

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN -- A REVELATION OF CHRIST.

The Gospel of John is outstanding in its revelation of Christ. This is why it is an important book for every young Christian to read, but it is also a book which can never be exhausted by believers regardless of how long they have known the Lord.

The Apostle John has been very systematic and very thorough. He seems to be the utmost in simplicity, and yet some of the most profound truth in all of the Bible is to be found in this Gospel.

There is no question but that his special emphasis is the Deity of Christ. Cf. John 20:30, 31.

"Signs" are miracles which point to something -- in this case: to the uniqueness of the Person who performed the miracles.

There are 7 of them in the Gospel of John. We will consider them in one of our lessons. Find them in your reading.

Another unique feature about the Gospel of John is his repeated use of the verb, "I am," in connection with our Lord. The basic one is in John 8:58, "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

There are also 7 times mentioned by John when our Lord said, "I am . . ." Find these also in your reading.

But one of the most amazing parts of the Gospel of John with respect to the Lord is chapter 1! If you had no more than this, you would be able to come up with a thorough understanding of the Person of Christ and at least the major features of the work of Christ with respect to the world.

The titles given to the Lord in chapter 1 go from before creation to that which will be our Lord's position throughout eternity to come!

August Van Ryn, a Brethren writer and Bible teacher, says that there are 7 great titles for our Lord in John's Gospel, and they are all in chapter 1:

- 1) The Word (v. 1).
- 2) The Light (v. 9).
- 3) The Lamb of God (v. 29).
- 4) The Christ (v. 41).
- 5) The Son of God (v. 49).
- 6) The King of Israel (v. 49).
- 7) The Son of man (v. 51).

Cf. p. 39.

But not only do you have the declaration of these facts in chapter 1, but you see certain ones were convinced of their truth, and gave testimony to them. E.g.,

- 1) John the Baptist (John 1:31-34) -- to cite only a part of it.
- 2) Andrew (John 1:40-42a).
- 3) Philip (John 1:43-46).
- 4) Nathanael (John 1:47-49).

What are, then, the revelations of Christ in John 1?

We put them into two categories:

- A. Those having to do with HIS NATURE: (arr. logically, not in order of mention)
1. Deity (John 1:1). Cf. also "the Lord" in v. 23.
 2. The Son of God speaks of His relationship with the Father. Cf. 1:34, 49. See also John 5:17, 18.
 3. God only begotten (1:18). There is none other like He is. Cf. 3:16, 18; 1 John 4:9. God has no other sons like the Lord Jesus is.
 4. God incarnate (1:14, 18).
 5. The Son of man (1:51).

- B. Those having to do with HIS WORK ON THE EARTH:

1. Creator (1:3, 10). This is evident in His first miracle. There is an emphasis upon His power. But we also see in creation evidence of the wisdom of God, the goodness of God, etc.
2. His mission, or the divine purposes which He accomplished in coming to the earth:
 - a. The One predicted by the OT (1:45). This shows His importance. There is nothing that places the seal of absolute authority on the OT more than this does!
 - b. His twofold, immediate purpose in His coming to the earth:
 - 1) To reveal God to man. As such He is:
 - a) The Light (1:4, 5, 7-9).
Note: Light has a twofold meaning in Scripture:
 - (1) Righteous, as opposed to sinful -- which is the emphasis in 1 John. Cf. 1 John 1:5-7.
 - (2) Knowledge, as opposed to ignorance -- which is the emphasis in the Gospel of John.
 The miracles were a major means of conveying this knowledge to men. Cf. John 20:30, 31; 2:11.
 - b) The Word (John 1:1, 14; 1 John 1:1; Rev. 19:13). This term links our Lord with the written Word. As we use words to convey a message, so our Lord was the Word of God to men -- and He still is.
Note: Cf. Heb. 1:1-3. So, in a primary sense, the Bible is a revelation of God -- continuous, progressive, but incomplete in the OT, but final and full and unchangeable in Christ.

~~Note: The two above may possibly explain the reason why the Apostle John speaks twice of finished work: in John 17:4 and in John 19:30.~~

- 2) To redeem man from sin: the Lamb of God (John 1:29, 36).

Note: The two above may possibly explain why the Apostle John speaks twice of finished works: in John 17:4 and in John 19:30. The first speaks of His finished work of revelation; the second speaks of His finished work in redemption.

- c. His ultimate purpose in coming to the earth: the Messiah (Christ), the King of Israel (1:17, 41, 45, 49). This shows His destiny.

