

A  
Bible Study  
Of  
Who Jesus  
Is

By Pastor W. J. Casey

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# Introduction

In this series, we will be looking at this subject of "Who Jesus is." The bible says that in the last days false Christ and those who are anti-christ would arise in the world. Jesus Himself said this would happen in Matt. 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

For an illustration on how to spot a counterfeit we can look at the Treasury Department's counterfeit unit. These men and women are taught and shown all that can be of the real money so that when the false comes by them they can spot it readily.

So the best way to spot a counterfeit Christ is to learn all that we can about the real Lord Jesus. We will for this purpose be using the first eleven chapters of the gospel of John. There will be a total of 12 studies.

The writer of these chapters that we will be studying is the Apostle John. He had the privilege to write 5 books of the New Testament. This gospel is the first one and Revelation is the last one. All five were written between the years 90 to 95 AD. In his writings John refers to himself as the disciple that loved Jesus or words very similar to this, he would not even make mention of his name or position.

I believe everyone knows and understands that a truly complete biography of Jesus the Christ, His life and work could not be written for the world could not contain them as John says in chapter 21:25 "*And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.*" In the gospels we have only a brief account of His life, enough to prove who He is and what He has done for us.

The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke give an accurate description of His life and work and are synoptic in nature. However the gospel of John amplifies these three and gives added meaning to them and to Jesus. Each gospel fulfills a specific purpose. The purpose of John's gospel is to present

the message of salvation to every person as we read here his words in chapter 20:31 *"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name"*

This gospel should be the starting point for every new Christian to begin their lifelong study of the Bible and Christ.

What we will discover here in these chapters are truths that had by the time of John's writing this gospel had withstood the test of time!

# Study One

## Who is Jesus?

### He is God in the Flesh

#### John 1:1-14

To begin this study we will look mainly at two things. First, is who Jesus is and how He was manifest in the world? Second what Jesus did His mission and His ministry?

Now let us start by reading from Col. 1:15-17 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 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." From this passage we see Christ Jesus as being the creator and sustainer of all that exist. He is also over all as depicted by the words thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers.

We will first look at the eternal Christ in John 1:1-5 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."*

We find in verse one John begins in the beginning and this he does without trying to create an argument about the creation. John is stating a fact "In the beginning God created everything as we see here in Gen. 1:1-2 *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."* This is the beginning of the earth and all that is on it and the sky. Notice Jesus was already there in the phrase "word was with God" Now the word "word" here comes from a root that means

“logic” or a “logos.” John used this because Jesus is the only way life makes since.

The last phrase of verse one says “the word was God” John is saying Jesus is God in the Son’s position.

The only way to understand life as it is, is to see it presented in the Bible. One cannot rationalize or explain life without God.

Our faith in Jesus will unlock the meaning of both physical and spiritual life.

According now to verse 2 Jesus was both with God and was God in the beginning. Jesus made this unique claim during His time of ministry. Jesus was both who He claimed to be and did what he said He would do as stated in Luke 4. Now for example He told Philip this in John 14: 8-9 as follows “*Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father.*” The bible said Jesus died and rose again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, this fact changes everything in a person’s life.

It must be clear that Jesus is not just another character of some religion such as Buddha or Mohammed. Christianity is an organic, a living body of believers.

In verse 3 Christ is the creature power behind the universe. Jesus made everything and nothing that is was made without Him. There are those who say it was a big bang and then 3 to 5 billion years to arrive at today. If God did not create all of this then who did? How did the complexity of this world come to be if Jesus did not create it? One must be well aware that Satan knows that removing Jesus from creation destroys the rest.

So John just says the truth, creation makes a necessity of a creator and that is the Trinity the God head Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In verse 4 John declares Jesus to be both life and light, this was His purpose to bring life (first) and light to men. You cannot have spiritual light without first having spiritual life. Those without Christ are in darkness after salvation we can begin to understand God’s revelation.

Last in this section is verse 5. This is why the light of Jesus can shine brightly and men fail to see it. Many people heard Jesus give His sermons and did not accept Him. They refused because their hearts were hard against Him.

Our next section in verses 6-10 is the witness that was sent from God.

*"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not"*

John gives nothing of Jesus birth or lineage, His early life is excluded. John begins his record with John the Baptist ministry. The Apostle does not give John the Baptist birth record, John the Baptist title Baptist was given by Jesus in Matt. 11:11. John the Baptist was known for baptizing, however his main ministry was as a witness to the light, for the salvation of men. John the Baptist came to witness or to tell men everywhere to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus.

Most people misunderstood John the Baptist as he was the first preacher to Israel in 400 years. Many came out of curiosity but few really believed his words. Here John is saying that John the Baptist not "that light" but bore witness of the "light" Jesus Christ. God is not willing that any should perish but that all would come to the "light," so He sent the message everywhere.

All men have not accepted Jesus as Saviour but He was here on earth a living, human, not a phantom or spirit or some mysterious force. No Jesus was God wrapped in flesh and that makes Him part of history.

Jesus was not just here, but here with a unique authority over the world He created. Jesus proved this by His ability to repeal the normal laws governing life and the world; as He performed miracle to prove who He was and still men rejected Him.

The purpose of being a witness is to give all men an opportunity to accept the Lord Jesus as Saviour. However God the Father will never compel anyone to believe, He simply draws men to the cross of Jesus this is the power of His gospel.

John the Baptist did not come to define theology, no he came to give enough information so men could be saved. He brought the, a, b, c's of the gospel. This is how to sum up this message of John the Baptist.

First, one needs to admit that they are lost and need a Saviour. Admit to not being able to solve your problems, this is what is meant by repenting. Unless one admits to being in trouble one cannot find a way then to come to the light.

Second, one must believe in the one who can give life, one who will meet you where you are and give life and light.

Third one can begin to see their behavior change. This is what John the Baptist preached. He told the tax collectors to be fair and honest. He told soldiers to stop their violence and their false accusations. He told men to change because they had a new life full of light.

Our third and last section is on the "rejection and salvation" in verse 11-14 below

*"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*

Jesus brought life for all; however His own people Israel refused to accept Him as Messiah which had been sent to them. However those who received Jesus as Saviour these were born again as sons of God. This happens because one believes in the name of Jesus.

This birth is not of blood or a matter of ancestry. Those who heard John mostly thought they did not need to repent because they descended from Abraham. John said that this makes no difference to God.



Others thought as many today that somehow one can be born again through the flesh. Men's works will never gain God's righteousness. Salvation is of the Lord. Life is a gift of God available to all and it is good and precious.

Jesus came to bring these wonderful things to every heart. His life is the one that will flow into every person. To have this life and light we must accept Jesus and believe on the name of Jesus the only begotten Son of God.

Lastly a few final thoughts on this passage. Where did Jesus come from? Was He born like us? Was He first a preacher or prophet of Israel? These are two important questions. These reveal a basic understanding of Jesus nature or the lack of it.

John began at the beginning and stressed that Jesus was not just another person but God in the flesh. He declared Him fully God and fully man. Jesus was the ideal condition of humanity, the opposite of fallen man.

Jesus alone can offer salvation this makes a vital difference between Christ-tianity and all other religions. What other religions promise is what Jesus alone can provide.

# Study Two