Going Deeper bibletime

bes bible educational services

B9 - God the Son

Study 1 - "The Word became flesh"

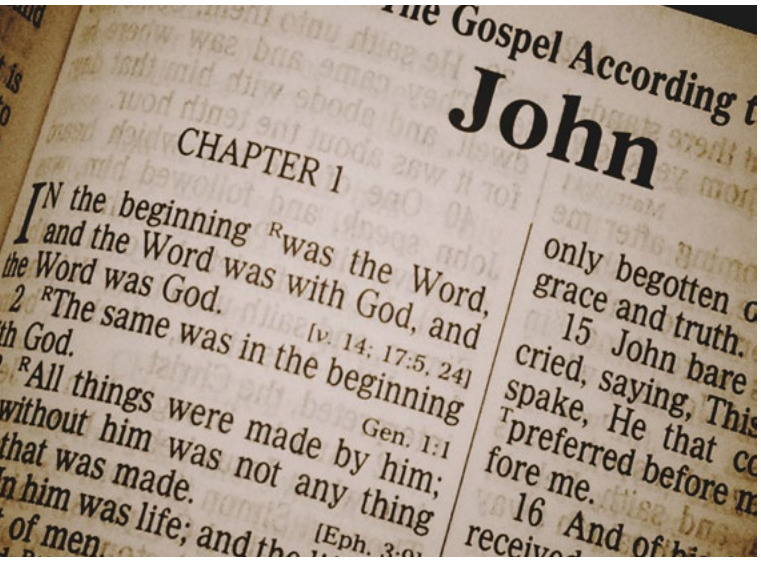
BIBLE READING:

John 1: 1-14 and 20: 30-31

KEY VERSE:

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, ..."

John 1: 14



In these Studies on the God the Son, we shall concentrate on the Gospel according to John.

In many ways, this Gospel is different from the other three - Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Note these points:

1. John does NOT record details about the birth of Jesus, such as we have in Matthew and Luke.

2. John tells us of only eight miracles performed by the Lord Jesus. (Matthew has 20, Mark has 18 and Luke has 20.) Of the eight in John, six are NOT mentioned in the other Gospels.

3. John records many special names, or titles, for Jesus. For example, He is ***"The Lamb of God", "The Light of the World", "The Bread of Life", "The Good Shepherd"*** and ***"The True Vine"***.

4. Almost half of the entire Gospel is devoted to events connected with Jesus' last week. Clearly, John looked upon the death and resurrection of Christ as of first-rate importance.

In the very first verse of the Gospel, Jesus is introduced to us as ***"The Word"***. Note the remarkable things which are said about Him:

1. He was ***"in the beginning". (verse 1)***

2. He was ***"with God". (verse 1)***

3. He ***"was God". (verse 1)***

4. Everything was ***"made through Him". (verse 3)***

Such statements as these show that Jesus is NOT an ordinary man! Nor is He merely some kind of 'super-man'! Life, for Him, did not begin when He was born at Bethlehem! The truth is, He is of the very nature and essence of God, eternal and all-powerful, as God is.

Read ***John 20: 30-31*** again. John is explaining his purpose in writing this Gospel. He wants all who read it to be convinced that Jesus is ***"the Son of God"***. For this reason he begins his Gospel by showing us how special the Lord Jesus is. He is ***"The Word"***, who existed before the beginning of time.

Why is Jesus called ***"The Word"***? Perhaps the simplest answer is this: He is the EXPRESSION of all that God is. (We use words to express the thoughts which are hidden within our minds; our thoughts become known when we put them into words.) God has revealed Himself fully in His Son - ***"The Word". (Hebrews 1: 1-3)***

This is the point which ***verse 14*** is stating - ***"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us"***. In these wonderful words, John's Gospel is telling us about the coming into the world of the Saviour, the Son of God. His 'becoming flesh' is often spoken of as His INCARNATION. This term is used to describe the miracle of God the Son becoming human, yet remaining God. The eternal Son of God became truly human, yet did not cease to be God!

