

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries

5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

The Book of John

Lesson 1 The God the man

Return pages 6 & 7 only

Read John 1:1-18

This Bible lesson is the introduction to a 50 lesson series, where we all will see the story, the foundational principals of the doctrines of our faith and we will mine out the gem stones along with the deep things of GOD.

John is such a remarkable book. It presents Jesus Christ as God. That is the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible gives us in the four Gospels. Four different looks at the same person; and you see different things in the different gospels. It does not mean there are four different people. It does not mean there is any disagreement between the writers. It simply means that we are looking at the same person from four distinct and four particular viewpoints.

In Matthew, Jesus Christ is the king of the Jews. In the parables, in the miracles and the events of Matthew all have to do with the throne in Jerusalem and Jesus sitting on that throne. In Mark, He is the servant; and Mark centers upon works and deeds and action and miracles and very little about the words of Jesus in Mark, more about the works of Jesus. Then Luke, the humanity of Christ, His compassion and His love and His hands-on approach to meeting people. But in John, Jesus Christ is God. It is just so powerful and so striking.

Look at John 1:1. *In the beginning was the Word* (capital "W") *and the Word was with God and the Word was God.* There is no manger here. There is no virgin Mary here. There are no shepherds here. There are no wise men. There is no Herod. There is no forerunner, John the Baptist. He comes later. The thing starts out with the Word predating the beginning. Look at that statement. In the beginning was... How can there be a past tense in reference to the beginning? Isn't that amazing? He pre-dates dates! He exists before anything exists. The Word had no beginning.

Look at John 17:5 *And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.* Before the world was, what was there? The Father and the Son in glory together. Glory is not a place; it is a condition. They are in glory together before the world was. Look at 1 John 1:1. *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;* Do you see that capital W showing up there again? Now, they saw, they looked, they handled *that which was from the beginning.* See, when the beginning took place, He was! He is past tense at creation. He is the Creator!

Ephesians 1:4. *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:* Before the foundation of the world, God the Father and God the Son were in glory, in their glory; they had made a choice before the foundation of the world that those that they had created would be with them in that glory. This is what the book of John is all about - that prayer you read in John 17, ...Father glorify them with the glory that we had before the foundation of the world that they can be one in us and we can be one in them and we can dwell together in glory.

His plan was not to build mountains, rivers, lakes and streams, that was just a place to live. His plan was that God and man should enjoy a glorious relationship.

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Proverbs 8:23-26. *I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. Verses 27-30. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;* So, it is the Father and the Son enjoying their power to create and doing so together.

Psalm 90. You see where we are going and we will work on this all the way down through verse 3. But John is writing about the One who created all things who is going to die on the cross to save us from our sins. The servant of Jehovah dies in Mark, the greatest Man that ever lived died in Luke for sinners, the King of the Jews of the chosen people died in Matthew all that is great, but the beginning, the Word, the Creator, He is going to die for Me? That is mind boggling! How do we put that into words? How do you grasp that? The Holy Spirit is using John to say, get a look at who we are talking about here! Before we talk about the miracles, before the beatings, before the sacrifice, before the resurrection – look at who we are talking about! This is the One that made all things coming into this world.

Psalm 90:2 *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.* He did not become God. Before there were mountains, before there were hills, before there were rivers, before there streams, before there was anything to conquer, before there was anything to govern, He was already God! And He created and He made all things.

This truth in John 1:1 and John 1:14, separates Christianity from every false religion and from every cult! We believe Jesus Christ was the Creator. We believe He was God Almighty from the beginning and the rest of them do not! Revelation 3:14. *...These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God...* And He says that in Revelation 1:11 – look at your cross reference. *These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;* Verse 8. *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending...* He is saying it began with me. He is not saying I was the first thing that was created. He is saying that I am the initiator of creation! There is no creation without me because I pre-date the creation! I am back before it.

Look back in John 1:1. *In the beginning was the Word, (capital W) and the Word (capital W) was with God, and the Word (capital W) was God.* Now, you cannot necessarily get the Trinity out of that verse, but you certainly can get an absolute statement that there is more than one person in the Godhead. *The Word was with God... the Word was God.* There is God and there is the Word, who is God! They are not the same person. There is obviously a Father and a Son there. We have the same in those verses that we read in John 17; Psalms 90 and Proverbs 8. There is a unity at work there! Genesis 1:26. *And God said, Let us make man...* Genesis 11:7, God said, *Let us go down and see this tower and confound their language;* and so you see the unity in John 1:1.

