

John

The Prologue to the Gospel

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God. 1:2 The Word^a was with God in the beginning. 1:3 All things were created by him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.^b 1:4 *In him was life,^c and the life was the light of mankind.* 1:5 And the light shines on in the darkness, but the darkness has not mastered it.^d

1:6 A man came, sent from God, whose name was John. 1:7 He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that everyone might believe through him. 1:8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. 1:9 The true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was created by him, but the world did not recognize him. 1:11 He came to what was his own,^e but his own people did not receive him. 1:12 But to all who have received him – those who believe in his name – he has given the right to become God’s children 1:13 – children not born by human parents^f or by human desire or a husband’s decision, but by God.

1:14 Now the Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We saw his glory – the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father. 1:15 John testified about him and shouted out, “This one was the one about whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is greater than I am, because he existed before me.’” 1:16 For we have all received from his fullness one gracious gift after another. 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ. 1:18 No one has ever seen God. The only one, himself God, who is in closest fellowship^g with the Father, has made God^h known.

The Testimony of John the Baptist

1:19 Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leadersⁱ sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

1:20 He confessed – he did not deny but confessed – “I am not the Christ!”^j 1:21 So they asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not!” “Are you the Prophet?”^k He answered, “No!” 1:22 Then they said to him, “Who are you? Tell us so that we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

1:23 John^l said, “I am *the voice of one shouting in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord,’*”^m as Isaiah the prophet said.” 1:24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 1:25 So they asked John, “Why then are you baptizing if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

1:26 John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not recognize, 1:27 who is coming after me. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal!” 1:28 These things happened in Bethany across the Jordan River where John was baptizing.

1:29 On the next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” 1:30 This is the one about whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who is greater than I am, because he existed before me.’ 1:31 I did not recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he could be revealed to Israel.”

1:32 Then John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending like a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. 1:33 And I did not recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining – this is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’” 1:34 I have both seen and testified that this man is the Chosen One of God.”ⁿ

1:2 ^a Grk He 1:3 ^b Many later manuscripts read *not one thing was created. What has been created was life in him* 1:4 ^c An allusion to Ps 36:9 1:5 ^d Or *comprehended it; or overcome it* 1:11 ^e Grk *to his own things* 1:13 ^f Grk *of blood(s)* 1:18 ^g Grk *is in the bosom* (an idiom for closeness or nearness) ^h Grk *him* 1:19 ⁱ Grk *the Jews* 1:20 ^j Or *Messiah* 1:21 ^k Deut 18:15; compare Acts 3:22 1:23 ^l Grk *He* ^m Isa 40:3 1:25 ⁿ Grk *him* 1:34 ^o Many important manuscripts read *is the Son of God*