This is the Person of whom this Gospel speaks so fully. It invites us to ***"receive Him" (verse 12)***, in the sense that we place our personal trust in Him for our eternal salvation. It is by doing so that we become children of God and are ***"born of God" (verse 13)*** into His family. Have YOU personally received Him?

This is the fifth of five units on **God the Son.**

Going Deeper bibletime

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B9 - God the Son

Study 2 - "A Teacher come from God"

BIBLE READING:

John 5: 17-26 and 14: 1-6

KEY VERSE:

**"Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life."**

John 6: 68

In John's Gospel there are many statements made by our Lord Jesus which are NOT recorded in the other Gospels. In this Study, we shall focus on some of these, thinking particularly about:-

1. What He said about God.
2. What He said about Himself.

ABOUT GOD

John's Gospel makes it very clear that Jesus claimed to have a special, indeed, a unique relationship with God. This is shown by the fact that this Gospel records more than 100 occasions when He spoke of God as ***"The Father"*** or ***"My Father"***.

Note THREE examples (from the first Bible Reading) of what He said about this relationship:

1. ***"For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all that He Himself is doing." (5: 20)***
2. ***"All may honour the Son, just as they honour the Father." (5: 23)***
3. ***"For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in Himself." (5: 26)***

These are astounding claims! No prophet, or man of God, had ever used such words previously! It was clear, even to the Jewish leaders who were against Him, that Jesus was claiming to be ***"equal with God". (5: 18)***

Jesus is God, come to live among men as a perfect and sinless Man.

The question that we all must face is this: Are these claims TRUE? Is Jesus really the Son of God? As we saw in Study 1, the purpose of this Gospel is to prove that He is who He claimed to be, and we, therefore should believe in Him. To do so, is to have everlasting life; to turn away from Him is to remain under condemnation (or judgment). Read ***5: 24*** again.

ABOUT HIMSELF

It is recorded, in John's Gospel, that Jesus frequently made statements beginning with ***"I am"***. These assume special significance when we understand that one of the names, or titles, used for God in the Old Testament is ***"I AM"***. (See ***Exodus 3: 14***) When Jesus used these two words, followed by a description of Himself, He was claiming to be God.

It is understandable, then, that the ***"I am"*** statements are of deep importance to John as he sets out to prove that Jesus is the Son of God. Each of them is further proof of the claim which is at the very heart of the Christian faith.

One of the best known ***"I am"*** statements is found in ***John 14: 6, "I am the Way and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"***. This was the reply that He gave to Thomas who had asked a question about finding the way to Heaven. The Lord Jesus is plainly declaring that He is the only One through whom we can reach that happy place! It is important, therefore, that we should ensure that our faith is in Him alone.

The ***"I am"*** statement of ***8: 12*** reminds us of the fact that when we enter upon the way to Heaven, we are assured of His help and direction on our journey. ***"I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*** He is an unfailing Guide to all who trust in Him.

He is indeed ***"a Teacher come from God"! (John 3: 2)*** His unique claims challenge us! Are they true? You need to examine the evidence, and be fully persuaded that this wonderful Person has ***"the words of eternal life"***, and that there is no one else to whom we can go for our eternal salvation. Read ***John 6: 67-69***, from which the Key Verse is taken!

Answer Sheet
B9 - God the Son
Study 1 - "The Word became flesh"

Leader's Comments:

Name: Return address on back of answer sheet

Address:

1. In your own words, explain one way in which John's Gospel differs from the other three Gospels.

_____ /1

_____

2. Write the name given to the Lord Jesus found in each reference below:

a) ***John 1: 29*** _____

b) ***John 10: 9*** _____

c) ***John 14: 6*** _____ /4

d) ***John 19: 19*** _____

3. Answer the following:

a) What name for Jesus is found three times in ***John 1: 1***? _____

b) Explain, as clearly as you can, what this name means. _____ /3

_____

4. Answer TRUE or FALSE to each of these:

a) John's Gospel is very similar to the accounts written by Matthew, Mark and Luke. _____

b) John's Gospel contains six miracles that are not found anywhere else in the New Testament. _____

c) John's Gospel tells us very little about the last week of Jesus' earthly life. _____

d) 'Incarnation' means that the Son of God became perfectly human, but did not cease to be God. _____ /5

e) God has made Himself known to us through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. _____

5. A well-known Christmas carol contains these words:

'Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail, the incarnate Deity!'

a) From the Bible Reading, write a verse that would support what the carol is saying. _____ /4

_____

b) Circle three attributes of the Lord Jesus mentioned in the verse you have written above.

