

Bible Study Guide for John 1:1-18

Day 1 – Introduction to the book of John

Read **John 1:1-18** and then read through the notes below, taking time to study the references given.

THE BOOK OF JOHN

In John's gospel, the people in Jesus' ministry take on personality and express feelings that make them real to us. We will meet many individuals who came under the ministry of Jesus, such as Nicodemus, the woman at the well, a blind man healed by Jesus' touch, Martha, Mary and Lazarus, as well as many others. As in no other book, Christ Himself tells us who He is and then boldly declared that *"if you do not believe Me you will die in your sins"*.

Evidence within the book of John confirms the statement of early church father that the Apostle John wrote the gospel from Ephesus about 90 A.D. It is significant that the gospel of God's love for the world was written from an internationally strategic city like Ephesus. Above all, the purpose of the gospel was to give proof by one who was with Jesus that He was the Son of God. (**John 20:31**) No book gives greater evidence for the deity of Christ than this book. Your faith in and understanding of who Christ is will blossom as you study John. John has the simplest language of the entire Bible, but you cannot exhaust its profound meanings.

THE MAN JOHN

His father was Zebedee. **Matthew 4:21**

From the following scripture references, it would seem that his mother was Salome. Compare **Matthew 27:56** with **Mark 15:40** and **16:1**.

His personality – Jesus called John and his brother, James, the *"sons of thunder"* because of their quick tempers. **Luke 9:49-56** and **Mark 3:17**.

John was one of the inner three who were closest to Jesus. **Mark 9:2** and **14:32, 33**.

WHAT MEN HAVE SAID ABOUT THE BOOK OF JOHN

"The best comes last. The fourth Gospel is the Gospel of Gospels, the holy of holies in the New Testament...The Gospel according to John is the most original, the most important, the most influential book in all literature... It is simple as a child and sublime as a seraph, gentle as a lamb and bold as an eagle, deep as the sea and high as the heavens." – Philip Schaff

"It is unique, tender, genuine, chief Gospel, far preferable to the other three... Should a tyrant succeed in destroying the Holy Scriptures and only a single copy of the Epistle to the Romans and the Gospel according to John escape him, Christianity would be saved." – Martin Luther