

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John

Introduction

The Journey
Jim Hoffman

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The Heart of Those Who Seek to Hear Only the Words of God

But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

Isaiah 66:2b

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- My “job” (ministry) as a Bible teacher is to help you understand the words God has said.
- To do my job well, I must avoid superimposing any biases I may have on the text and allow it to speak for itself.
- I usually express this as “LISWIS” – let it say what it says. 😊

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- I believe the proper way to allow the text to speak for itself is via Inductive Bible Study.
- **Inductive Bible Study** always begins with the text and works outward to fully explain it.
- In other words, I will not start with an idea and then look for a text that supports my point – that is **Deductive Bible Study**.

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- Most preaching I hear today is formulated through topical, deductive, Bible study.
- The preacher wants to speak about how to deal with **stress**, or **marriage**, or **whatever** and he goes to the Bible for support.
- Topical Bible study is a legitimate approach to the scriptures, but in order to do verse by verse exegesis I must have an inductive approach.

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- While great care must be taken in inductive **and** deductive Bible study, there is more danger with the deductive method.
- If you begin with something that is patently evident from the Bible (like Jesus is God) and look for scriptural support, you are on safe ground.
- But if you begin with something you think is true then you must be very guarded when using the deductive method.

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- An example of the dangers that accompany deductive Bible study – let’s say my topic is **“How to Recover Lost Spiritual Power”**.
- 2nd Kings 6:6 “Where did it fall?” the man of God asked. When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water at that spot. Then the ax head floated to the surface.
- My questionable conclusion – **If you want to recover lost spiritual power throw a stick in the water.**

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- What if my sermon title was, **“How to Enjoy Retirement”**?
- Job 36:11 If they (the righteous) listen and serve him, they complete their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasantness.
- Elihu spoke the above from his own thoughts, it was how he wanted life to work, but is it true?

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John’s Gospel from 30,000 Feet

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**Seven Sign Miracles
Recorded in the Gospel of John**

- Changing water into wine 2:1-11
- Healing the son of a royal official 4:46-53
- Healing an invalid at Bethesda 5:1-9
- Feeding the multitude 6:1-14
- Walking on the sea 6:15-21
- Healing a man blind from birth 9:1-41
- Raising of Lazarus 11:1-44

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**The Seven
"I AM" Statements
of Jesus**
John 6-15

1. I AM the bread of life 6:35, 48
2. I AM the light of the world 8:12; 9:5
3. I AM the gate 10:7
4. I AM the good shepherd 10:11; 14
5. I AM the resurrection and the life 11:25
6. I AM the way and the truth and the life 14:6
7. I AM the true vine 15:1, 5

#8?

Before Abraham
was, I AM.
John 8:58

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- John 1:1 In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word was with God**, and the **Word was God**.
- Hebrews 1:1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke** to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and **the exact imprint of his nature**, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

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Words, DNA & Nucleotides



Adenine (A), Thymine (T),
Guanine (G) and Cytosine (C)

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ATTCCGGAA
TGGCAAATTTT
CGTACGTACGTA
AGCTTTAAACCTAT
TTGCAACCCCTAA
GGGGCAATCC
CTGACTGA
AGCTGCATTCC
GTTTAAACCCTAT
TTTGATTACG
ATTCCGGAA
TGGCAAATTTT
CGTACGTACGTA
AGCTTTAAACCTAT
TTGCAACCCCTAA
GGGGCAATCC
CTGACTGA
AGCTGCATTCC
GTTTAAACCCTAT
TTTGATTACG

Think of the combinations on the left as lines of code in a computer program. Change the arrangements of the nucleotides and you alter the cell.

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- Many scientists have been convinced God exists by studying DNA – because of its complexity they know that only a highly complex intelligence could have created (designed) it.
- Information comes from intelligence.
- DNA strands are like highly complex computer programs.