6. Put these words in the correct places in this sentence:

thoughts **The Word** **words** **God** **minds** **revelation**

Just as _____ express the _____ which are in our _____, so the Lord Jesus, as _____, is the complete _____ of everything that _____ is. /6

7. Read *John 1: 12-13*. What are the results for a person who *'receives'* the Lord Jesus by *'believing in His name'*?

_____ /2

_____

THINK: Reflect on the truth about Christ's birth that John is presenting in his Gospel. Think about the wonder of who the Lord Jesus is and what He became for us. Have you received Him? ***(John 1: 13)***

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet
B9 - God the Son
Study 2 - "A Teacher come from God"

Leader's Comments:

1. According to the Gospel of John, in what way did Jesus most frequently speak of God?

_____

_____ /2

2. In His teaching, Jesus claimed to be equal with God. Copy from the Bible Reading in *John 5*, two of these claims to equality.

i) _____

ii) _____ /2

3. What three blessings does the Lord Jesus promise in *John 5: 24* to anyone who *"hears My word and believes..."*?

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____ /3

4. Link each Bible reference by drawing a line from it to the *"I am"* statement which it contains.

John 6: 35	***"I am the Resurrection and the Life."***
John 10: 9	***"I am the Bread of Life."***
John 11: 25	***"I am the True Vine."***
John 15: 1	***"I am the Door."***

/4

5. Search for another *"I am"* in *John 10* and write it below, giving the verse number too.

_____

_____ /3

6. In what way do these *"I am"* statements help to prove that Jesus is God, in human form?

_____

_____

_____ /4

7. Answer these questions based on the Bible Reading in *John 14: 1-6*:

a) What place is Jesus talking about in ***verses 2-3***? _____

b) Which disciple asked a question? _____

c) Write the question that he asked. _____

_____ /3

8. How would you answer a person who says that Jesus is only one of many ways to Heaven?

_____

_____ /4

THINK: Think through the ***"I am"*** statements. Which one is particularly helpful in your circumstances today?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet
B9 - God the Son
Study 3 - "Works which no one else did"

Leader's Comments:

1. According to the Key Verse, what do the *"works"* (or *"miracles"*) of Jesus prove?

_____ /2

_____

2. In what ways did the Holy Spirit help John (and the other Gospel writers) in their task of writing their accounts of what Jesus had said and done?

_____ /2

_____

3. From the Bible Reading, give short answers to these questions:

a) The town/village where Lazarus lived. _____

b) The names of his two sisters. _____

c) The length of time Lazarus was buried. _____

d) The distance from Lazarus' home to Jerusalem. _____

e) The sister who was first to come to Jesus. _____ /5

4. Answer the following:

a) ***John 11*** contains the shortest verse in the Bible. Find it, and write it here: _____

b) The Jews, who were standing by, saw Jesus' tears as evidence of what? _____ /2

5. Express in your own words the spiritual truth which is being presented to our minds by the 'sign' of Lazarus being raised from the dead.

_____ /4

_____

_____

6. Answer the following:

a) How many examples of people being raised from the dead are found in the Gospels? _____

b) In what way was the case of Lazarus more advanced than the others? _____ /2

_____

7. John's Gospel records four very strong 'negatives' from the teaching of the Lord Jesus. Write the missing words:

a) ***John 6: 35*** "never _____"

b) ***John 6: 35*** "never _____"

c) ***John 10: 28*** "never _____"

d) ***John 11: 26*** "never _____" /4

8. Read *John 9: 1-7*. To what spiritual truth do you think this 'sign' is pointing?

_____ /4

_____

_____

THINK: What is your reaction to the miracles of the Lord Jesus? Do you believe that He is the Son of God, the Saviour of the World?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet
B9 - God the Son
Study 4 - "So must the Son of Man be lifted up"