Now, look down at verse 14. *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...* these two verses laid side by side establish the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Creator who is the Word was made flesh. He took upon Himself a body of flesh. He did not begin in Mary's womb. He did not begin when He was born at Bethlehem. There was not a God

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along with a God-like man or person named Jesus – whoever that is in verse 1, there He is in verse 14 in a body of human flesh! It is the very same person.

Something to keep in mind as you as study your Bible –In your Bible, Word (capital W) is Jesus Christ; word (small w) is the written scripture. If the references is to scripture it has a small “w.” If the reference is to Jesus Christ, it has a capital “W.” Why? It is His name! It is His title. Many of the newer Bibles (even KJV), the editor has changed this capitalization and they make either both capitalized or neither capitalized, if your Bible is this way, you may want to look for another one that has it correctly, you can bet if they have changed this word, they have probably changed others.

Here is the trouble with that. The world's philosopher's, Plato and Philo and Origen and others, they teach this thing called the *Logos*. Have you ever seen it in the new Bibles? The modern Bibles, they say “the beginning was the logos...” The idea of the logos is that this general thought or message or teaching of love and light and life – that general message, that is deity. And Jesus so embodied and so represented the message of the logos, that He took that name. But if Jesus was not the creator but this spirit of God, whatever it is, was the creator and that spirit was in Jesus – so when you capitalize "word" and make it refer to the scripture, you are deliberately or unintentionally, you are giving credibility to that philosophy. The "word" is not capital W when referencing what God said or what God taught. The "Word" is capitalized when referring to God. God who created was manifested in the flesh. I am saying do not throw a book away if you see scripture capitalized, when you see **Word** capitalized in a book in reference to the scripture, that is a philosophy thing. That is not a Bible thing. I always thought it was funny that these men would say, “...we are capitalizing **word** in reference to the scriptures out of reverence for the scripture...” yet every other page, they are correcting the scripture! So where is the reverence here?

Now, take a look at verse 2. *The same* [That is the Word, capital W.] *was in the beginning with God.* He is emphasizing that. This is the same person that we are talking about all through here. *All things were made by him*; Now, that is not by God, though Jesus is God.] *All things were made by him...* Who is **him**? Verse 2. The same that was in the beginning with God. Who is this? Verse 1. The Word, who was God. So God the Word is the one who made all things. John 1, verses 1 to 3 make it very clear, the Word who was God and was with God is the one who made all things. That is very important. Those hands that were nailed to the cross are the hands that formed Adam in the garden. Those hands that were nailed to the cross are the ones that measured the oceans in their hollow and stretched out the expanse of the universe. They were nailing their Creator to a cross. It is incomprehensible!

All things were made by him and without him was not any thing made that was made. So, He did not do a part and Vishnu did a part or some deity over there did a part, Charlie Darwin did a part. If it was made, God made it! Look at Jeremiah chapter 10 and Jeremiah chapter 32 on this creation idea. What is so amazing about the Bible, is it's consistency. Wherever you slice it, it is going to support this same truth that God is the creator! The scripture never wavers or contradicts that truth. Jeremiah 10:11-12.. *Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.* There are other gods. We do not deny that. People worship other deities. People worship other gods; but our God made their God. Whatever you are worshipping, our God made it!

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Look at Jeremiah 32:17. ***Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:*** How about that! Is not that the truth? If He could make the heaven and make the earth, He can sure take care of anything that is happening in the heaven and on the earth. It is clear that He made it according to that verse.

Psalms 89:11. ***The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.*** Isn't that good! Not just the world but the fullness thereof.. And it is His! The heavens are His. The earth is His. It's all His property.

Colossians 1:14 so we know what we are talking about. ***In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*** this is none other than Jesus Christ, the One who shed His blood. ***Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*** the statement is He is God made visible. He is the image of the invisible God. Verse 16. ***For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*** That is powerful. Who is God? He is the One that made everything and it all belongs to Him.

John 1:4 ***In him was life...*** Life originates with Jesus Christ! The origin of life is not atoms. The origin of life is not neutrons and protons and elements. The origin of life is not a big bang. ***In him was life...*** He is living before there is a planet. He is living before there is a galaxy. He is living before there is a pool of water. He is living before there is a bird. Life starts with Jesus Christ. He is the life! There is nothing alive that did not get their life from Jesus Christ. That is quite a statement! ***...and the life...*** Look, it is exclusive. There is no other! ***...the life WAS the light of men.*** If you have light, if you have understanding, if you have knowledge, if you have intelligence, if you have a spiritual being within you, if you can grasp the simplest truth, that light was given to you by your Creator!

