

John is traditionally understood to be the author of (John, 1John, 2John, 3John, and Revelation). John's father was Zebedee, mother was Salome (Mat 27:55–56), and brother was James (Mat 4:21). John was a partner in the fishing business with Peter (Luke 5:10). John and his brother James were given the nickname, Sons of Thunder (Mark 3:16–17). John was one of the Twelve Apostles and part of Jesus' closest group of three, along with Peter and James (Mark 5:37; Mat 17:1). John is repeatedly referred to an unnamed “disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23; 19:26; 21:20)

John tells us his purpose that you might believe in Jesus and have eternal life. This is a good book to have those who are seeking and unbelievers read.

Jhn 20:30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

Jhn 20:31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

The Gospel of John was the fourth and last gospel to be written probably written in view of the previous three (**Matt, Mark, and Luke known as the three synoptic gospels meaning seen together**) and therefore in many ways different purposely (**John focused more on who Jesus is and not what Jesus taught and did**). Certain heresies had already sprung up, so the Apostle John found it necessary to set forth in his gospel to clearly teach the deity of Christ.

Quotes from Pastor Chuck Smith

The church wasn't very old before the Arian heresy arose, the denying of the deity of Jesus Christ, putting Him on the level of man. Gnosticism, with its concepts of Jesus and really confusing concepts of Jesus, part divine, part man, and yet, a sort of a phantom kind of a thing. And their idea was: anything that is real is evil, the world is so evil that God could not have created the world. So John wrote this epistle, or this letter, this gospel actually, in order to correct some of those early false teachings that have begun to permeate the church.

Now, it is interesting that as the writers begin the gospels, they each one picked a different place to begin. And with the gospel of Matthew, he began with the generation or the genealogy of Jesus going back to Abraham. And when Mark began his gospel, he began it at the baptism of Jesus by John. When Luke began his gospel, he began it with the enunciation (**announcement**) to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. But when John begins his gospel, he goes clear on back to the very beginning of time, which had no beginning. He goes back even further than Genesis. The book of Genesis is the beginning of creation, "In the beginning, God created..." But God existed long before He created. And so, in Genesis you go back to the beginning of creation, but before that, God was. God existed. So, John goes back to that infinite eternal past and declares, In the beginning was the Word (Jhn 1:1), ...

The Trinity (**tri-unity, Godhead**) is the Christian teaching that there is one living and true God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons: the Father, the Son (**Jesus Christ**), and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; that is triune God, created all things, uphold all things and governs all things. The word Trinity itself does not appear in the Bible, but the doctrine is drawn from the Scriptures describing God. The Trinity is something we can know as truth, but cannot fully comprehend (**We know that our understanding of God is limited** (Deut. 29:29; Isa 55:8–9; Rom 11:33–34)).

John 1:1-5 The Eternal Word (Gen. 1:1-2:3) The Deity of Jesus Christ

Jhn 1:1 In the beginning (**before time began**) was the Word (**Christ, Gr. Logos simply means the Word**), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In Rev 19 John the Apostle, has a vision and sees Christ returning (second coming to earth) as a Warrior Messiah-KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS and His name is called The Word of God." (Rev 19:13, 16).

Before anything was ever created there was the Word (eternal)

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Marks the beginning of creation (**the starting line of time**), the Word was already existing. The Word does not have a beginning; T predates time and creation.

The Word is fully God. Jesus possesses the exact nature and quality of deity, while remaining a distinct person. The Word is distinct from the Father.

John is saying that Jesus existed before creation and was with God, and that Jesus is divine.

And the Word was with God indicates interpersonal relationship with God. And the Word was God affirms that this Word was also in essence the same God who created the universe. Some have claimed wrongly that the Word was God merely identifies Jesus as a god (**lower g**) rather than identifying Jesus as God. However, in Greek, the lack of an article does not necessarily indicate indefiniteness (a god). The context must determine the meaning, and the context clearly indicates that the Word is the one true God.

Another warning: If it were written "the Word was the God," this would be saying Jesus is identical to the Father (a heresy called Modalism) which says God just changes roles, negating or saying there is no Godhead (Tri-unity, Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

Correlation Passages

1John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-(**the One who existed even before the beginning of the world, Jesus Christ**)

1John 1:2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us--

1John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Jhn 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Jhn 1:2 He (the Word) was (continually existed) in the beginning (co-eternally with the Father) with God. (There was never a time when the Father existed without the Son).

