ is this special anointing that was given to or abode upon certain great religious people throughout history, the anointing, the Christ, the Cristos would settle down or abide upon certain people, that is just not true! John the Baptist, the greatest man among women according to Jesus. Even John said, *I am not the Christ*. The Christ is not something that rests on people. He is a person, The person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1:21. *And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias?* Now why would they ask that? Malachi 4:5. Elijah is supposed to come. *And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No*. What would that reference be? Deuteronomy 18:15. *The LORD thy*

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God will raise up unto thee a Prophet (capital P) from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; Deuteronomy 18:18. *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.* These Jews at Jerusalem they knew the scripture about the coming of Elijah, they knew the scripture about the coming of a prophet like unto Moses and they wanted to know if John was the one.

John 1:22 *Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.* Turn back to Isaiah 40:3 and let us take a look at what would of happened had those men taken back John's report verbatim and if those Jews sincerely believed the Bible. They obviously knew the scriptures enough to ask, "are you the prophet in Deuteronomy? Are you Elias of Malachi?" John replied with, *I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, as said Esaias.* John points them right to Isaiah's prophecy. Isaiah 40:3. *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the* [what? Jehovah] **LORD** [L-O-R-D, block capital letters] *make straight in the desert a highway for our God.* Look what he is saying. I am the one who came to prepare the way for **our** God. That is the prophecy of Isaiah. He cannot be the voice of the one crying in the wilderness preparing the way for a teacher or a rabbi or a minister. The prophecy of Isaiah is saying, I am preparing the way for **our** God! I am preparing the way for Jehovah!

Now, how can they submit to John's baptism and believe John and then say, He is not God? They are hypocrites. Look on down to the passage at verse Isaiah 40:9. *O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!* Verse 10. *Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him:* The Pharisee's said, who are you John? He said, "I am the one that is here to tell you God is coming!"

Often you will hear someone say when speaking about the Jews "they missed it" "they did not recognize Jesus as their Messiah" NO that is not true, They rejected it. They didn't miss it. They questioned it. It wasn't a question of ignorance. These guys did not go back and say what did John said....They probably said something like "oh he is just a fanatic, standing in the Jordan River dressed in camels hair, he has no army, no warriors, he's no threat to us, business as usual.? They literally rejected what John said and referred right back into the Old Testament and said, he is coming back as King of Kings. He is coming back as a warrior." Whatever their reasoning or motive was, like Herod, they were content for a season. He is a big show – the biggest thing in town and nothing like this has hit since Malachi. But what John the Baptist actually proclaimed, they did not believe it. They knew what he claimed but they did not believe it was so. He is putting it right in their face and they still rejected it.

John 1: 24 *And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?* They Pharisee's asked, "Are you Elias?" "No." "Are you that prophet?" "No." "Who are you?" " John the Baptist replied with "I am the one mentioned in Isaiah 40:3." "Oh – so you are not that Christ?" They knew that Isaiah 40 was about the Christ! So there is no mistaking John's meaning here. It seems that they are redundant in their series of questions, yes? The Bible says that a fool has no understanding Psalms 92:6 If you have ever tried to show someone in the Bible how that salvation is by grace and not by works,

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they will continue to take you to the same places in the Bible and try to prove their unbelief to you, even though you show them what their verses means and why salvation is still by grace, they just do not ever get it, Why? Because they do not believe the scriptures, they believe what some preacher taught them that they hold in higher esteem than the inherent scriptures. John answered all there questions with an emphatic NO, and then when they asked him again "Who are you?" "I am Isaiah 40." (Here they go again) The Pharisee's reply...Okay, so you are not Christ – where did Christ come into this thing? John says....Isaiah 40. They knew what they were dealing with. They just did not believe it.

John 1:26. *John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;* Jesus does not appear out of place. He is just another person in the crowd that day. John is preaching and these guys are coming and saying who are you... who are you? And he said, I am just the voice. I am just preparing the way of the Lord. And the Lord is just standing up there in the middle of this multitude at the Jordan River and John is just watching this whole thing go down. And he said, "well, who is He? Where is He?" "He is here! He is here among you." His physical appearance is no different that any other man that day.

John 1:27. *He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.* John the Baptist He said, I am not worthy to get down and touch His feet. *These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.* Archduke Ludwig of Austria in 1896 took a trip to the Holy Land. Despite warnings, he insisted on showing his piety by drinking from the Jordan River. He became ill and died in weeks. There's nothing holy about the Jordan River. It is not the Jordan River that is holy; it is the Lord that is holy!

