

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,ⁿ “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

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*