Jump ahead for a second to verse 9. ***That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*** So there is no one living that did not get their life from God. And there is no one living who has any comprehension of truth who did not get that comprehension from God. You do not attain wisdom, knowledge, understanding and truth unless God reveals it to you. Job 11:7 ***Canst thou by searching find out God.*** No. He has to make Himself known to you. He has to reveal Himself to you. A Calvinist will say, "aha, see there?" But the Bible says, but wait, He does that for everybody. So that is the other side of the truth – but the truth is, if God did not reveal Himself to you, you could not find Him! There are people born who have life but they do not have understanding. Those who are born who do have understanding – and by that, I mean the ability to communicate, the ability to reason and the ability to think things through, they only have it because God gave it to them. Those who use that understanding, that ability to reason to put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, even that is no merit on their part. Had God not sent His Son, not sent a witness, not sent the Holy Spirit, not revealed truth to them, they never would have found Him. So what He is saying in these first four verses is everything that matters, that is good, that is right, that is blessed, and everything that is holy, originates with God. God possessed it first and gave it to man. God possessed it first and gave it to His creation. What if instead of creating angels, He just created devils? He could have. What could have you done about it? What if instead of making a heaven, He just made a hell?

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You get to live a while like Job did for thirty six chapters and then go to hell. That is it! There are gods like that in the mythologies of the world.

Fortunately, Our God is light. Our God is life. Look around you. Our God is beauty. Our God is grace. Our God is kindness. This is what He is saying here. God - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... In him was life...* Not death.; ...*light*... Not darkness. Good things, not bad things. Do you see what He is setting up here? Everything you are going to see in the book of John underscores the truth. He is life! Men want death – but He is life! He is light – men want darkness, but He is light! It is not God's fault that things are bad. It is not God's fault that things go wrong. It is not God's fault that people are in hell. He is life! He is light! That is who God is! Hallelujah!

Verse 5. *And the light shineth in darkness;* That light is a bit more than the light at the end of the tunnel. That light shines in darkness. ...*and the darkness comprehended it not.* Do you see what He is saying? Everything that is evil. Everything that is connected to death, suffering, cruelty, hatred, bloodshed and tears, it looks at this God and does not understand him. I do not understand him. The self-righteous, proud sinner who is going to work his way to heaven, he does not understand it. The egotistical Pharisee, he does not understand it. Does not understand what? The fact that the only way that you are going to have life is if God gives it to you. The only way that you are going to have light is if God gives it to you. You cannot earn it; you cannot buy it; you cannot work for it; you cannot fight for it. You do not deserve it. It comes from God. That is what grace is. It all comes from God.

James 1:17. *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.* How many good gifts? Every good gift. How many perfect gifts? Every perfect gift. Where did you get it? It came down from above, from the Father of what? Lights! Anything good is from God. All right – that's the introduction to the book.

The theme of the book, what did you get from those first five verses? God -Jesus Christ created it –. It all belongs to Him. Something went wrong. Darkness entered. But the Light came and shown in the darkness. That is what the book of John is all about.

Notes

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Introduction to the book of John**Lesson 1****Read John 1:1-18**

name _____

1. Identify the four different aspects of Christ as "the Word" given in these passages.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
2. What is the difference, in scripture, between "the word" and "the Word"?
3. What thoughts come to your mind as you compare the first and last verses of the book of John? (extra credit if you answer correctly, no point off if answered incorrectly)
4. Explain what we learn from these passages regarding:
 - The Word in creation (vv. 1-5)
 - The Word in history (vv. 6-13)
 - The Word in incarnation (vv. 14-18)
5. Who is Jesus Christ in each of the four gospels?
 - a. Matthew
 - b. Mark
 - c. Luke
 - d. John
6. Why is it important to have a Bible that only capitalizes when it is supposed too?
7. When we refer to Jesus Christ as being Logos, what are we actually implying?
8. " In the beginning was..." What does this statement reflect?
9. Explain the meaning of glory?

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10. Who died in each of the four gospels?
 - a. Matthew
 - b. Mark
 - c. Luke
 - d. John
11. Who is the "same" in our passages of scripture?
12. Where does life originate?
13. Where does light originate?
14. What is the book of John all about?

True/false

- It is OK to capitalized all references of the word "Word" in your Bible?
- The only way that I can receive life to carry me through death, is if I work real hard at being a good person?
- Salvation is by works through faith?



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet, Must be in KJV)
John 1:1,2,& 3; Jeremiah 32:17; Psalm 90:2

any questions?