

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 1: 29-34

INTRODUCTION:

John is a gospel written for a specific purpose: that we might believe.

Over and over again in these scriptures in chapter one John reiterates who Jesus is, and by what authority he has come to bear witness.

His testimony is that of Christ the Messiah is coming as he speaks, and he has been sent by God the Father to announce His arrival to Israel.

It is this arrival of the Messiah which both the Jews, the priests and the Levites where about to reject the idea that Jesus was the true Messiah. (Verse 19).

However the message was clear from God to John to identify the Messiah Jesus Christ to the people and to Israel.

John's argument to those unbelieving Jews and their priests and Levites was come see for yourself.

Come and see who that Messiah is. And come see how the Lord our God will identify Him to you. (Verse 33).

So now we see here in our scriptures this morning Johns mandate to identify and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah. (Verses 29-34).

JOHN THE BAPTIST PROCLAIMS JESUS AS THE MESSIAH

1. (John 1:29-34) John the Baptist tells us who Jesus is.

a. Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (Verse29)

Every morning and every evening, a lamb was sacrificed in the Temple for the sins of the people (Exodus 29:38-42).

Exodus 29:38-42

³⁸ Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually.

³⁹ The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even:

⁴⁰ And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering.

⁴¹ And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

⁴² This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee.

The fact of the matter is this.

1. Every day, both morning and evening a sacrifice of a lamb had to be made.
 2. This had to be a continual process day in and day out as the Lord had commanded them to do for a sacrifice for their sins.
 3. This lamb offering was not able to save but it pointed the way to their faithfulness in doing so, and then the Lord would forgive them and honor their faith offering for repentance for calling on His name.
 4. Never did it actual wash away their sins, but their faith in God by doing so was rewarded by God.
 5. All sin through all ages had to be washed away by Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God.
- In the OT we are again reminded of these facts of what the Lamb represents.
- Isaiah 53:7 prophesied that the Messiah, Gods servant, would be led to the slaughter just like a lamb.

Isaiah 53:7

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

1. Just like the morning lamb and the evening lamb sacrifice, Jesus would be the ultimate sacrificial lamb. It would only require this one Lamb sacrifice to wash the sins of the world.
2. A sacrifice so sufficient, that it would never again be necessary to be repeated.
3. The scriptures remind us of that very sacrifice that was eventually made by Jesus the Messiah for all the world. (John 3:16)

Hebrews 10:9-11

⁹ Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. ¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹¹ And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

- To pay the penalty for sin, a life had to be given- and God chose to provide the sacrifice himself.
- The sins of the world would be removed when Jesus died as that perfect sacrifice.
 1. At the very dawn of His ministry, Jesus is greeted with words that remind Him of his destiny: Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
 2. His sacrificial agony on the cross for the sin of mankind was the reason he had come.

Colossians 1:19-21

¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

²⁰ And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

²¹ And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

3. The shadow of the cross was cast over the entire ministry of Jesus for a reason. And that reason was for us. For all the world to come clean.
4. The cross was the only way that a sinner could be reconciled to the triune God. Just as Colossians 1:19-21 explained it to us.

b. **For He was before me:** (Verse 30)

1. John the Baptist was actually born before Jesus - and John would know this (Luke 1).
 2. So, when John says He was before me, he refers to the eternal pre-existence of Jesus.
- I can picture in my mind's eye this passage in the scripture where John was present with Jesus during a Jewish hostility debate towards Him.

John 8:57-59

⁵⁷ Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

⁵⁸ Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Before Abraham was, I am.**

⁵⁹ Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

3. John knew very well that Jesus was God. Because a claim like this in His very presence would convince him. The same convincing words from the Messiah is also found in Exodus 3:14, which supports our Lords deity.

Exodus 3:14

And God said unto Moses, **I Am That I Am**: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I Am** hath sent me unto you.

1. For Jesus to have made a claim like that to the Jews that He was around before Abraham was meant that he could only be God Himself.
2. Imagine for a moment with me, about the anger that it caused amongst the Jews, religious priests and the Levites.
3. They must have been searing and foaming at their mouth to have heard such a statement.
4. At that very moment they knew that their little religious empires were about to fail, and fall and crumble.
5. Fall they would but not without a fight. And that fight is still going on in many religious movements, even included is the Catholic Church.

- c. **Upon whom you see the Spirit descending**, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit: (Verse 33)

In Luke 3:1-22 we see the Baptism of Jesus.

I believe that the Lords baptism as the scripture says is a baptism of the Holy Ghost.

However, the day that all the people, soldiers, publicans, Jews, Priests, Levites and alike had come to see who this man Jesus was.

It was therefore necessary for the Lord to identify Himself publicly to the people present that he was not for the Jewish religion nor any other religion for that matter.

But publicly identified himself with the baptism of John which meant that it was the identification of one who was set aside for the God of Abraham whose son Jesus Christ would be associated with in the forgiving of sin.

Had John not baptized Jesus that association would have been lost and then those onlookers would not have thought it meaningful or important enough.

- But God the Farther continued that thought process going. (Read Luke 3:1-22).
- ²² And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

1. God gave John the Baptist the sure sign to know the Messiah.
2. He would be the one on whom the Holy Ghost descended upon from heaven.
3. John is a reliable witness regarding who Jesus is, because he has had confirming evidence from God.

d. **I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God:** (Verse 34)

1. John the Baptist gives his solemn testimony: that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. He is the Son of God in the sense shown in [John 1:18](#) : the One who perfectly declares the nature and personality of God the Father.

[John 1:18](#) ¹⁸ No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

1. The gospel of John emphasizes John's role as a witness, not a baptizer. Witnesses give testimony as to what they have seen and experienced, in an effort to establish the truth. Beyond that, they are unreliable, and operate on hearsay.
2. Witnesses are also **not neutral** - they are committed to the truth of their testimony, or they are unreliable witnesses.
3. John is a reliable witness, and knows who Jesus is because of what he has seen with his own eyes.

So with these words we close today, to celebrate and realize that Jesus Is our Saviour of all time. There is NO OTHER.

D. The testimony of the first disciples.

1. ([John 1:35-39](#)) Two of John's disciples begin to follow Jesus.
2. ([John 1:40-42](#)) Andrew brings his brother, Simon Peter to Jesus.
3. ([John 1:43-44](#)) Jesus calls Philip to follow Him.
4. ([John 1:45-51](#)) Nathaniel overcomes prejudice to follow Jesus.

➤ But what does He mean by the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man? (Verse 51)

- i. This may be in connection with the dream of Jacob in [Genesis 28:12](#), where Jacob saw a ladder from earth to heaven, and the angels ascending and descending upon it.

[Genesis 28:12](#) ¹² And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

- ii. Perhaps it is that; Jesus says that *He* is the ladder, the link, between heaven and earth.

Son of Man (Verse 51):

1. The idea behind this phrase is not “the perfect man” or “the ideal man” or “the common man.”
2. Instead, it is a reference to [Daniel 7:13-14](#), where the King of Glory is coming to judge the world is; is called the Son of Man.

Daniel 7:13-14

¹³ I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

¹⁴ And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

- i. Jesus used this title often because in His day, it was a Messianic title free from political and nationalistic opinion.
- ii. When a Jewish person of that time heard “King” or “Christ” they often thought of a political or military savior.
- iii. Jesus emphasized another term, often calling Himself the Son of Man.

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PRAYER.....CLOSE