

# Whom do men say that I am...

## John 1:6-15

### INTRODUCTION:

The primary focus of the book of John is to set forth the God of creation, our creator of heaven and earth. It is also a book to bear witness for the Lord as our only creator and redeemer of all creation.

Now as we get to verse 6 in our text this morning, this verse take on a whole new theme as to presenting Jesus Christ our Lord as God, and our creator.

If the first 5 verses did not capture our attention then this is for those who still may have some doubts as to whether Jesus is God.

Way back in the O.T. our Savior has been declared to us and to all that have ever heard the OT, and for those who may have forgotten what was said previously in the OT.

### Romans 15:4

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

The bible tells us that the OT was written for our own admonition, which means that it was written to educate and inform us directly so that we would be without an excuse later on in the N.T. scriptures when we begin to see the appearance of Jesus Christ as we have already begun to experience his presence here in the book of John.

So let us begin.....

The Lord knew that there would be and always would be skeptics who would challenge his deity. Therefore the book of John is one such book in scripture which affirms the Lords position as claimed by him in the scriptures.

In an obscurity, we see the emergence of a person in history, which would be very significant in the role that the Lord would have him to play. Firstly John would be introduced to us here in the scriptures as a person who has been "chosen" by God to proclaim his name and to reveal him in the plentiful scriptures that we have since seen.

The interesting thing we can see here at this moment in time of John the Baptist appearance is the fact that the Lord had chosen him. Just like the Lord has chosen those believers in him before the foundation of the world. (Ephesians 1:4).

### Ephesians 1:4

According as he hath chosen us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame **before** him in love: *(those that would believe of their will)*

- John born into this world would believe in Jesus, and proclaim as a believer the coming of the Savior of the world. (*Luke 1:15 filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb*).
  - Jesus Christ would save John the Baptist in the same way that he would save you and I, and that is you and I would have to believe in Jesus and on Him in His name, which is Jesus Christ the creator God, savior and redeemer of this world.
  - A side note to remember is that the Gospel writer of Johns Gospel is not the same person as John the Baptist.
1. It's hard to believe sometimes but that is the facts folks.
  2. In the Lords wisdom, the scriptures he gives to us in the Gospel of John would be the very scriptures which would be able to save our souls. (see scripture is able to save).

## 2 Timothy 3:15

And that from a child thou hast known the holy **scriptures**, which are **able to make thee wise unto salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

## John 5:39

Search the **scriptures**; for in them ye think **ye have eternal life**: and they are they which testify of me.

- Although Johns entrance into this world is also miraculous in the fact that it is a miracle that God would use him in the scriptures to save us and all who would read the scriptures written in His name for us to believe on.
  - Yet, the miracle even as it is, is played down, as the Lords name is proclaimed as higher than his, and is proclaimed as the one who is "THE LIGHT".
- ✓ John came to bear witness of that light.

Let's take a look at the scriptures for this morning.

## **<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.**

1. Does God have to send a man....., no he does not but he chose to do so.
2. If God had to send anything but a man, how would he have communicated with people? Its common sense.

## Who was this man?

Some of the questions we can ask is who was this man that was sent from God.

- A. To answer that question is simple in itself, this was a man that God knew that would be faithful in his lifetime, and that his character would be such that he would be a man that would be devoted to doing what was right.
- B. He would be a man that would be born from a devoted God fearing family and a family who always served God in the priest hood.
- C. He would be a man from a family, whose family held God in high esteem.
- D. He would also be a man who was to be very close to the family of the Lords lineage.

Here is the record of John's Parents faithfulness.

### **Luke 1:5-17**

<sup>5</sup> There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

<sup>6</sup> And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

<sup>7</sup> And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

<sup>8</sup> And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

<sup>9</sup> According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

<sup>11</sup> And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

<sup>12</sup> And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

<sup>13</sup> But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

<sup>14</sup> And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

<sup>15</sup> For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

<sup>16</sup> And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

<sup>17</sup> And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

### **3. Why was he sent ?**

- A. We read in the scriptures that he would be the one God would send to bear his Son's testimony.
- B. He would also be the one eventually who would be recorded the scriptures.

- C. This was a man in whom God could trust with His Sons Deity that the entire world would know in advance that His Son Jesus Christ was to be born into this world by a miraculous virgin birth.

**4. What was the man's name?**

- A. Anytime we hear of an important man, or hear of a man doing important work, we want to know his name.  
B. It is no different here, the people were beginning to hear about this person's reputation and so they began enquiring as to his name.

**<sup>7</sup> The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.**

The scripture is clear as to why he came, or was born into this way.

1. He came to bear witness the scripture says.
2. That was to bring and to bear witness of the Light? That was to come.
3. Many thought that he was the Messiah, but that was not the case and he quickly put a stop to those miss thoughts of the people he was preaching to.
4. Why did he come? That all men though him might believe?

**<sup>8</sup> He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.**

- A. The witness he was to be, was a witness for Christ's mission here on earth.  
B. This was to show forth as Christ's mission that His father had sent him to do.  
C. The whole account as to John's defense for the Lord can be seen here in John 1 and verses 19-28.

**Here in these verses we see John the Baptist declaring his mission for the Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

<sup>20</sup> And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

<sup>21</sup> And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

<sup>22</sup> Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

<sup>23</sup> He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

<sup>24</sup> And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

<sup>25</sup> And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

<sup>26</sup> John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

<sup>27</sup> He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

<sup>28</sup> These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

### **Isaiah 40:3**

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

1. Was John that light of the scriptures?
2. No. he was sent to bear witness only of that Light?

### **In the next verses in John 29-34 we see John declaring for all to see that Jesus is the Messiah.**

<sup>29</sup> The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

<sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

<sup>31</sup> And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

<sup>32</sup> And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

<sup>33</sup> And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

<sup>34</sup> And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

- If it were not for John, many would not have heard the gospel and many would not have turned to the Lord to be healed spiritually. (salvation)
- The bible says that he had turned the hearts of many men to the Lord.
- John was instrumental in pointing out Jesus to his disciples, and they became the very first disciples to follow after the Lord. (John 1:35-37).

### **John 1:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

<sup>11</sup> He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

<sup>12</sup> 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:

<sup>13</sup> **Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

- A. It is not possible for men to become the sons of God, unless they are born of the will of God. The gift of eternal life only comes from God. If He does not give it you don't get it.
- B. The bible tells us here that there is two ways a man can be born.
- C. The first is to be born of the flesh, which is not good for anything.
- D. The second way is to be born of the will of God.
- E. If you are born of the will of God, then you become the sons of God.
- F. No amount of spiritual or religious intent can cause you to be born of God. That will only lead you to be born of the will of man.

### **John 3:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

<sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

<sup>7</sup> Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

1. We must not try and justify our salvation to ourselves.
2. Neither should we try and justify our salvation to the Lord.

Rather we should live and according to the expectations of Christ who is our hope and glory.

By that the bible says and means that our lives are measured according to a spiritual standard.

This spiritual standard is declared for us in the scriptures and can be validated by the scriptures according to the Lords policy.

- Namely this: Here is how it works!

### **Romans 8:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

<sup>14</sup> **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**

<sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; **but ye have received the Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

<sup>17</sup> **And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.**

### **The policy of the Lord is simple.**

We are all measured up and then a conclusion is found:

That is:

1. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die.
  2. But if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.
  3. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
  4. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
  5. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ. This is only possible if we only believe in Jesus for our salvation.
- These five statements are what will count us as worthy or not worthy to be Sons of God.
  - John was sent by God, so that we might know these things?
  - How, and what is your response now!.

That's what counts!

PRAYER.....CLOSE