



The Gospel of John

Prologue

John's Prologue

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

Today- we tend to think that we know so much more than past generations.

We often think and feel this about many topics including our study of GOD'S Holy Word the Bible.

While the simple truth is this; it is only technological advancements that have made historical & Biblical resources far easier to access.

What also is equally true is that we have lost the cultural influences, inflections, and references within the Biblical text itself that was largely unwritten due to the fact that it was originally just taken for granted that the reader or listener already understood the significance of the happenstance surrounding select passages.

Often this means the broader flavor of certain events detailed within the scriptures have been lost. This is exactly why many find reading the Bible to be tedious and bland.

The zest of life, the zeal of the people, the timing of events in their historic context has been lost.

What we have lost is comprehension of those details that previous generations picked up on that we today do not. This is simply due to the elapsed time and distance and a language barrier from the time of Jesus.

A great deal of this is because of our versions and translations of the Bible.

Make no mistake we have many fine Biblical resources today but they all pale in

comparison as in not being equal to the original Hebrew or Greek. (example Greeks 7 words for Love)

Even Latin falls a little short in this regard. & If Latin suffers loss as compared to Hebrew and Greek then English quite certainly often fails.

The ancient languages were simply better suited to convey nuance & detail.

And that my friends is what this class is all about, filling in the subtle or historical detail of the Gospels – Particularly the details from within the Gospel of John.

The Gospel of John has a literary structure worked with a method to achieve an objective goal. This goal being ones restored Spiritual life in Christ with the forgiveness of our sin as our result of our belief in Jesus.

Whereas condemnation and damnation are also the ultimate consequence of ones denial and rejection of Jehovah Almighty's Messiah. Christ our Lord.

In short the Apostle John presents the profound truth of Jesus our Christ as the mystery of GOD, GOD Himself contained within human flesh, born and revealed to us, those whom believe in Him- in so simple language that a child can understand. and yet this Gospel contains GODLY examples of morality, doctrine, and theology that the most learned among us can and have spent entire lifetimes examining.

& fortunately for us we now get to enjoy the fruit of their life's labors for our comprehension of Christ right now in this class. & now as we begin:

Dear Jesus please enlighten our minds and guide our hearts – Amen.

Those of you who may have previously heard my Revelation class might recall that when Jesus appeared to John late in his life as the last surviving Apostle whom was exiled and incarcerated by Domitian the Roman Emperor at that time to the isle of Patmos.

Jesus within Rev. 1:19 gave to John explicit instructions that he was to write down what he had seen past tense, what currently was, and what would soon be revealed future tense by Jesus unto John for future times. This being past, present & future.

Meaning it has been hotly debated throughout the centuries as to the timing of the Gospel of John as too when it was written.

I am a firm believer in the instructions of Christ to an elderly John to write down what he had seen past tense- which was the life and ministry of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus.

Many of the most celebrated scholarly minds through the ages also agree with this thought; That the Gospel of John was indeed the last book written within the Holy Bible. In fact almost all of the earliest Biblical Church fathers who were much closer to John's time also thought this way. Just because Revelation is placed last in your Bible does not necessarily mean it was the last book written. Many agree John was given Revelation and then after he was freed he spent his remaining years in Ephesus composing his Gospel.

The premise is that John being the youngest of the original twelve felt that he had not much to offer as to additional information other than what had already been written down in the other now recorded synoptic Gospels of Matthew Mark and Luke.

The word synoptic in Greek means common view. Or from the same vantage point.

The Gospel of John differs because when Jesus revealed Himself once again to John later in his life on Patmos-this inspired John to finally write his memories and recollections of Jesus ministry from his now exclusive vantage point of seeing Jesus as of how GOD became a man, remember Jesus had instructed an elderly John to write his Gospel and now he knew how.

The previous synoptic Gospels were all written from our human view of how a man can be GOD, whereas John now finally wrote his Gospel explaining how GOD became a man.

Interestingly enough the combined 4 Gospels were each written with a natural appeal to the readers of that day and for every type of person down through the ages.

Matthew with genealogies and human quandaries that appealed to the Jewish believer.

Mark quick on action & honor while referencing several Centurions appeals to the Romans

Dr. Luke's fine eye for detail and historical markers are for the intellectual Greek mind.

John's appeal is for everyone from a Heavenly Godly perspective.

Together these 4 unique and distinct but yet never continuous references of Jesus life give to us exact details of Christ's Ministry. Think about this- when is the last time you heard 4 separate people recall the same events and never disagree about anything. (Only by GOD)

Now my friends lets begin John 1:1-3 NIV

✠ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John is reminding us of the very first words of the Holy Bible the Living Word of GOD contained within Genesis chapter one:

✠ In the beginning GOD created the Heavens and the Earth

John is telling us that it was the living Word portion of GOD that did the actual Creating. You know, GOD said let there be light and there was light.

By GOD'S Word light was created.

It was by the spoken Word of GOD that light and everything else was brought forth from the Mind, Will, and Plan of Almighty GOD.

We also should take note here that John tells us that the Word was with GOD, and He the Word was GOD, that John is implying that the Word of GOD is each separate and distinct from GOD- but the Word is also of and is GOD. Is this all starting to sound familiar?

Continuing on :

✠ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NIV

Jesus was obviously independent and existed before anything was created

So now we have the Living Word the creative element of GOD becoming flesh and of course just like Genesis 1:2 states that the Spirit of GOD also separate and distinct but who is also GOD hovered over the waters of a yet void and unformed Earth.

The Word became flesh- He GOD became human He was literally born into His own Creation becoming man who is visible, audible, & tangible limiting Himself temporarily within His time and place while living amongst fallen sinners with a sinless Grace.