Next, we want to take up the revelation of Christ as seen in the miracles which He performed. John 20:30, 31 is the key passage -- giving us the particular purpose which the Apostle John had in mind. This shows a carefully designed plan, a special selection, by the writer. There are seven miracles. They are found in the book from chapter 2 to chapter 11. Each is different, having something distinct to contribute to what the Apostle John wants us to understand about the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONFRONTED WITH PROBLEMS IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEMS

The miracles record^{ed} in the Gospel of John are:

CF JOHN 20:30,31

- 1) Water into wine (John 2:1-11). EMERGENCIES
- 2) Nobleman's son (John 4:46-54). DISTANCE NO BARRIER
- 3) The man sick for 38 years (John 5:1-9). TIME NO PROBLEM
- 4) Feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:1-14). NUMBER NO DIFFICULTY
- 5) Jesus walking on the water (John 6:15-21). OBSTACLES NO TROUBLE
- 6) Man born blind (John 9:1-7, but the effect is recorded also in the rest of the chapter). IMPOSSIBILITY NO
- 7) Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44). DELAY NO MISTAKE

8) RESURRECTION

- 9) Fish (Jn. 21:3-11)
150 GALLONS WINE - 2400 SERVINGS } ABUNDANCE
5,000 FED

MAN SICK 38 YEARS } TIME
" BORN BLIND }

NEED

POWER

DISTANCE - NOBLEMAN'S SON
LAZARUS

CREATOR - WINE - STARTED WITH WATER
BREAD - STARTED WITH A LITTLE
LEGS -
EYES -
LIFE -

AFFECTED DISCIPLES - WINE
WALKING ON WATER

SPEED - NOBLEMAN'S SON
WALKING ON WATER
LAZARUS

USED PEOPLE - WINE
5,000
MAN BORN BLIND
LAZARUS

2 - GOODNESS

4 - ACCESSIBILITY

5 - COMPASSION +
GRACE

6 - SUFFICIENCY

7 - PRESENCE
KNOWLEDGE

ALL SHOW HIS POWER

INSTANTANEOUS - IN 4:53

RESPONDS TO REQUEST

SABBATH 9 - PURPOSE -
GODWARD

MEETS NEEDS WITHOUT BEING ASKED

11 - PURPOSE -
MANWARD

OVERCOMING RELUCTANCE - WINE

NOBLEMAN'S SON
LAZARUS

CALMING FEARS - NOBLEMAN
ON WATER

PROBLEM SOLVING - MAN 38 YRS
BORN BLIND
LAZARUS

The "I am" Claims of our Lord in John's Gospel:

They are all related to the name, JEHOVAH, in the Old Testament. Cf. Ex. 3:13, 14; 6:1-8.

See also John 8:58.

The seven claims made by Jesus Christ:

- 1) "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51, 58). This is a claim which ties in with the manna that was provided for the children of Israel during the years of their wandering from Egypt to Canaan. Cf. 1 Cor. 10:3.
- 2) "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12; 9:5; 12:46). See also 1:4, 5, 7, 8, 9; 3:19-21; (5:35 -- of John the Baptist) 11:9, 10; 12:35, 36.
- 3) "I am the door" (John 10:7, 9; cf. vv. 1, 2). See also Matt. 7:13, 14.
- 4) "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11, 12, 14). Cf. Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:4; cf. 2:25; Psa. 23:1).
- 5) "I am the resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25).
- 6) "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Read vv. 4-6.
 - a) On "the way," cf. #3 above with the reference given there in Matthew. Also Acts 4:12; 1 Pet. 3:18. Also cf. Prov. 14:12.
 - b) On "the truth," cf. John 1:14, 17; 5:33; 8:32, 40, 44-46; 18:37, 38.
 - c) On "the life," cf. "life" in #1 and #5. See also 1:4; 3:14-16, 36; 5:39, 40; 10:10, 27, 28; 20:30, 31. Also cf. 1 John 5:12.
- 7) "I am the true vine" (John 15:1, 4, 5).

Since the Lord Jesus Christ is all of the above, we can say the following things about Him:

- 1) As "the bread of life," He sustains life and satisfies.
- 2) As "the life of the world," He is the truth and He dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.
- 3) As "the door," He is the One through Whom we enter into life. He is both "the door" and "the way."
- 4) As "the good shepherd," He protects and keeps the sheep.
- 5) As "the resurrection, and the life," He delivers us from death and sustains us in life.
- 6) As "the way," He leads us to God. As "the truth," He keeps us from error and can always be trusted. As "the life," He keeps us from death.
- 7) As "the true vine," He is the source of our life and in Him we find our only source of strength for bearing fruit.

The "I am" claims of Christ also tell us a great deal about ourselves:

- 1) Since He is "the bread of life," we will find neither life nor satisfaction without Him.
- 2) Since He is "the light of the world," we are in ignorance of the most important truths until we know Him.
- 3) Since He is "the door," we are completely excluded from God until we come to God through Him.
- 4) Since He is "the good shepherd," we have no one to care for us and to keep us from the dangers of life until we become His sheep.
- 5) Since He is "the resurrection and the life," we are dead and without hope apart from Christ.
- 6) Since He is "the way," we are lost until we come to Christ.

Since He is "the truth," as in 2) above, we are ignorant apart from Him.

Since He is "the life, as in 1) and 5) above, we are dead until we come to Him.

- 7) Since He is "the true vine," we are incapable of producing any fruit that will please God until we are united by faith to Him.