

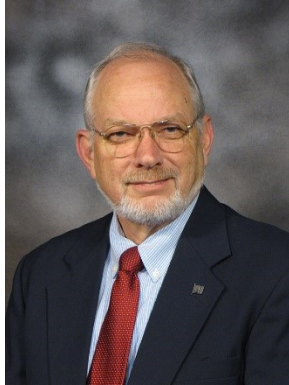
# Come & See!

## A Study of John Chapters 1-11

### *An Eyewitness Presents the Evidence That Jesus Is the Son of God*

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introducing the Gospel of John .....	1
2. COME & SEE: Who Jesus Is – John 1:1-18 .....	4
3. COME & SEE: The Lamb of God – John 1:19 - 2:25 .....	6
4. COME & SEE: The New Birth – John 3:1-36 .....	9
5. COME & SEE: A Light for the Gentiles – John 4:1-54 .....	13
6. COME & SEE: A Lame Man Walk – John 5:1-47) .....	17
7. COME & SEE: The Bread of Life – John 6:1-71 .....	21
8. COME & SEE: The Water of Life – John 7:1-52 .....	24
9. COME & SEE: The Father of Jesus – John 8:1-59 .....	27
10. COME & SEE: A Blind Man Healed – John 9:1-41 .....	30
11. COME & SEE: The Good Shepherd – John 10:1-42 .....	34
12. COME & SEE: A Dead Man Resurrected – John 11:1-44 .....	37



**Richard Cravy** has been part of Sunset International Bible Institute (SIBI) since 1996. His education comes from Rice University in Houston, Texas and Florida College in Temple Terrace, Florida. He has served in ministry since 1970 with churches in Texas, Florida, Nevada and California. Most recently he served the Tanglewood Church of Christ in Odessa, Texas from 2000 to 2018 as the minister and an elder. With Sunset, he works to help move the school forward in technology areas. He also occasionally teaches in the SIBI two-year program and is a regular teacher in the adult education program of the Sunset Church of Christ.

***“The Come & See!”*** lesson series was taught at the Sunset congregation in October through December of 2021. MP3 audio recordings are also available.

## **effective** **BIBLE STUDY**

3520 40th Street – Lubbock, TX 79413

806/787-8919

[www.effectivebiblestudy.com](http://www.effectivebiblestudy.com)

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# Come & See!

## 1. Introducing the Gospel of John

### **NOTE TO READERS & STUDENTS:**

- This study, entitled “Come & See!,” covers John chapters 1 thru 11.
- A second study – “We Saw His Glory!” – will cover John chapters 12 thru 21.

### **I. AUTHOR: JOHN THE APOSTLE:**

#### **A. This is based on internal evidence**

1. “*The disciple whom Jesus loved*” - John 13:23-25; 19:25-27; 20:2; 21:20
2. An eyewitness – John 1:14; 19:34-35; 21:24
3. A member of Jesus’ inner circle (Peter, James and John) who was closest to Jesus. Not Peter for he is mentioned several times in the book by name in the third person; unlikely to be James, since he was martyred (Acts 12) very early, but this Gospel was written much later. So, John is the most likely author.

#### **B. Also based on external evidence**

1. Early church leaders and writings always attribute it to the Apostle John
2. Only four Gospel accounts and their authors are recognized by 2nd and 3rd Century writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

### **II. DATE & AUDIENCE:**

- A. Most scholars and commentators date John between AD 75 and AD 100
- B. Skeptics once proposed John was a late 2nd Century forgery, but the discovery of the Rylands Papyrus (P52) demonstrates it was a 1st Century writing. (Search Wikipedia or other online resource for details.)
- C. History says the Apostle John spent the later part of his life in and around Ephesus. His Gospel was probably written for the same readers as the Book of Revelation he authored – believers around the region of Ephesus.

### **III. PURPOSE:**

- A. John 20:30-31 – “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples,

which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

1. *Many other signs*
  2. *In the presence of His disciples*
  3. *These are written*
  4. *That you may believe* (“continue to believe” – Dr. Daniel Wallace)
  5. *That Jesus is the Christ*
  6. *The Son of God*
  7. *By believing* (“continuing to believe”) *you may have life in His name*
- B. As an eyewitness, apostle and evangelist for some 50 years after Jesus ascended, John had presented his eyewitness testimony to others innumerable times. Now, as the last living apostle and official eyewitness (Acts 1:8), he provides carefully chosen, compelling evidence which is mostly in addition to what was already circulating in the other Gospels. His purpose was to lead unbelievers to faith and especially strengthen the faith of those already in the faith.

