

The Mission of the Messiah

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Reading: John 1:1– 14.

Introduction

A. John, the Author, Introduces us to the Word of God Verse 1 & 2

Jesus is frequently called The Word of God. This means that He was the expression of God. He is God made known to mankind. He is God revealed in human flesh. He is eternal as God is eternal. As long as God has existed (That's forever) so Jesus has been with the Father forever. He is God. (Genesis.1V 26)

B. He is the God of Creation – V. 3 – 5

All things made through Him. Life comes from Him. Light comes from Him. Colossians 1:15-17

C. We need to know that there are two people named “John.” in this Chapter Firstly, the author **John** was a disciple of Jesus and secondly this John in verse 6 is **John the Baptist** who came before Jesus to call the nation of Israel to repent of their sins and be ready to accept Jesus as their Messiah – Saviour.

John's Gospel has been called “the Gospel of the Son of God” for there is no detail about the natural birth of the Lord Jesus or the drama surrounding His early childhood. John starts straight in with a) His eternal being, b) His identity as God, c) His creative power and that He is the source of life and light for mankind.

For details of the birth of Jesus read Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23 and Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-40

John's fuller introduction of who Jesus is. Verse 6 - 14

1. John, the witness to the light. Verse 6 – 7

John the Baptist, the voice crying in the desert, prepare the way of the Lord. His mission was to point the nation of Israel to its Messiah, the Lord Jesus. See verse 29. Then he was to decrease while Jesus was to increase, 3:27-30. But oh what a character John was. Jesus said that there was not a greater than John born of woman and we read that the powerful, wicked King Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous man, Mark 6:20.

2. Jesus, the light of the World. Verse 8 – 9

Jesus is the Light of the world, 8:12 & 9:5. He came to give light to every man, v. 9, so that all men might believe, v.7. Just as God so loved the world, so Jesus is the light of that world and gives light to all.

Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers but Jesus brings the light of the Gospel to all who believe 2 Cor. 4:4 Simeon prophesied that Jesus came as “a light to lighten the Gentiles...” Luke 2:32

Peter says that He has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9 and in Colossians 1:12-13 we read that we have been rescued from the dominion of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of His dear Son, the kingdom of light.

3. Jesus - a stranger to His own. Verse 10

The Creator came to His creation but its people did not recognise Him. This world, made “good” by God, (Gen. 1) but spoiled by sin and evil, was still a testimony to its Maker, Rom. 1:19-20. But its people “saw no beauty in Him” Isa.53:2b, and ignored Him, but worse is to come.

4. Jesus - rejected by His own. Verse 11

“He came to that which was His own (things) but His own people did not receive Him.” Isaiah again says “He is despised and rejected by men,” 53:3. How amazing, that the Great Creator Who came to be our Saviour, Who had the right to expect the Glory and honour of all His creation, should tolerate this treatment and then give His life for the world which rejected Him. That's GRACE, That's

LOVE. Not only did He come to His own creation but He came to His own people, the Jewish Nation, who were supposedly waiting for their Messiah, but they rejected and crucified the one who came in fulfilment of the promises to Adam and Abraham.

5. ***Jesus – receive, believe and become. Verse 12 & 13***

“As many” or “to all who **received** Him.” That's the “Whosoever” of John 3:16. Salvation, light and life available to all who **believe**. “He gave the right to **become** children of God.” This is the right or authority to be God's children. So there is no other way to be a child of God but through receiving and believing. Have you received HIM? Have you believed in HIM? If so you have the God given authority to be a child of God.

You may be a descendent of a king, given royal right to the throne, chosen for your excellent DNA but all counts for nothing if you are not born again of the Spirit of God.

6. ***Jesus – the Word became flesh. Verse 14a***

The eternal Word of God was not always “flesh” but became flesh, that is, shared in our humanity so that He could suffer and die for our sins. Heb. 2:14, Philipp. 2:5-8 “Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate deity.” What humility, what condescension! For our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might become rich, 2 Cor. 8:9.

7. ***Jesus – the Glory of God...Full of grace and truth. Verse 14b***

John says “we have seen His Glory” In 1 John 1 He says “the life appeared and we have seen it.” Peter says “we were eye witnesses of His majesty.” 2 Peter 1:16-18. God gave these disciples special glimpses of the glory of God in the face of the Lord Jesus. For example: Matt. 3:13-17 at His baptism; Matt. 17:1-8 at the Transfiguration; at His miracles and at His resurrection.

Jesus said “He that has seen me has seen the Father, John 14:6-10. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. 2 Cor. 5:19.

Full of Grace and truth. Never was there a person who so displayed the grace of God and the truth of God in such perfect balance. “To the woman in John 8 He said “neither do I condemn you,” yet to the hypocrites he said “Woe to you.” He touched the Leper with compassion while He made a whip to drive out the money changers in John 2. To the broken-hearted He is the God of all Grace but to the unrepentant He said “you belong to your father, the devil.”

Today, He still says “*Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest*”
Matt 11:28.