

IS JESUS GOD? THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: THE SON OF GOD KNOWING JESUS SERIES

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TEXT: John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

INTRO: I love the Gospel of John. One of the reasons why I love this Gospel is because of the author himself. John does not identify himself as the author. All four Gospel writers do not put their names out as the authors of each Gospel. But we know from Church history and going back to the early Church fathers that the authors of the four Gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Even though John is mentioned 20 times in the other Gospels, he is not mentioned in this Gospel by name. But he refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” John was overwhelmed by the love of Christ. He also penned the Epistles of John, and he wrote in 1 John 4:19, “We love, because He first loved us.” He starts out as one of the “sons of thunder” with his older brother James. We see how ambitious he was when he and James wanted to sit at the right and left of Jesus when He established His Kingdom in Jerusalem. He wanted to judge a town by calling down fire. But Jesus changes people. He changes lives, and by the time John pens this Gospel (around 85AD), we see a passionate lover of Jesus and others.

John is called “the apostle of love.” On this Valentine’s Day, some make reference to St. Valentine as the apostle of love, but John was the first one to be recognized as the apostle of love. Why? 80 times in his writings John writes about *agape*, God’s love. Today, the world will celebrate romantic love, but there is a love that transcends all expressions of love—and that is God’s *agape* love for you! He writes 45 times the word “truth” and 100 times the word “believe.” To put it all together: If you believe in the truth of the Gospel, you will receive God’s love that will transform you!

John’s father was a fisherman named Zebedee. John was a fisherman, a blue-collar worker, the people that Jesus reached out to. I talked about “Jesus and the Deplorables” last week. I encourage you to get the notes of last week’s message as well as all the message outlines, available at cheahn.org.

John is the simplest and yet the most profound Gospel. It is different from the Synoptic Gospels. It doesn't include Jesus' birth, His early life, His baptism, His temptation, His transfiguration, none of the parables. (Parables are earthly stories to point to God and His Kingdom.) But Jesus comes as the revealed God. It is interesting that 90% of John is not found in the other three Gospels.

The simple message is that God Himself came to earth as a Human to take the punishment of humanity's sins so that those who believe and follow Jesus will have an abundant life on earth and eternal life after death.

Now, all Gospels reveal Jesus as God. For example, He is called Immanuel, "God is with us," in the Gospel of Matthew. But John's primary focus is on the deity of Jesus. Jesus is God!

I. JOHN GIVES THREE REASONS WHY JESUS IS GOD

A. JESUS IS GOD BECAUSE HE IS ETERNAL: John 1:1a "In the beginning was the Word..."

1. Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God...

2. Only God is uncreated. Only God is eternal. Everything had a beginning except God. God is the only being that never had a beginning. You, me, and the apple tree had a beginning—but God! Think about that for a million years and you still won't understand.

3. The angels are so blown away by this revelation that all they do is worship and say: **Revelation 4:8b and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"**

4. **Revelation 22:13 Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.**

5. **John 8:58 "Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."**

B. Secondly, JESUS IS GOD BECAUSE HE EXISTED WITH GOD.

John described Jesus as dwelling "with God" before creation (John 1:1-2).

1. **John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

2. **He is distinct from God the Father. He was with God (the Father).**

3. Here we have the mystery of the Trinity. One God in three persons. Three persons, one in essence.

4. **Not Sabellianism or modalism.** Modalism says that God appears sometimes as Father, sometime as Spirit, and sometime as Jesus.
 5. There are 25 million Pentecostals who are Oneness Pentecostals that believe this. However, they can't explain logically Jesus being baptized in water, the heavens opening, and the Father saying, "This is My beloved Son," and the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus.
 6. We have some examples in life of the complexity of three in one. For example, in math: $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$. Or time: past, present, future. Three distinct entities, but all three make up time.
 7. **Colossians 2:9 For in Him [Jesus] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily...**
 8. **Thirty-five times in this Gospel, Jesus speaks of God as "My Father," making Him one with God the Father.**
- C. Thirdly, **JESUS IS GOD BECAUSE HE IS THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.**
1. **Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**
 2. We know that God created the universe, but here John says that Jesus created the universe.
 3. **John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.**
 4. **Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.**
 5. Of course, the Triune Being were involved in creating the universe.

II. SEVEN PEOPLE AFFIRM JESUS IS GOD

- A. **John the Baptist: John 1:34 "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."**
- B. **Nathanael: John 1:49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."**
- C. **Peter: John 6:69 "We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."**
- D. **Jesus Himself: John 10:36 "Do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"**

- E. **Martha**: John 11:27 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.”
- F. **Thomas**: John 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”
- G. **John, the apostle and author**: John 20:31 But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
- 1. Not once did Jesus say, “Don’t worship Me. I am not God.”

III. OTHER DIVINE TITLES OF JESUS AND STATEMENTS THAT AFFIRM JESUS IS GOD

- A. “The only Begotten of the Father” (John 1:14)
- B. “The Lamb of God” (John 1:29)
- C. “The Light of the world” (John 8:12)
- D. “The Bread of God who gives life to the world” (John 6:33,35)
- E. “I and the Father are One” (John 10:30)
- F. **“He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9)**
 - 1. “JESUS IS PERFECT THEOLOGY.” BILL JOHNSON
- G. “I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me” (John 14:10)
- D. John 5:17 But He answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.” 18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

IV. JESUS IS REVEALED AS THE GREAT “I AM” (We will be continuing to do our series on Knowing Jesus by covering these Great I Am statements)

- A. “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35)
- B. “I am the light of the world” (John 9:5)
- C. “I am the door” (John 10:7)
- D. “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11)
- E. “I am the resurrection” (John 11:25)
- F. “I am the way, truth, and life” (John 14:6)
- G. “I am the true vine” (John 15:1)

CONCLUSION: There is one more “I am” in **John 8:24** “**Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.**” Believe in Jesus, that He is God, so that you don’t die in your sins.