Leader's Comments:

1. In the Key Verse, John tells us why he wrote his account of Jesus. Express in your own words what he says.

_____

_____

_____ /3

2. Answer the following:

a) Why did Nicodemus think that Jesus was ***"a teacher come from God"***? _____

_____

b) For what reason did Moses lift up a serpent in the wilderness? _____

_____

c) In what way was Jesus ***"lifted up"***? _____

_____

d) Why is His death of great importance to us? _____

_____ /8

3. Read *John 10: 14-18* again.

a) Why does the Lord Jesus describe Himself as ***"The Good Shepherd"? (verse 15)*** _____

_____

b) What was the Lord Jesus speaking about, when He said ***"No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord." (verse 18)*** _____

_____

c) What do these words show us about Him? _____

_____ /6

4. John's Gospel speaks very often about *"believing"*. Look up each reference given, and then put TRUE or FALSE after each statement:

a) ***John 1: 12*** – to ***"believe in His name"*** means the same as to ***"receive Him"***. _____

b) ***John 3: 15*** – we obtain eternal life simply by believing on the Lord Jesus. _____

c) ***John 3: 36*** – it does not really matter whether we believe, or not believe, in Him. _____

d) ***John 8: 21, 24*** – if we do not believe, we shall die in our sins, and never be in Heaven. _____

e) ***John 20: 29*** - it is impossible to believe without seeing. _____ /5

5. John records three things said by Jesus on the cross which are not included in any of the other Gospels. Write the three statements below including the verse number for each one.

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____ /3

THINK: Do you believe that ***"Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God"***? If so, thank God that you have ***"life in His name"***.

Return your completed answer sheet to:

TOTAL = /25 UNIT TOTAL = /100

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Going Deeper bibletime

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B9 - God the Son

Study 3 - "Works which no one else did"

BIBLE READING:

John 11: 1-3, 14-45

KEY VERSE:

"The very works that I am doing, bear witness about Me that the Father has sent Me."

John 5: 36

Reputed tomb of Lazarus in al-Eizariya. (Source: Wikipedia)

In writing about the miracles which the Lord Jesus did, John finds additional proof of the great fact which he is seeking to establish - ***"Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God". (John 20: 31)***

On the matter of the miracles about which John writes, it is important to note TWO points:

1. As mentioned in Study 1, John describes only eight miracles, compared with 20 in Matthew's Gospel, 18 in Mark's and 20 in Luke's. It follows, then, that John must have made a careful selection from the many miracles known to him. Obviously, John would have known of other miracles so why did he choose these ones? To answer this, we need to understand that the Holy Spirit was guiding each Gospel writer to create a unique record of the life of Jesus. We have already noted the distinctive features of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. In each case, the Holy Spirit, in fulfilment of Jesus' promise, taught and brought to the writers' remembrance the specific content they were to cover. ***(See John 14: 26)*** The result was that John was guided to record a selection of miracles demonstrating that Jesus is the Son of God. In doing so, he was connecting with the central purpose of his Gospel. ***(John 20: 30-31)***

2. John frequently uses two words to describe Jesus' miracles. They are:-

a) ***"Works"*** (For example, the Key Verse and ***9: 4***)

b) ***"Signs"*** (For example, ***3: 2*** and ***20: 30-31***)

By the use of these words, he wants his readers to understand that the Lord Jesus performed deeds which grip our attention ***("works")***, but they also point to spiritual truth ***("signs")***. His ***"works"***, therefore, are like 'signposts'; they demand our attention, not merely because they are very powerful, but also because they point to something greater than themselves. For example, the Feeding of the Five Thousand ***(chapter 6)*** is a mighty ***"work"*** in physical terms, but it is also a ***"sign"*** in that it draws us to the One who is ***"The Bread of Life".***