These two realities did not happen over time, they are simultaneous and eternal

Jhn 1:3 All things were made (and came into existence) through Him (the Word), and without Him nothing was made, that was made (God created everything through him (the Word) and apart from Him nothing came into being).

Because Jesus was continually with God from the absolute beginning, He is uniquely qualified to be the primary agent, creator of the universe. God the Father did his work of creation through the activity of the Son. This reinforces that Jesus is an uncreated Being.

Jesus Christ is the creator of this universe.

Col 1:15 He(Jesus Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Col 1:16 For by Him(Jesus Christ) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him (creation ultimately has Christ as its purpose and goal).

Col 1:17 And He(Jesus Christ) is before all things, and in Him all things consist (are held together).

Col 1:18 And He(Jesus Christ) is the head (life-source and leader) of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead (first to be resurrected with an incorruptible, immortal body), that in all things He(Jesus Christ) may have the preeminence (supreme, above all, first place).

Col 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him(Jesus Christ) all the fullness should dwell,

Jhn 1:4 In Him was life (He had the power to bestow life and the Word gave life to everything that was created, Gk. word zoe, means the life principle, or source of all life), and the life was the Light of men.

1John 5:11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

Jesus is both the Author of physical life breath and spiritual rebirth. Jesus is the self-existent source of all life (Col 1).

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. John wants us to realize that the Pre-incarnate Christ (God) who breathed physical life into mankind in Genesis is the exact same Person who walks the earth in the Gospel of John.

Jhn 20:22 After His resurrection, Jesus physically breathed on them(**disciples**), and said "Receive the Holy Spirit. The moment of the new creation, giving humanity its spiritual life.

2Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ (**joined to Him by faith through grace**), he is a new creation (**born again**); old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

'You must be born again, new birth

Jhn 3:3-7 Jesus answered and said to him (Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews). "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (1Cor 15:50): "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God...)."

Jhn 3:4 Nicodemus said to Him(**Jesus**), "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jhn 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water (fluid/water breaking, referring to natural, physical birth, temporary) and the Spirit (secondary spiritual rebirth, eternal), he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Jhn 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Jhn 3:7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (There must be a rebirth and Jesus is life, He provides the spiritual DNA change we need.

Jesus, the Author of life (John 1:4), takes our dying "flesh and blood" and infuses or transforms us with His eternal Spirit, qualifying us to inherit the kingdom.

Jhn 1:12 But as many as received Him(**Jesus as savior**), to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Jhn 1:13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, "but of God".

Prophesized: Spiritual washing away of sin paired with the internal renewal of the Holy Spirit

Eze 36:25 "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.

Eze 36:26 "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.

Eze 36:27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Jhn 1:5 And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend (overcome, overpower and is unreceptive to) it (Light). (The world immersed in sin: all that stands is in opposition to God).

The world is not culturally neutral; it is actively blind and hostile to God's truth.

The darkness didn't understand the light of Jesus Christ

Darkness is completely powerless to extinguish spiritual truth, the Light of Jesus Christ and the gospel, is rescuing lost souls in a lost world.

No matter how dark a person's life is, Christ's light can completely shatter it.

Col 1:13 He(Jesus) has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Col 1:14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Jhn 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Jhn 12:46 "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

John 1:6-13 John the Baptist Bears Witness of the True Light (ministry of John the Baptist

Jhn 1:6 There was a man (commissioned and) sent from God, whose name was John (the Baptist). (Gr. Joannes, Heb. Johanan).

John the Baptist was uniquely chosen to prepare the way for Jesus

Isa 40:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.

Mat 3:3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' "

The births of both John the Baptist and Jesus were foretold by the angel, Gabriel (Luke 1:5-80). This passage is about John the Baptist, the son of Zacharias the priest and his wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth was related to Mary the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:36). John the Baptist is considered to be the last of the OT prophets (Mat 11:13) and Jesus said, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he (Mat 11:11).

