

**THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SERIES #3:  
Here Comes the Sun  
Jn. 1:4-8  
Grace Community Church  
Kingston, Tennessee  
Sunday, November 17, 2019**

1. **TEXT:** Jn. 1:1-8, (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 were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (4) In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (5) And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. (6) There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. (7) This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. (8) He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

2. **INTRODUCTION:**

- a. John has already presented the divine credentials of Christ (vv. 1-3).
- b. In v. 14, God the Son was incarnated
- c. V. 4 tells us the purpose of the incarnation of Christ: **IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN**
- d. John's comments about Christ parallel the Genesis 1 account of Creation

3. **V. 4, IN HIM WAS LIFE**

- a. Christ frequently acknowledged that He was the giver of **LIFE**
  - i. Jn. 5:40, "And you will not come to Me, that you might have **life**."
  - ii. Jn. 6:33, "For the bread of God is He Who came down from heaven, and gives **life** unto the world."
  - iii. Jn. 10:10, "I am come that you might have **life** and that you might have it more abundantly."
  - iv. John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth and the **life**, no man comes unto the Father but by Me."
- b. In these passages, Christ was not referring to **PHYSICAL** life (Jn. 5:40, "You will not come to Me, that you might have **life**.")
- c. Christ **IS** the provider and sustainer of **PHYSICAL** LIFE
  - i. Heb. 1:3, "...who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power,

when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high....”

ii. Col. 1:17, “And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”

d. The Greek word that is translated as LIFE in John is *zoe*, not *bios*

i. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

ii. John 3:36, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

iii. John 5:24, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

iv. John 6:51, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

v. John 17:2, “...as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.”

e. As v. 4 says, the LIFE that is in Christ produces LIGHT (an ascription of deity, 1 Jn. 1:5, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”)

i. Christ, the LIGHT, came into a spiritually dark world in order to shine the light of God upon darkened hearts (Jn. 8:12, “I am the LIGHT of the world. He that follows Me shall have the light of life.”)

#### 4. V. 5, AND THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS DID NOT COMPREHEND IT

a. John continues the creation motif (cmp. Gen. 1:2, “And the earth was without form, and void; and DARKNESS *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”)

b. DARKNESS is a synonym for the lost world of mankind

c. AND THE DARKNESS DID NOT COMPREHEND IT

i. A much-debated phrase

ii. How the Greek word translated as COMPREHEND is used elsewhere in NT

1. Phil. 3:12, “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may APPREHEND that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.”
  2. 1 Cor. 9:24, “Know you not that they which run in a race run all, but one receives the prize? So run, that you may OBTAIN.”
  3. Rm. 9:30, “What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have ATTAINED to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.”
- iii. So, when John said that the darkness did not COMPREHEND the light, he meant that the darkness did not allow itself to be penetrated by the light to dissipate it
  - iv. John 3:19 when he said, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”
- d. Jn. 9:5, Christ said, “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”
- i. Does that mean that when Christ ascended back into Heaven that the world no longer had light?
  - ii. Matt. 5:14, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”
  - iii. Acts 13:47, “For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I HAVE SET YOU AS A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES, THAT YOU SHOULD BE FOR SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.’”

## 5. V. 6, THERE WAS A MAN SENT FROM GOD, WHOSE NAME WAS JOHN

- a. John the Baptist and Jesus were related
  - i. Lk. 1:36, (Gabriel to Mary), “Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.”
  - ii. Lk. 1:5 (Elizabeth was a Levite), “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.”
  - iii. Mary was kin to Martha through her mother
  - iv. Elizabeth was much older than Mary (Lk. 1:7, “But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.”)

- b. What happened the first time Mary entered Elizabeth's home after she became pregnant
- i. Lk. 1:39-41, (39) Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, (40) and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. (41) And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- c. Lk. 1:66 says that once John was born, "the hand of the Lord was with him."
- d. Lk. 3:2 (before Christ began His ministry, John lived in the wilderness), "while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness."
- e. John described his ministry by quoting Is. 40:3-5, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough way smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."
- f. Mt. 3:4, "Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey."
- g. Lk. 7:33, "For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.'"
- h. Mt. 17:12-13 (John the Baptist was an Elijah-like prophet), "But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.' Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist."
- i. John preached a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins
- i. Beginning in 1:24, John declared Jesus to be the Savior of the world
  - ii. In John 1:29-34, John proclaims to the crowd that Jesus was "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"

## 6. THE HUMANITY OF JOHN MANIFESTED:

### a. HIS CALLING:

- i. John 1:6 [John had a divine calling], "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John."

- ii. Lk. 1:66, “And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, “What kind of child will this be?” And the hand of the Lord was with him.”
- iii. Jn. 1:23, “He said: ‘I am “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS: ‘MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.”
- iv. Jn. 1:15-18: (15) “This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.” (16) And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. (17) For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (18) No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

**b. JOHN HAD A VERY STRONG PERSONALITY**

- i. Lk. 3:19 [he rebuked Herod], “But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done....”

**c. JOHN’S FALTERING FAITH:**

- i. Lk. 3:20 [Herod put John in prison], “also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.”
- ii. Lk. 7:20 [the problems in his life caused John to doubt Who Christ was], When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'"

1. It seemed to John in, his human understanding of the events, that Jesus was not the Messiah he had once thought that he was.

- iii. Lk. 7:20-23 [How Jesus responded to John’s inquiry], (20) When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’” (21) And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. (22) Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. (23) [Then a slight rebuke from Jesus] And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.

1. To buoy John’s faith, Jesus told him to concentrate on Who He was and what He came to do.

- d. When you find yourself in a similar situation, just rest in the sovereignty and providence of God.