

The gospel of  
**JOHN**

**By Frank Jamerson**

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*Spiritual "equipment" for the contest of life.*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Lesson 1	John 1:1-18.....	5
Lesson 2	John 1:19-51.....	8
Lesson 3	John 2:1-25.....	10
Lesson 4	John 3:1-36.....	12
Lesson 5	John 4:1-42.....	14
Lesson 6	John 4:43-5:16.....	16
Lesson 7	John 5:17-47.....	18
Lesson 8	John 6:1-29.....	20
Lesson 9	John 6:30-71.....	22
Lesson 10	John 7:1-53.....	24
Lesson 11	John 8:1-24.....	26
Lesson 12	John 8:25-59.....	28
Lesson 13	John 9:1-41.....	30
Lesson 14	John 10:1-42.....	32
Lesson 15	John 11:1-44.....	34
Lesson 16	John 11:45-12:11.....	36
Lesson 17	John 12:12-50.....	38
Lesson 18	John 13:1-38.....	40
Lesson 19	John 14:1-31.....	42
Lesson 20	John 15:1-27.....	44
Lesson 21	John 16:1-33.....	46
Lesson 22	John 17:1-26.....	48
Lesson 23	John 18:1-40.....	50
Lesson 24	John 19:1-42.....	52
Lesson 25	John 20:1-31.....	54
Lesson 26	John 21:1-25.....	56

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## Lesson 1

John 1:1-18

### A. Introduction to the book of John

#### 1. Author:

- a. The son of Zebedee and Salome, brother of James, Mark 3:17; 15:40; Matthew 27:56.
- b. Selected as an apostle (Luke 6:12-16), became one of the *pillars in the church* in Jerusalem, Galatians 2:9.
- c. He was the apostle whom Jesus loved, John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20.
- d. External evidence strongly supports this conclusion.

#### 2. Date:

- a. The date has been set at between 60 and 90 A.D.; probably 80-90 A.D.
- b. Tradition says it was written from Ephesus.
- c. Some have tried to date John later, but the discovery of a fragment of papyrus containing John 18:31-33 on the front and 18:37-38 on the back has been dated no later than 125 A.D. It was found in Egypt in the early twentieth century.

#### 3. Purpose:

- a. The central purpose is stated in 20:30, 31.
- b. General overview:
  - 1) The incarnation of the Son of God, 1:1-18.
  - 2) The presentation (1:19-4:54) - introduced by John, 1:19-51; confirmed by seven miracles recorded (water to wine (2:1-11); healing of nobleman's son (4:46-54); healing of paralytic (5:1-16); feeding of five thousand, (6:5-14); walking on the water (6:16-21); healing a blind man (9:1-7); raising Lazarus from the dead (11:1-45), all showing His divine power.
  - 3) The opposition (5:1-12:50) - growing confrontations foreshadowing the inevitable crucifixion.
  - 4) The preparation of the disciples for His death, 13:1-17:26.
  - 5) The crucifixion and resurrection, 18:1-21:25.

### B. The deity of Christ, 1:1-18.

#### 1. The Word in eternity and time, 1:1-5.

- a. The Word was with God (the Father), was God (the Son) and He

## *Johns gospel ...*

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- became flesh, verse 14.
- b. The ***New World Translation*** (by Jehovah's Witnesses) says *the Word was a god*. (They claim it should be so translated because there is no article before God. Neither is there an article before God in verses 6, 12, 13, 18. There is an article before Lord and God in 20:28! Jesus was *Immanuel*, Matthew 1:23.)
  - c. The Word was the agent of creation, verse 3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2.
2. The witness of John the Baptist, 1:6-8.
    - a. John came to prepare the way for the Lord, Matthew 3:3; Isaiah 40:3.
    - b. Though he was great, he was not the Light, Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; Acts 13:47.
  3. The coming of the true light, 1:9-13.
    - a. Jesus came to His own world (verse 10), and His own people (the Jewish nation) did not know Him, Isaiah 53:1.
    - b. Note the contrast - *His own did not receive Him* and *as many as received Him*, verses 11, 12. Those who believe have a right to become children of God.
  4. The incarnation of the Word, 1:14-18.
    - a. The word became flesh, Romans 8:3; 9:5; Hebrews 2:14; 5:7.
    - b. The incarnate Word revealed the invisible God, 4:24; 6:46; 1 Timothy 6:16; Colossians 2:9.
    - c. Just as a coin has two sides, both valid, so Christ had two natures, both valid.

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Describe the writer of this gospel account.
2. What is the main purpose of the book?
3. Why is the designation, *the Word*, appropriate for Jesus?

