

New Zealand Correspondence School of the Bible

Level One / Lesson One

John 1-2

Instructions: Read John chapters one and two through at least once. After reading this passage, read it again following along with the points made in this lesson. Any questions asked in this section are for your personal study only. The only part of this lesson to be returned to the NZCSB office is the Quiz.

Chapter One

1:1 - note that the "Word" is a reference to Jesus Christ. Jesus is also called the Word in:

*I John 1:1 - "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the **Word of life**;"*

*I John 5:7 - "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, **the Word**, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."*

*Revelation 19:11-13 - "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called **The Word of God**."*

1:3 - in this verse "the Word" is referred to as "him" showing us that "the Word" is a person. The Word is responsible for making EVERYTHING; Colossians 1:16-17, in referring to Christ, says "For by *him* were **all things** created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

1:4 - "in him was life" - as the Creator, Jesus Christ was the giver of life to all things that are alive. What three things did Jesus claim to be in John 14:6?

- Jesus is also referred to as "the light of men" - What did Jesus claim to be in John 8:12?

1:6 - this man named "John" is John the Baptist, not the Apostle John who wrote the book of John. They are two different men.

1:7 - how did John "bear witness" of Jesus? He bore witness to Jesus in two different ways: 1) by preparing the way before Jesus - Isaiah 40:3 speaks of Christ's forerunner as "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Note how John the Baptist identifies himself as such in John 1:23; and 2) by identifying Jesus to Israel - note John 1:29.

1:11 - "his own" is a reference to the Jewish people who did not receive Jesus as their Messiah (promised one); what did Jesus say about dealing with one's own people in John 4:44?

1:13 - a person who is born again (ie, "received" Christ, "believed on his name" - vs. 12) did not get that way by virtue of their physical birth ("by blood"), by virtue of their own intellect or mind ("will of the flesh") or by other people getting them born again, or saved ("will of man"). A person becomes a born again Christian when they come to the point in their life that they repent of their sins and put their faith and trust in Christ alone ("believe"). They are therefore born "of God," and are not spiritually born through these other things.

1:14 - "the Word was made flesh" - Jesus Christ, God the Son, became a man! I Timothy 3:16 says, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh..."

1:15 - John the Baptist said of Christ, "he was before me." Luke chapter one very clearly points out that John the Baptist was six months older than Jesus from a human standpoint. Obviously Jesus existed "before" John because he was God (see verses one through three).

1:18 - no man has seen the Father, nor could one look upon the Father because of his exceedingly bright glory. I Timothy 6:16 says, "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen." Yet, when Christ was "made flesh" that glory was veiled and people obviously could look upon him; to see Christ was to see the Father. What does John 12:45 and 14:8-9 have to say about this fact?

- from time to time the student will be shown the errors and false doctrines taught by some of the other English Bible versions.

The New American Standard Version changes "the only begotten Son" to "the only begotten God" making TWO Gods in the verse. Jesus was God who became flesh; his human body was "begotten" or born, but he as God always existed. "Begotten" refers to birth and though Christ was born as a man, the part of him that was God had no beginning for God has always existed (refer back to verse 1). A common thread throughout all of the modern Bible versions is to consistently attack or at least throw doubt upon the divinity of Christ (the fact that he was and is God).

1:29 - Note how John identified Jesus in this verse. Lambs were used in the Old Testament Jewish sacrifices in order for the people to temporarily receive forgiveness of their sins. Jesus was “the Lamb of God” who came to take away the sins, not just of the Jews, but of the whole world.

1:31 - John gives the reason why he was baptising people with water - so that he could manifest Christ to Israel.

1:33 - note that God the Father told John how he could recognise Jesus when he appeared - Jesus, the one who would baptise people with the Holy Ghost, would be the one that when baptised in water would have the Holy Spirit descend upon him and remain upon him in the form of a dove.

1:45 - Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament. “The prophets” is a reference to the Old Testament prophets who along with Moses foretold the fact that one day a great Prophet, the Messiah, God in the form of a man, would appear.

- note that Philip refers to Jesus as “the son of Joseph.” This was in fact not true. Many people assumed this to be the case (note John 6:42) without checking out all of their facts. In Luke 1:35 the angel told Mary, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” Note who Jesus called his father in John 17:1.

1:47 - “guile” means “craft, cunning, or deceit”

1:51 - there is a sense in which Jesus is the link between heaven and earth. I Timothy 2:5 says, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”

Chapter Two

2:1 - note that Mary is called the “mother of Jesus” - nowhere in the Bible is she ever called the “mother of God.” Mary gave birth to the human body of Jesus but was not the mother of his divine (ie. God) nature. Therefore it is incorrect to call her the mother of God.

