

An Outline of John's Gospel

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
 - 1. Beginning of Jesus' Ministry: John's First Witness, First Disciples, First Sign (1:19-2:12)
 - 2. Beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry: Cleansing the Temple, Personal Witness, John's Final Witness, Samaritan Harvest, Second Sign (2:13-4:54)
 - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
 - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

The Ministry of John the Baptizer

Gospel of John, Part V

John 1:29-34

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I. John bore witness of Him

II. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)

- A. The Son of God Revealed and Rejected (1:19-12:36 cf. Jn 1:11)

These sections correspond to the Apostle John's statement in the Prologue: *Jesus came to His own* [Revealed: 1-4] *but those who were His own did not receive Him* [Rejected: 5-12].

- B. Two cycles of revelation (cf. 2:11; 4:54)

Cycle #1 – A week in the life of the Lord (cf. 1:29, 35, 43; 2:1)

Cycle #2 – A trip to Jerusalem and back (2:12, 13; 3:22; 4:3-4, 43-46)

III. What did John the Baptizer reveal about Jesus?

- A. The Lamb of God (29 cf. v. 36; 12:32; Rom 3:25; 1 Jn 3:5,8)

Literally, John's declaration reads: "Behold *the* Lamb of *the* God, *the* One who is taking away *the* sin of *the* world!" F. Dale Bruner explains:

"Jesus is not just one among many lambs, given by one of many gods, as one of many possible liberators, from only some of our deep sin, for only a portion of the entire world. He is the Lamb of the One God, who is the Liberator from the entire sin of the whole cosmos."

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

- B. John's Successor, Superior, and Predecessor (30 cf. vv. 14-15)

1. John reveals Jesus' *true* _____. Jesus is *a Man*.
2. John reveals Jesus' *rank*. Jesus is John's Superior, the _____.
3. John reveals Jesus' *true* _____. This Man who is divine.

- C. The Baptizer with the Holy Spirit (33 cf. 7:37-39)

In John's third statement, the Father declares that Jesus is the One to baptize with the Holy Spirit. As Ezekiel prophesied: *Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments to do them* (36:25-27). The Son will pour out the Spirit on His people; will give them the reality which the waters of baptism signify and seal.

D. The Son of God (34 cf. Mt 3:17)

John's final statement reveals that Jesus is the Son of God. John had heard the Father declare, "*This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased*" (Mt 3:17).

IV. How did John know these things?

A. I did not know Him (31, 33 cf. 1:10-13, 26b)

In using this phrase of himself, John puts himself in the company of _____ (cf. 10, 26b). In himself, he did not have the ability to perceive the Christ. He was blind and ignorant. Only the gracious action of God could change him.

B. Experience (32, 34 cf. 2 Pet 1:16)

1. I heard... (33 cf. Ps 19:1-6; Rom 2:15)

When we recognize Christ for who He really is, it is because we have heard His voice. The WSC declares (#31): *Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, He doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the Gospel.* How does the Spirit speak to us?

- a. In the Preaching of the Word (cf. Rom 10:14)
- b. In the Glory of the World (cf. Ps 19:1-4)
- c. In the Confines of our Conscience (cf. Rom 2:15)

2. I saw... (32, 34 cf. Rom 1:18-23; 2 Pet 1:16)

John's experience, by God's grace, enabled him to "see" what he was seeing. The truth of Christianity is not subjective but objective, it is based in reality, not in conjecture. Because of our sin, however, we don't always perceive it. Peter writes that "*we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty*" (2 Pet 1:16). God's revelation of Himself is rooted in history.

C. Sacred Scripture

1. The Lamb of God (cf. Is 52:13-53:12; Lk 1:76-79)
2. John's Successor, Superior, Predecessor (cf. Is 40:3ff; Mal 3:1ff)
3. The Spirit Baptizer (Is 42:1ff; 61:1ff)
4. The Son of God (cf. 2 Sam 7:12-16; Ps 2)

V. Conclusion