In John's Gospel, the last miracle before our Lord's death was the raising of Lazarus. John is the only Gospel-Writer to record this event. The other Gospels tell us about the raising of Jairus' daughter, who had been dead only a short while, and about the raising of the widow's son, who was being taken to the burial-place. The case of Lazarus, however, was more advanced, for he had been in his tomb for four days! Yet this case was not too difficult for the Son of God! In a situation where nothing less than God's mighty power was required, Jesus proved that He had that power, thereby establishing once again His claim to be God, in human form. In the realm of death, where all men are helpless, He showed that He is ***"the Life". (11: 25)*** The living Lazarus was a conclusive 'sign' that Jesus is ***"the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world". (11: 27)*** This amazing event resulted in many believing in Him. ***(See 11: 45)***

John's Gospel, as always, leads us from the physical miracle to the deeper spiritual truth. All of us are 'dead' spiritually until we believe on the Lord Jesus; then we become spiritually 'alive'. ***(Ephesians 2: 1, 4-5)*** Once that takes place, we can ***"never die"***, which means that God will never take away from us His gift of eternal life. ***(John 11: 26)*** How wonderful it is to have passed ***"from death, to life"*** through believing in the Lord Jesus! ***(John 5: 24)***

This is the fifth of five units on **God the Son.**

Going Deeper bibletime

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B9 - God the Son

Study 4 - "So must the Son of Man be lifted up"

BIBLE READING:

John 3: 1-3, 14-18 and 10: 14-18

KEY VERSE:

"These are 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."

John 20: 31

In this final study, we shall think mainly about Christ's sufferings, death and resurrection. In particular, we shall note some details which are NOT found in the other Gospels.

The title chosen for this study is one of the Lord Jesus' earliest references to His death. He was talking to Nicodemus about being ***"born again"*** and in illustrating how this could take place, He said, ***"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life". (John 3: 14-15)*** (The story about Moses and the serpent is found in ***Numbers 21: 4-9***).

On two later occasions He spoke again about being ***"lifted up". (See John 8: 28 and 12: 32-33)*** This expression is found ONLY in John's Gospel. Think about these points:

1. He knew He would die by being ***"lifted up"*** i.e. crucified. This was a Roman method of execution. If the Jews had put Him to death, they would have stoned Him.

2. He knew that His death would be the means by which eternal life would be available to all. Note ***"whoever"*** in ***3: 15***. The Lord Jesus is telling Nicodemus clearly that through His death on the cross, anyone who believes in Him has eternal life.

3. He also knew that His coming death would not be the end of everything! This is proved by His words in ***12: 32, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all men to Myself".*** We know that for nearly 2,000 years now, people of all kinds have been drawn to Him, and saved from their sins!

Think, too, of ***John 10: 17-18, "I lay down My life that I may take it up again... I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again"***. Here, He speaks of His death as a voluntary act, to be followed by His rising again. What an amazing claim! He is in full control and is stronger than death!

4. As the story unfolds, we can see that everything happened exactly as He said it would. The Jews DID hand Him over to the Romans. ***(John 18: 28)*** He WAS crucified, and when He had completed everything which God had given Him to do, He cried, ***"It is finished"***, then, ***"He bowed His head and gave up His spirit". (John 19: 30)*** Three days later, He 'took it up again', as He had said He would. He then showed Himself to His disciples in a variety of situations, convincing them that He was the very Person who had died!

Keeping in mind that John's purpose in writing his Gospel is to prove that ***"Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God"***, we can easily understand why he included such remarkable statements by the Lord Jesus, in his account of His life. John is showing us that the Person about whom he writes is very special! We are brought to the point where we are challenged to ask ourselves, 'Who is this Person who speaks so clearly and accurately about Himself?' There is really ONLY ONE ANSWER! - ***"This is the Christ, the Son of God".***

When we reach this point, the right thing for us to do is to commit ourselves totally to Him for our eternal salvation. This is what John's Gospel means by its often-repeated call to ***"believe in Him"***. In our sinfulness and unworthiness, we cast ourselves trustingly upon Him, for there is NO ONE ELSE who can save us! Having taken the first step, we should then seek to live our lives in ways that are fully pleasing to Him!

The Brazen Serpent (circa 1896–1902 by James Tissot) (Source: Wikipedia)

This is the fifth of five units on **God the Son.**

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