2:5 - this is the only command the Bible records Mary ever giving to anyone

2:6 - a “firkin” is about 40 litres or 10 gallons

2:1-11 - the miracle here is Jesus turning water into wine - much debate has raged over the fact of whether or not this wine was alcoholic or non-alcoholic. When the Bible is allowed to define itself, one sees that the word wine appears over 200 times in the Bible. In Bible times, and even today in the countries of the Middle East, the word “wine” is a generic term referring to many different types of liquid just as we use the word “punch” to refer to many different beverages, some intoxicating and others not. A complete study of the subject is beyond the scope of this lesson. However, if you study it out for yourself you will find that wine in the Bible is quite often referred to as “good” or “new” (non-alcoholic) or “bad” and “old” (alcoholic). The Bible’s commands against drunkenness and intoxicating wine are numerous (example - Proverbs 20:1 - *“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”*) If Jesus provided this wedding with intoxicating liquor then he contradicted himself (which is impossible for him to do), he tempted people to sin (which James 1:13 says God can not do) and he put himself under the curse of Habakkuk 2:15-16 that condemns those who supply others with intoxicating beverages. Verse 10 clearly calls this wine “good” - it was nothing more than water turned to unfermented, freshly squeezed, grape juice.

2:17 - this verse refers back to the Old Testament passage in Psalm 69:9 which says, *“For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.”*

2:18 - the Jews, clearly upset that Jesus had just interrupted their “business dealings” in the temple, demanded that he give them proof (a “sign”) that he had a right to take such action. I Corinthians 1:22 says, *“For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom.”* A common theme seen throughout John and the rest of the Bible is the peculiar way in which the Jews need “signs” to prove to them that something is true.

2:23 - the “passover” was a feast held once a year in Jerusalem to celebrate the miracle God performed when the Jews were slaves in Egypt in 1500 B.C. Each Jewish family was to kill a “passover lamb” and splash its blood on their outside doorposts. During the night the death angel went throughout the land of Egypt and killed the firstborn males in each house. Whenever this death angel saw the blood, he “passed over” that house and the occupants were spared. This miracle and the feast that celebrated it were pointing to the day when Jesus Christ, the “Lamb of God” would die on the cross for the sins of the world. Every individual that personally applies the shed blood of Christ to their sins will be spared any punishment in hell for their own sins and will instead be safe with Christ in heaven.

QUIZ
John 1-2

Student No. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Instructions: This quiz consists of twenty multiple choice questions and a bonus question. From the scripture and comments covered in this lesson choose the best answer to the question and circle it. There will always be only one *best* answer. When you have completed this quiz, return it along with your self-addressed, stamped, return envelope to the NZCSB office. You **may** use your Bible as well as the material in this lesson to answer these questions. Each question is worth five points.

1. What does the word "Rabbi" mean?
 - A. Prophet
 - B. Master
 - C. Pharisee
 - D. King
2. Who did Philip find and bring to Jesus?
 - A. Nathanael
 - B. John the Baptist
 - C. John
 - D. Peter
3. Where did Jesus begin doing miracles?
 - A. Capernaum
 - B. Jordon River
 - C. Cana
 - D. Temple
4. What did John the Baptist identify Jesus as?
 - A. A dove
 - B. The Lamb of God
 - C. The Power of God
 - D. A Spirit
5. Who was Andrew's brother?
 - A. Peter
 - B. John the Baptist
 - C. Mark
 - D. Philip
6. Which of the following terms is Christ **NOT** referred to as in these two chapters:
 - A. Word
 - B. Light
 - C. Son
 - D. Power
7. What form did the Holy Spirit take when he descended from heaven and abode upon Christ?
 - A. Fire
 - B. Light
 - C. Dove
 - D. All of these
8. Why did John the Baptist baptise with water according to chapter one?

A. To get people wet	C. To manifest Christ to Israel
B. So that he could later baptise them with the Holy Spirit	D. To draw attention to his preaching
9. How does a person become a son of God according to John 1:12?

A. By receiving Jesus Christ	C. Both A & B
B. By believing on Christ's name	D. None of these
10. Who needs signs according to the Bible?
 - A. The Jews
 - B. Jesus
 - C. Arabs
 - D. Everyone
11. How long did it take to build the temple in Jerusalem?
 - A. Three days
 - B. Three years
 - C. 64 years
 - D. None of these

12. How long did Jesus say it would take him to raise up the temple of his body?
 A. Three days B. Three years C. 64 years D. None of these
13. What is the only recorded command that Mary gives in the Bible?
 A. Ask all things in my name and I will do it. C. Whatsoever he [Jesus] saith unto you, do it.
 B. Bow down and worship me. D. All of these
14. Which of the following phrases is the biblical description of Mary?
 A. Mother of God B. Mother of Jesus C. Everlasting Virgin D. All of these
15. What does the name “Cephas” mean?
 A. Man of Cephars B. A Rock C. A Stone D. Chosen one
16. Which of the following disciples of Christ was **NOT** from the city of Bethsaida?
 A. John B. Andrew C. Philip D. Peter
17. What feast did Jesus go up to Jerusalem for?
 A. Pentecost B. Passover C. Tabernacles D. All of these
18. Under what was Nathanael sitting before Philip called him?
 A. A ladder B. The porch of the temple C. A fig tree D. None of these
19. John the Baptist was sent from God to bear witness of what?
 A. The light B. Himself C. The Spirit of God D. Moses and the OT Law
20. What was Peter’s name changed to?
 A. Simon B. Rabbi C. Paul D. Cephas

Bonus Question: (worth five points)

Moses gave the Old Testament Jews the Law; according to John, what has the Lord Jesus Christ given us?

If you have any questions about this lesson, this quiz, or anything relating to the New Zealand Correspondence School of the Bible, please feel free to write those questions below and we will attempt to answer them for you.