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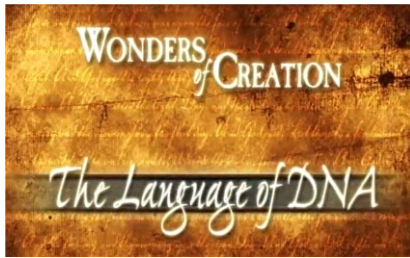
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- All functions of the body are controlled by trillions of very long words.
- DNA strands are 7' long and contain 3 billion characters each of instructions telling each cell what to do in the body.
- If you were to type one word per second, for 8 hours a day, for 50 years you would have entered the information contained in one cell of your body. (one word)

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DNA gives us clues as to the power and complexity words. God communicates to mankind through Jesus, the Living Word – and Jesus is the described as **“the”** Word. He is God’s highest form of communication to a lost world.

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- John’s gospel was the last one written and about 90% of what John wrote does not appear in Matthew, Mark, or Luke.
- John may have reasoned that since his was last that he would try to include events the others didn’t, but that would have been at the Spirit’s direction.
- So who actually wrote the Gospel of John? (2nd Peter 1:21)

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- Most scholars agree John wrote all of his books very late in the 1st century which not only places his gospel as the last of the 4 gospels, but after the Roman destruction of 70 A.D.
- Why is this important? Because there are some who want to place John’s writings in the 60’s thus allowing for teaching that the tribulation happened around 70 A.D. and we now live in a post-tribulation world. (events of Matthew 24)

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“In his own Gospel, John avoids mentioning his name, preferring instead to veil himself under the titles of “the disciple whom Jesus loved” or “the other disciple.” This humility disguises his presence at the last Passover of Jesus, the high priest’s courtyard, the crucifixion of Jesus, the empty tomb, and Jesus’s appearance on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. On the cross, Jesus leaves his mother Mary to the care of the beloved disciple, who then takes her into his home after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.”

The Olive Tree

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- John 21:25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.
- John admits it would not be possible to write an exhaustive catalog of all that Jesus did – so he had to be selective and in John 20 he tells how he chose what to include in his gospel.

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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.**

John 20:30-31

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- Christianity is an evidence based faith – Jesus’ signs were proof of his deity.
- John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: **blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**
- We who have not seen the risen Christ are not without any evidence because “Seeing” is but one form of evidence.

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- When you see a “For Sale” sign in front of a house do you try to appraise the value of the sign or the house it points to?
- Some Christians in our day are like many that followed Jesus around – they wanted to see a “show” more than they wanted him.
- If you need signs to convince you when you already have the Spirit and the Word you are like the brothers of the rich man in Luke 16.

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- Luke 16:31 He said to him, “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.”
- Evidently seeing that Jesus can heal the sick and raise the dead does not do much for one’s soul.
- It’s only when we are impressed with the One the signs point to that we benefit – when truth is the only sign you need, then you can rest in the Truth.

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- People didn't and do not to this day miss Jesus for lack of evidence, they miss him because they do not want him.
- Many cry "give us miracles, signs, and wonders", when they've already been given a great gift in Jesus who is evidently not exciting enough.
- Remember John's words, "these are written so that you may believe".

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- Jesus claimed to have come from another realm and the evidence for that is written into our souls.
- No matter how convincing some are that claim "when you are dead you cease to exist", very few really believe these modern day Sadducees.
- It is counterintuitive **NOT** to believe in an eternity where evil is punished and goodness is rewarded – that knowledge is stamped on our souls.

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Miracles, Signs, and Wonders

In my experience most of the "buzz" around Miracles, Signs, and Wonders in our day is a desire to be healed and see healings.

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- In the ministry of Jesus his healings and miracles were to prove he was who he unambiguously claimed to be - the Son of God.
- Later the Apostles' healings and miracles were to prove they were sent from God with this radical new message – that Jesus is Christ.
- There was a definitive purpose in both of the above.

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In our day it appears that God miraculously heals when the healing serves a greater purpose than bringing temporary health to an individual. On certain occasions, known only to him, he heals just as a kindness to his people. But far more common is for the sick to be delivered through medicine or surgery or therapy or diet. Permanent healing is God's gift to the believer when he delivers us through the death of our bodies into his glorious presence.

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If the question is – Does God heal all believers of all things the answer is emphatically “YES”.

If the question is – Does God heal all believers of all things in this life, the answer is emphatically “NO”.

Would you really want to be healed of all things in this life and therefore live forever in a sinful world?

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