GOD in Christ not only used the Fathers design while Creating us, He now first hand understands our limitations and frustrations by incarnation. We can not comprehend and properly come to GOD- so GOD in Christ Jesus has come to us.

Jesus never ceased being GOD when He was born human- He had to fulfill the requirements as a human being to be able to repay our Sin debt unto Heavenly Father.

Just as God is Love, Hope, and Grace likewise the Lord is Righteousness, Justice, and Holiness. Ultimately no attribute of GOD can or will ever be suspended for another.

This means for our sake Jesus did not always avail Himself to His own infinite power or knowledge, this means Jesus experienced comfort or pain, loss or gain, the same as the rest of us, literally growing and learning as a child to be one of us, & then to do what none of us ever did or can do. Jesus lived as a sinless human who could pay our sin debt to a Holy and truly just GOD. Because Romans 6:23 states the wages of sin are death.

Now here my friends is the exact wording of John 1:18 from the oldest surviving Greek text which reads as: " the only Begotten GOD of GOD." – As in each Matthew Mark and Luke time and again use the only begotten Son of GOD as in human for Jesus Christ.

John makes it clear this man Christ Jesus is and ever shall be GOD within human flesh.

Even the most famous or infamous depending upon your opinion of Greek text study- within one of the most comprehensive of all time critical text work of “Westcott and Hort” do agree that the earliest surviving manuscripts of the Gospel of John do in fact state that Jesus was originally referred to by John 1:18 as “the only begotten GOD of GOD.” Interestingly enough when Jesus contended with a scribe as to His identity as recorded within Mark 12:29- our Lord quoted the highest of all scriptures unto the Jewish people. Deuteronomy 6:4 NIV

✝ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

No doubt the Scribe felt justified and confirmed with these Words of the Living Christ. But what we today and the Scribe at that time did not get are the actual definitions of these words in Hebrew and as compared to modern English:

✝ Hear, O Israel: that the Lord (Jehovah) thy GOD (Elohim) is one.

Ladies and gentlemen brothers and sisters in Christ- the word Elohim means PLURAL. This scriptures for us and particularly for the Jewish people reads: thy Lord GOD Jehovah is thy GOD as in He is PLURAL but He is one.

Jesus just plainly stated to the Scribe questioning who He is- that He IS Jehovah as in a distinct yet separate part of Jehovah GOD, known as the Living Creative Word now in human flesh forever called Jesus our redeeming Christ and saving Messiah.

The Priests, Scribes, and Pharisees studied this scriptural descriptive definition of GOD by GOD Himself & to this day they do not get or outright deny its true simplistic meaning.

From day one of creation, from verse one of John’s Gospel, and from the Living Word of GOD- from the lips of Jesus our Christ who is GOD in human flesh, Jesus Himself says Jehovah is our GOD and that He our GOD is Plural- whom is one.

Father ~ Son ~ & Holy Spirit; one who is three, & three who are one.

The Jewish people to this day have always said yes Elohim means plural- but we are to take it as singular. Duh, talk about not seeing the forest because of the trees.

Yes- GOD is one who is three.

Moving on John 1:10-11

✝ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Jesus coming to visit His own means that the Lord was coming to first visit the Jewish people whom were chosen to be the worlds clergy unto all peoples. This means Christ our Lord was well within His rights of ownership, indeed of all that He had Created in the Name and Will of His Father Jehovah to install GOD’S Law and to recall mankind unto Him. But GOD in His infinite Wisdom gives to us our freedom of choice, to accept His Messiah through His pardon of faith or to live apart from Him within eternal Sin.

Manmade Religions of tradition and superstition are filled with humanistic philosophies that always lead us to think we can earn GODS forgiveness by our own works and deeds or outright purchase. This be through empty rituals full of customs that are often occultic of mysticism with the result of materialism & hedonism often as our present or eternal reward. While enrichment as well as power of control is unto an upper echelon of elite deceivers. Jesus was adamantly opposed to all of this.

The human Jesus despite all fulfilled prophecy and examples of unparalleled undenied even to this day- miracles of sight, sound, mind, body, and Soul. Jesus the man is an example of deep tragedy, suffering rejection, abuse, jealousy, envy, duplicity, disloyalty, ingratitude, brutality, and malice of spite- in which did ultimately lead by human standards to the failure of a terrible public mocking execution.

The Divine Jesus is unselfish, faithful, obedient, grateful, generous, kind, full of mercy, purity, & honest even when honesty is not the politically correct thing to be, but our Lord ever remains patient and temperate with those learning and growing in Him. Jesus as GOD is the very definition of sincerity and the ultimate self sacrifice because He knows that He alone is capable paying our sin debt owed to His Father and thusly restoring us to the Love of GOD.

Jesus Divine victory is the resurrection of the seemingly defeated human Jesus. Meaning our Sins were atoned for as in that big word substantiation which simply means there is no evidence remaining of any Sin allegations against any of us. Those whom accept Jesus pardon by His grace alone for our Sin- is paid for by Him. This gives Salvation as in deliverance from the consequences of our Sin, this be to all those whomever believe in Him- Christ Jesus as their King, Lord, & Savior.

Christ the Messiah's tragedy was and is forever Jesus as a man & our forever Triumph. His and our life over death, Love over hate, light over darkness, & His Spirit over His and our flesh.

It has been said, satan, sin, and fallen mankind all the unbelieving each did their worst at the cross. While the GOD in Jesus always the best was at His very best.

In every conceivable way Jesus as a man His victory intellectually, emotionally, physically, Biblically, & Spiritually were all fulfilled within of the Will and Plan of the Father Jehovah. All were completed by Jesus the man, by GOD'S plan- born human as the Great I AM.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 NIV

if you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9 NIV

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6 NIV