

**The Gospel of John**

# The Gospel of John

**Lesson #51**  
**The Journey**  
Jim Hoffman

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**Time in the Texts**

- Revelation 12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 4 His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. 5 She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne.

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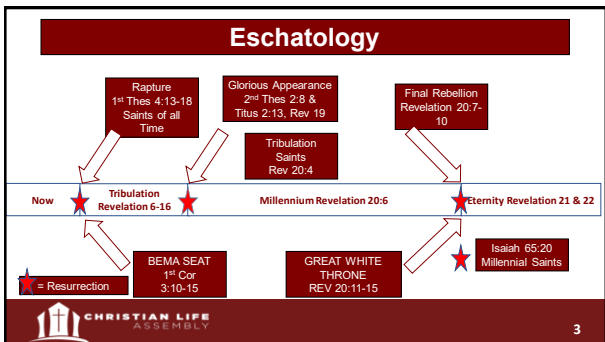
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### The Gospel of John

- John 5:25 “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.”
- Jesus speaks of an hour that was upon them as he spoke when “the dead” would hear his voice and live, but he was not speaking of the physically dead.
- The call to believe and be saved is exclusive (limited) to those who are physically alive.

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### The Gospel of John

- In today’s text we will deal with the events that accompany the death of both the saved and the lost.
- Hebrews 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.
- With very few exceptions, life here on earth ends in death. No one can dispute the finality of death. But it is not the final-end as no life actually ends.

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### The Gospel of John

- This verse is almost always applied to the fate of the lost – it is used to describe the fact that no second chances are awarded after death.
- While true, it’s only part of the story – the eternal fate of the lost is sealed upon their death, but final judgment does not occur immediately after death.
- They are lost, they are in darkness, pain, and despair, but must wait through horrible conditions for years, decades or centuries for their final conditions that will be worse.

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### The Gospel of John

- For the believer, no second chances exist for them either to serve better, live better, or obey more fully.
- But that is where any similarities end – for even the most lukewarm believer, conditions will be the best of their lives with the certainty of even better to come.
- And “after this the judgment”? Unlike the lost, the saved have no chance of things getting worse - they will only get better.

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### The Gospel of John

Every day as the clock ticks the lost are rushing headlong towards their own destruction – their own avoidable destruction. Many have been warned and just as many or more refuse every opportunity to be warned, not wanting the discomfort that comes with facing up to the truth that is imprinted on every soul – that God will hold us accountable for rejecting his grace.

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### The Gospel of John

- That “hour” when the spiritually dead can hear the call of the voice of God and believe comes upon every person in every generation.
- Everyone gets a chance, but not the same chance – many are born into places and families where centuries of unbelief are embedded in their lineage.
- Through the witness of creation, the witness of the Holy Spirit, and the witness of the church all have a sense of eternal things and their own accountability.

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### The Gospel of John

- For billions and billions of people that “hour” came and went for them – some believed, some said, “no”, but many more just let the “hour” go by unnoticed.
- For those still living in our part of the world there is a danger of getting just enough of the gospel to cause them to build up an immunity. (ho-hum God stuff again)
- Hebrews 4:7 “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

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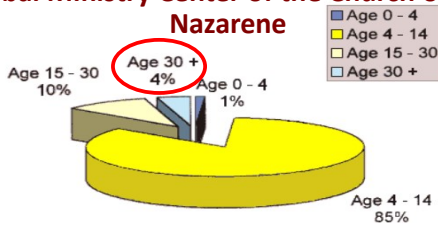
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### Evidence of Hardened Hearts

#### Global Ministry Center of the Church of the Nazarene



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### Evidence of Hardened Hearts

National Association of Evangelists - at what age...

Prayer causes things to happen that otherwise might not happen.

... 7-14 ... between 15 and 29 ... saved after age 30

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### The Gospel of John

- The worst kind of heart disease anyone can have is the kind that hardens the heart. Hearts harden as the truth of God is rejected.
- Pharoah and King Nebuchadnezzar are examples of this – they were proud and ignored the obvious truth that no man wants to see; that they were not God.
- Anyone who thinks, “I know what the Bible says, but I will do things my way” are like Cain and are hardening their hearts to the truth.

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### The Gospel of John

- You don't have to be big and important to have a hard heart – you just have to reject the truth of the condition of your own heart.
- God calls, but many are neither hearing nor answering – when this persists for years and years it seems that few turn from their sin to Christ.
- We live in a world influenced by the devil, the very first one who thought of himself as the captain of his own ship, and he opposes every move of the lost to be saved.<sup>14</sup>

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Questions?

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