

The Bible: Making It Make Sense

The key to making the Bible make sense lies in three (3) important keys:

- Knowing the true identity of Jesus Christ.
- Understanding what He has done.
- Learning how to walk with Jesus in this world.

John 1

Key verse: 20:30-31

“The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that believing in Him you will have life by the power of His name.”

The gospel writers give us different snapshots of our Lord’s life on earth, because no one biography could adequately capture the entirety of who Jesus is; and what He has done. Matthew wrote to his fellow Jews and emphasized that Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies, and He was indeed the king of the Jews. Mark wrote to the busy Romans, and Mark presented Jesus as the Servant of God. Luke wrote to the Greeks and presented Jesus as the sympathetic Son of the Father. However, John, the beloved physician, writes to both Jews and Gentiles presenting Jesus as the Son of God. The first three (3) Gospel writers focus on describing events the life of Jesus, but John explains the meaning of the events. All four (4) Gospel writer’s record the feeding of the five thousand (5,000), but only John ties it to Jesus being the Bread of Life. John is the only Gospel writer who describes Jesus as the Son of God. John primarily discusses the deity of Jesus. John records the seven (7) “I AM” statements of Jesus, and these self-proclaimed statements of Jesus reveal Jesus’ deity.

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| 1. I Am the Bread of life. | John 6:35 |
| 2. I Am the Light of the World. | John 8:12; 9:5 |
| 3. I Am the Door. | John 10:7 |
| 4. I Am the Good Shepherd. | John 10:11, 14 |
| 5. I Am the Resurrection and the Life. | John 11:25 |
| 6. I Am the Way, Truth, and Life. | John 14:6 |
| 7. I Am the True Vine. | John 15:1 |

The gospel of Matthew begins with a genealogy to prove Jesus was in King David’s lineage. The gospel Mark begins with Jesus’ servanthood. The gospel of Luke begins with events that led to Jesus’ birth into the world, but the gospel of John begins with eternity past.

V1. Let's us know what happened in the beginning. In the beginning of recorded history, the Word existed, the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

V3. God and the Word co-created the world.

V4. Life was in the Word. In order for life to exist four elements are needed:

- Light- Jesus is the light of the world.
- Air- Jesus is the breath of life.
- Water- Jesus is a well of living water in us.
- Food- Jesus is the bread of life.

V5. Light and darkness are contrasted. (The darkness of this world could not comprehend, overpower, or overtake the light Jesus offers).

- Light exposes what's done in the dark.
- Light brings conflict to the powers of darkness.
- Light provides better vision.

Vvs.6-8. These verses compare and contrast Jesus and John the Baptist.

- a. John the Baptist (JTB) was sent from God. Jesus is God.
- b. JTB was a witness to the light. Jesus is the light.
- c. JTB preached that men might believe. Jesus is who we should believe.

V9. If Jesus is the true light, then who is the counterfeit?

V10. How is it possible that Jesus lived in the world, created the world; but the world did not know Him?

V11. If Jesus came for the Jews, then why did they reject Him?

V12. The word "power" here means right or authority. What right/authority did God give to believers?

V14. Define incarnation. Who is the Word? What is the glory of God?

V15. JTB was born before Jesus, yet JTB declared that Jesus was both preferred and was before him. Can you explain?

V16. Because Jesus is full of grace and truth, we as believers have received grace upon grace.

V17. Jesus is contrasted with Moses. What are the differences between the law and grace?

V18. What does it mean that God is a Spirit? Does God have a gender, or is visible to eyesight?

Vvs. 19-27. JTB is questioned concerning his identity. Why were the Jews concerned with JTB?

V23. How did JTB describe himself?

Vvs25-26. Describe JTB's baptism. What's the purpose of water baptism?

V27. Why did JTB point to Jesus?

V29. What was JTB's confession of Jesus?

V30. Describe JTB's veiled language. What is JTB saying about Jesus?

Vvs31-34. When did JTB come to know Jesus?

V36. What does it mean that Jesus is the Lamb of God?

Vvs38-39. What do the questions in these verses reveal? Jesus asked two (2) of JTB disciples what do you want? The disciples asked Jesus where are you staying? What is happening?

Vvs40-41. Who did John and Peter find? What does Messiah mean?

V42. Describe Jesus' and Peter's first meeting.

V43. What did Jesus ask of Phillip?

Vvs 44-51. Describe the calling of the disciples.

Notes/Questions