

### The Glorious Christ

The gospel of John is unique in that it records selected teachings and miracles of Jesus mostly unrecorded in the synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. The upper room discourse (John 13-16) and the high priestly prayer (John 17) stand out as major events not recorded in the other gospels. Another unique aspect of John's gospel is the introduction. A brief survey of John 1 and the three-fold introduction of Christ is our focus this month. May God astound and renew us once again as we look at our glorious Christ.

This introductory chapter of the gospel has three declarations concerning the identity of Christ Jesus...the first from John the apostle, the second from John the baptizer, and the third from Nathaniel the sceptic.

#### John 1:1-18

John begins with his own declaration introducing Christ to us as THE WORD. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." (1:1) Calling Jesus "the Word", John declares Jesus' eternality, distinct personality, and equality with God the Father. In the language of the New Testament in its original form, there were two words for... well.... Word! The first one transliterated as *rema*, refers to individual words used to communicate a message. The other transliterated as *logos*, refers to the message communicated. The Greeks saw this word as referring to the height and substance of all wisdom, meaning and intelligence. Jesus is all of this and more. He is not only the Prophet of God bringing us the truth of God, but He is God incarnate, Word made flesh, bringing us Himself. All that the Father has to say to us He says in Jesus, The Message! All I need to know from God is found in His Son, The Message! He is both Messenger and Message. He is both courier and content. He is both subject and object of God's communication to man. His words are life. (6:63) His words are truth. (8:40) His words are the judge and jury of the soul. (12:48) His words will never pass away. (Luke 21:33)

#### John 1:26-36

The second declaration is from John the baptizer. Seeing Jesus on the banks of the Jordan river, John lifts up his voice and shouts: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World." (1:29) We now transition from Jesus as Message to Jesus as sacrifice. Just as Jesus is both Messenger and Message, so He is both Priest and Sacrifice. As Old Covenant priests were responsible to bring unblemished sin offerings to sacrifice so that sinners could be forgiven, so Jesus as priest brings Himself as the sacrifice that would satisfy heaven's justice against all our sins.

#### John 1:43-51

The third and final declaration in John 1 is from the lips of Nathaniel the sceptic. When Philip was called to follow Jesus he immediately took off to find his friend Nathaniel to tell him he had found the Messiah. Nathaniel was sitting under a fig tree at the time. We don't know what he was thinking or praying about, but it was apparently significant and something deep within his soul that only he and God knew about. Having heard Philip say the Messiah was Jesus from Nazareth, he responded in honest and frank skepticism, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip encouraged him to come and check Jesus out for himself. As Nathaniel approached, he heard Jesus say... "There's an honest Jew who's not a hypocrite!" (My paraphrase) Jesus never found fault with honest skeptics. Upon hearing such a statement from the lips of a man he'd never met before, Nathaniel responded: "How do you know me?" Jesus said: "Before Philip found you, I saw you sitting under the fig tree." Now, we don't know what all that indicated, but Nathaniel did. In 10 seconds he went from a skeptic to a fanatic! "You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Quite a distance from "Can anything good come from Nazareth", eh?? The Son of God, the King of Israel. Jesus is the seed of David, Son of God, King of Israel, King of creation, King of glory! He will reign and every knee will bow before Him. He will make all things new and restore His kingdom and His people in peace forevermore.

TITLE	THEME	SYMBOL	FOCUS	DAY IN VIEW
Jesus, Word	Message and Messenger Teaching	TEMPLE	LIFE	PALM SUNDAY
Jesus, Lamb	Priest and Sacrifice Redeeming	CROSS	DEATH	GOOD FRIDAY
Jesus, King	Sovereign and Restorer Reigning	THRONE	RESURRECTION	EASTER SUNDAY

## Self Check

- 1) Am I listening and obeying the Word?
- 2) Am I trusting and relying on the Lamb?
- 3) Am I bowing and serving the King?

## For Further Study

Hebrews chapter 1 has the same three portrayals of Jesus as Prophet, Priest and King. The entire book focuses mostly on Jesus as Priest, but all three are given clear focus in chapter 1. See if you can locate the phrases that most clearly demonstrate Jesus as...

Prophet

Priest

King

*“Lord, You are the Truth of God in the flesh. You know me better than I know myself. Give me ears to hear and heart like Nathaniel that throws away all skepticism and believes in You with all my heart. You are my Great High Priest, once for all having put away sin by the sacrifice of yourself. You are Priest and Lamb, Offerer and Offering, Mediator and Sacrifice. You alone are worthy! You are King of Kings, Son of God, Lord of all. You are my King and I bow before Your throne. Your scepter is the scepter of righteousness and Your kingdom will never fail. Blessed be Your Name, O Prophet, Priest and King, Jesus Christ, Lord of all. You came, You died, You rose, You are seated in glory, You are coming again. Even so come... In your name I pray, AMEN.”*

**Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.**

**Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4**

**Ron & Val**

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable,  
changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible  
with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,  
spending our time on eternity,  
owning nothing yet possessing everything  
that matters and lasts.  
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.  
Welcome to THE JOURNEY