#### IV. UNIQUENESS:

- A. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are often referred to as the “Synoptics” because of their similar approach to telling the story of Jesus.
1. Similarities between the Synoptics and John
  2. Contrasts between the Synoptics and John
- B. Some unique features of the Gospel of John
1. An eyewitness apologetic
  2. Arrangement:
    - a. A Prologue – 1:1-18
    - b. A “body of evidence” (1:19-20:31):
      - (1) Public Ministry – (1:19-12:50)
      - (2) Private Ministry – (13:1-16:33)
      - (3) Passion – (17:1-19:42)
      - (4) Resurrection – (20:1-31)
    - c. An Appendix or Epilogue – (21:1-25)
  3. Key words emphasized in John (from [www.monergism.com/key-words-gospel-john](http://www.monergism.com/key-words-gospel-john)):
    - a. Believe – 98 times

- b. World – 78 times
- c. Love – 47 times
- d. Know – *ginosko* 57 times; *eido* 84 times
- e. Truly / amen – 50 times
- f. Word – 45 times
- g. Life – *zoe* 47 times
- h. True / truth – 49 times
- i. Judge / judgment – 30 times
- j. Witness /testify – 47 times
- k. Light – 22 times
- l. “My Father” – 21 times
- m. Glory / glorify – 40 times
- 4. Only 7 miracles + Jesus’ resurrection and the Appendix
- 5. Seven “I Am” statements & the “I Am” claim by Jesus
- 6. Unique people: Nicodemus, Samaritan woman, blind man, Lazarus
- 7. Use of leading questions and statements to carry the story forward. A few examples:
  - (1) “What are you seeking?” (1:38)
  - (2) “Woman, why are you weeping?” (20:13)
  - (3) “Do you want to be healed?” (5:6)
  - (4) “Which one of you convicts me of sin?” (8:46)
  - (5) “Are you the king of the Jews?” (18:33)
  - (6) “Whom do you seek?” (18:4,7)
  - (7) “Why do you seek to kill me?” (7:19)

**V. CONCLUSION:** – We see that the Gospel of John is unique among the Gospels as well as the other documents in the Bible. With some of this uniqueness in mind, we can now begin our study of the first eleven chapters of John.

# Come & See!

## 2. Who Jesus Is – John 1:1-18

### I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Begin with a reminder of John's stated purpose – John 20:30-31
- B. Review the basic structure of book:
  - 1. Prologue – John 1:1-18
  - 2. The Body – (1) Public Ministry, (2) Private Ministry, (3) Passion, and (4) Resurrection – John 1:19 - 20:31
  - 3. Appendix – John 21:1-25
- C. The Gospel of John is a carefully crafted eyewitness account of evidence sufficient to create faith that Jesus is the Son of God

### II. PROLOGUE: John 1:1-18

- A. The Prologue summarizes beforehand what John plans to prove, much like the abstract at the beginning of a Master's thesis or Doctoral dissertation. Greek dramas always included a prologue in which the audience was given insight about the main characters, any backstory, and what the purpose or point of the drama will be.
- B. John introduces Jesus as "The Word"
  - 1. Already existed at "the beginning" (Genesis 1:1)
  - 2. The Word was with God
  - 3. And the Word was God
  - 4. The Word (Gk: *logos*)
    - a. In Greek philosophy: "the impersonal principle governing the universe"
    - b. In Jewish thought: God's word is how He exercises His power and reveals Himself
  - 5. Through Him all things were made – the Word is a person who is creator of all things, not created
  - 6. In Him was Life (*zoe* – real or spiritual life; not *bios* – basic physical life), and that Life was the Light of (for) men
  - 7. The Light shines into the darkness, but the darkness cannot overcome (or understand) it
  - 8. We can compare these first verses with Genesis 1 – God, creation, God's Word, life, light. A common theme in New Testament: Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3;

Philippians 2:6-7

- C. John (the Baptist)
  - 1. Sent from God as a WITNESS to TESTIFY concerning the Light
  - 2. So that men might believe
  - 3. He was not the Light, but only a witness to the Light
- D. The true Light was coming into the World – He can give light to every man
  - 1. He was in the world but the world did not recognize Him as its Creator
  - 2. He came to those who were His (people) but they did not receive (accept) Him
  - 3. Yet to those who did receive Him – who believed He was the Light and the Word – He gave the right to become God’s children, being born of God
- E. The Word became flesh and lived for awhile among us!
- F. The author’s testimony: We (the author and others) have seen His glory – the glory of the Only Begotten (only one of His kind) who came from the Father. He was full of grace and truth.
- G. John’s (the Baptist) testimony: “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is greater than me because He was before me.’”
- H. The author’s testimony:
  - 1. “From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.”
  - 2. “The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (the Word and Light).”
  - 3. “No one has ever seen God, but the only begotten God – who is now at the Father’s side – has made Him known (revealed Him to us).”

**III. WHAT WE HAVE HEARD SO FAR:**

- A. In his Prologue (introduction), the Apostle John has laid out what he will demonstrate within this book.
- B. His claims are truly breathtaking! It will now be John’s purpose to present evidence sufficient to sustain and support his claims about Jesus.
- C. Look at the many names and titles John has already ascribed to Jesus:
  - 1. Prologue: The Word, God, Creator, Light, Life, The Word made flesh, The Only Begotten, Jesus Christ, God the Only Begotten
  - 2. Looking ahead to 1:19-51: Jesus Christ, The Lamb of God, a Man, The Son of God, Rabbi (teacher), The Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph, The King of Israel, The Son of Man.