

John's Introduction of Jesus Christ

by Wayne Goff

John 1:1-18, the Prologue, introduces Jesus Christ in high and lofty ideals. John 1:19-51 is the practical application and proof of the thesis stated previously.

“Jehovah” (1:23)

If John the Baptist was “the voice of one crying in the wilderness,” then he was preparing the way for Jesus Christ. Isaiah’s prophecy says “*Make straight the way of the LORD*” (40:3). “LORD” (SMALL CAPS) is “Jehovah”! Thus the forerunner was to prepare the world for the entrance of Jehovah into the world. And indeed, Jesus said to Philip: “*He who has seen Me, has seen the Father*” (Jn. 14:9). Thus, Jesus is the Eternal One with All Power.

“The Preferred One” (1:15, 27, 30)

John says of Jesus that “*He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me*” (1:15). “Preferred” (ginomai) is a broad term with many nuances, and means “to become, be, be born” and thus in the Gospel of John it means that Jesus “*was before*” John because He existed in eternity. This is clearly John’s point and once again he is affirming the Deity of Jesus. In John 8:58 Jesus said that “*before Abraham was, I am.*”

“The Lamb of God” (1:29, 36)

Obviously this title points to the sacrificial nature of Jesus. He came to perfectly fulfill the needed sacrifice to redeem ruined man by God’s love and grace. He is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. Without Jesus, all humanity would be lost!

Baptizer with the Holy Spirit (1:33)

John baptized with water in his mission to prepare the hearts of the Jewish nation for the coming of the Messiah. This baptism was clearly “for the remission of sins.” But Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Indeed, Jesus gave the Spirit to the apostles for the spreading of the Gospel to the entire world (see John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). Without the knowledge of God’s Word, man could not believe, repent and be baptized.

“The Son of God” (1:34, 49)

By Divine inspiration, John could testify that Jesus is “*the Son of God,*” and by faith Nathanael confessed it. We are asked to believe and confess the same thing because the Father in heaven has revealed this to us through the life and miracles of Jesus (see Matthew 16:16-18).

“Rabbi” (1:38, 49)

A Jewish rabbi was a teacher, a master teacher. One placed himself under the teaching, influence, and authority of an accepted rabbi. John the Baptist prepared his disciples to follow Jesus as The Rabbi when He came. We see this in the lives of Andrew, Simon, Philip, and Bartholomew. They left everything and followed Jesus immediately. This is a strong example for us today. Jesus is our Master Teacher and the infallible Word of God is our text book.

“Messiah” (1:41)

Andrew, Peter’s brother, told Peter that “*We have found the Messiah*” (which is translated, the Christ). Philip also told Nathanael “*We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph*” (1:45). The Jews were looking for the One to come who was the prophet like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15-18), who was of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3), who was the Son of David, etc. This Christ (Anointed One) would fulfill all the expectations of the Jewish believer in Old Testament prophecy. Jesus was the Answer, the Pinnacle, of all Jewish history. He is the “end” (consummation) of all that Moses and the prophets had said.

“The King of Israel” (1:49)

Nathanael confessed that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God, and the King of Israel! No greater declaration could be made! John’s Gospel sets out to prove the proposition! Study these descriptions of Jesus. See how John proves them to be true. Ask yourself if **you** believe these things about Jesus.

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