John 1:29 Here is another verse you should memorize; you should know this verse. *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.* John knew who He was! (But later on, doubt came over him; confusion took hold on him) Think about this. Think about the progression. In Genesis 4, a lamb was offered for an individual. In Exodus 12, a lamb was offered for a family. In Leviticus 16, a lamb was offered for a nation. On the cross, a lamb was offered for the whole world.

John 1:30. *This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.* So, before me cannot be a reference to preference or to rank because he has already stated that. It is a time line. *And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.* What is the correct doctrine for the purpose of Baptism, there seems to be two right camps, one believes it is an outward expression of an inward belief, the other camp believes it is the answer to a commandment in Acts and the believers announcement to the public that he is ready to begin his ministry. Personally I do not think it is worth arguing over unless you are in the third camp that believes it is in addition to salvation, which is just not true.

Keep in my mind verse 31 explains the purpose of baptism. Now think about it. Jesus is there standing in the crowd with John the Baptist... He is already there; but the people round about do not know He is there. So public baptism was to show to those who did not know Jesus was there that He was there. It was to make Him manifest to Israel. What happens when I get saved? Jesus is here. But the people around me do not know He is here, so my public baptism is a manifestation or a testimony that Jesus Christ whom they do not see and recognize as being here is here. This seems to me to match and to fit what the rest of the New Testament says about baptism or the purpose of baptism.

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John 1:32. *And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.* Can we assume that the Holy Spirit took on a form of a literal dove and lighted on Him? Lets check the cross-references. okay? You get that idea in Matthew 3:16. as to the manner of descent “...*and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove...*” the way in which it descended. But in Luke 3:22, *And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him...* So you have the appearance of something like a dove, to say this was a literal dove would be to say what the scripture does not say, the motion like a dove and so that is the idea you see on some of the groups that have the sign of that dove coming down but He is never seen that way again. The phrase "like a" appears 167 times in scripture, yes the Holy Spirit is dictating to the penman what he is to write down in scripture, but in the case where the Holy Spirit knows the writer would not understand, the Holy Spirit rather uses terms "like a" this one. The next time there is any visible type manifestation of the Holy Ghost coming down, there was an appearance of cloven tongues like unto fire. It does not say that this was the Holy Spirit. That was just a phenomena that occurred in connection with the coming of the Holy Spirit. So as far as I know, this is the only time the Holy Spirit was ever seen was at Jesus baptism.

John 1:33. *And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.* This probably the one of the reasons why Jesus said there is none greater born among woman than John the Baptist. Here are John's disciples and they are leaving and going to follow Jesus and John is fine with it. He came to get people to follow Jesus not him. I know of some men that if Jesus called you to do something that was not connected to them, they would not be real happy about it. John is fine with his disciples following Jesus. Any man that disciples another man should to be happy to have that man following Jesus. That is the key to the whole thing.

notes

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The Book of John

Lesson 3

Name _____

Read John 1:1-34

1. What two event in the life of Christ does the term "begotten" refer?
2. Explain which passage refers to the following terms:
 - a. The Objects of salvation
 - b. The need of salvation
 - c. The character of salvation
 - d. The prerequisite of salvation
 - e. The transaction of salvation
 - f. The length of salvation
 - g. The giver of salvation
3. Explain the following terms:
 - a. in the beginning
 - b. the sons of God
 - c. not of blood
 - d. nor of the will of the flesh
 - e. nor of the will of man
 - g. full of grace and truth
4. Some of the newer versions change the scripture from "to them gave he the power"(v.12) to "he gave them the right" Why is this a woeful perversion of the truth?
5. What seven things did we learn about Jesus Christ starting in verse 1?

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- a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
6. What did we learn about baptism from our lesson?
 7. What did we learn about the dove from our lesson?
 8. What did we learn about the cloven tongues of fire in our lesson?
 9. Who was John the Baptist preaching about? explain using Isaiah 40.
 10. Explain the offering of the lamb the four places mentioned in the lesson.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

True/false

- A fool understands the scriptures and is worth arguing with?
- The dove is a type of the Holy Spirit in the Bible?
- Jesus has made appearances in the Old Testament?



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet, Must be in KJV)
John 1:29; Isaiah 40:3; John 1:16,17

any questions?