On your own you can read more on the ministry of John the Baptist, Matt 3:1-17

Jhn 1:7 This man (**John the Baptist**) came for a witness (**or as a testimony**), to bear witness (**or testify**) of the Light (**Christ is the Light**), that all through him(**John the Baptist**), might believe (**become believers**) (**Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved**).

Jhn 3:27 John the Baptist answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.

Jhn 3:28 "You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.'

Jhn 5:17 But Jesus answered them, "**My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.**"

Jhn 5:32 "**There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.**

Jhn 5:33 "**You have sent to John the Baptist, and he has borne witness to the truth.**

Jhn 1:8 He(**John the Baptist**) was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness (**testify and tell**) of that Light.

Jhn 1:9 That (**who**) was the true Light (**perfect Light**) which (**comes**), (**and**) gives light to every man coming into the world.

Jhn 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Jhn 3:20 "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Jhn 3:21 "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God (**divinely prompted, done with God's help and grace**)."

Jhn 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him(Jesus) might be saved.

Jhn 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jhn 12:46 "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

Jhn 1:10 He (**Christ**) was in the world, and the world was made (**came into being**) through Him, and the world did not know Him (**recognize their creator**).

Correlation Passage

Heb 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son (Lit. in Son), whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds (universe, ages);

Jhn 1:11 He came to His own (**that which belonged to him, His creation**), and His own (**people, the Jewish nation**) did not receive (**or welcome**) Him, (**but rejected him**).

The Jews and their general rejection of the Messiah

Luk 19:14 (Jesus explains in a parable) "**But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'**"

Jhn 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them, He gave the right to become “children of God”, to those who believe (**trust, adhere, and rely on**)

Jhn 1:13 who were born (**reborn**), not of blood (**natural physical birth**), nor of the will of the flesh (**not a physical decision**), nor of the will of man (**not a human plan**), “but of God” (**divine supernatural birth, spiritually transformed, born again**).

God makes it clear that neither physical birth nor human effort can make people children of God. Only through believing in Jesus can one become a member of God’s family

1Pet 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

1Pet 1:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

1Pet 1:25 But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

John 1:14-18 The Word Made Flesh (The Incarnation of Christ)

Jhn 1:14 And the Word (**Christ**) became flesh (**human**) and dwelt (**took up residence and lived temporarily among us**) among us, and we beheld (**actually saw**) His glory, the glory as of the only begotten (**Son**), (**the only One of His kind**) of the Father, full of grace and truth (**absolutely free of falsehood and deception**).

The purpose of the incarnation is that God might communicate to us the truth about Himself. Jesus Christ is God come in human flesh (**never ceasing to be less than God**).

Phl 2:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

Phl 2:7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Rev 19:13 He (Christ on a White Horse) was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

Jhn 1:15 John (the Baptist) bore witness of Him(Christ) and cried out (testified repeatedly), saying, "This was He(Christ) of whom I said, 'He who comes after me, is preferred (has priority over and) before me (far greater than I am), for He was (and existed in eternity, long) before me.'

John the Baptist was born first and is Jesus' older cousin, notice John states that Jesus came before him (because he is eternal).

Jhn 1:16 And of His fullness (superabundance of grace) we have all received, and grace for grace (meaning grace upon grace upon grace, spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing, favor upon favor, and gift upon gift).

Col 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him (Jesus Christ) all the fullness (of deity) should dwell,

Col 2:9 For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (completely expressing the divine essence of God, in a body);

Jhn 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses, but grace (unearned, undeserved favor) and truth came through Jesus Christ.

God's giving of the law through Moses, His dwelling among his people in the tabernacle and the temple

Quote from Chuck Smith

The law was given to the nation Israel to establish fellowship between God and man. This "old covenant" was based on man's faithfulness. Because man couldn't keep the law, his fellowship with God was destroyed (Isaiah 59:1-2). God established a "new covenant" with man which is based upon God's faithfulness: the finished work of Christ. Through Him we have continual fellowship with God by His grace (God's unmerited favor).

Rom 5:20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

Rom 5:21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Jhn 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Jhn 1:18 No one has seen God (His essence, His divine nature) at any time. The only begotten Son (unique Son) who is in the bosom (intimate presence) of the Father, He(Christ) has declared (and explained) Him(Father).

Prophetic Messianic passages

Psa 2:6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

Psa 2:7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'

End