

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #187

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

PART 1: CHAPTER 1, VERSES 1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. John 1:1-2

The Gospel of John was written by John around A.D. 85-90. The book's central theme is Christ in His Deity.

Some Terms We Need to Understand

Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke –These are called the Synoptic Gospels because they, unlike the Gospel of John, can be compared column by column with each other. They have many parables and accounts in common as well as a general agreement on the order of the events. This suggests that there was a common source for all three. John records only 7 events out of all the happenings of Jesus' ministry recorded in the other Gospels. The Synoptic Gospels give more attention to the happenings in the ministry of Jesus. John, on the other hand, is more interested in recording the teachings of Jesus. Many refer to John's Gospel as *the Spiritual Gospel* or *the Gospel to the Church*. John's objective seems to be to emphasize the deity of Jesus. This makes lots of sense since John wrote his Gospel most probably a full generation after the other 3 Gospels were written and was most likely trying to refute the teachings of the Gnostics who believed that Jesus was not God.

The Beloved Disciple: "*The disciple whom Jesus loved*" has been debated by many as to whom John is referring. Interestingly the name John is not found in the Gospel of John except when referring to John the Baptist. Because of when and where this is used (John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, and 21:20), we can conclude that it must be referring to one of the inner circle. It cannot be Peter because of John 13:23-24, and it cannot be James because he was already dead as the first of the disciples to suffer martyrdom as recorded in Acts 12:1-2. John is the only one left as an eyewitness to the events he is writing of. Also, it was customary in that day as an act of humility not to draw attention to one's self and to not include one's name. In fact, this is another evidence that John wrote the book for if someone else had written it, surely they would have mentioned one of the most prominent of the apostles. In fact, early church history is full of references to the

Gospel John wrote, and even heretics and enemies of this Gospel attribute its authorship to John.

Gospel: Good News, i.e. the message concerning Christ, the Kingdom of God, and salvation

Herbert Lockyer, in his excellent book *All the Men of the Bible*, gives us these facts about this beloved disciple:

1. He was a native of Bethsaida in Galilee.
2. His godly parents, Zebedee and Salome, were probably cousins of Christ, and John was their youngest son.
3. His mother, Salome, followed Christ, ministered to Him, was at the Cross and among those who went to anoint the body of Christ with sweet spices.
4. His father was a fisherman owning his own vessel and prosperous enough to hire servants.
5. John himself was also a successful fisherman.
6. He was called to discipleship while mending his nets.
7. He was the youngest of the disciples, the *Benjamin* among the Twelve.
8. He was one of the select triumvirate, Christ's inner circle of three, Peter and James, John's brother, being the other two.
9. He was surnamed by Christ as a son of "Boanerges" because of his prophetic zeal and resolution to witness of Christ.
10. He was treated by Christ with greater closeness than the other disciples.
11. He sat next to Christ at the Last Supper.
12. He was entrusted with the care of the mother of Jesus.
13. He died when he was almost one hundred years of age.
14. He wrote the gospel and three epistles bearing his name, and also the Book of Revelation.
15. This younger brother of James was in the opinion of most scholars known as "*the disciple whom Jesus loved.*" Indeed, the original of his name means "*whom Jehovah loves*" or "*Jehovah has been gracious.*"
16. As a young man John was energetic (Mark 3:17), intolerant (Mark 9:36), vindictive (Luke 9:54), and ambitious (Mark 10:35-37). He also was one who was eager to learn (John 13:23 & 1st John 2:9) and became a man who was very compassionate (John 19:26-27) and full of love (1st John 4:7-21) and is known as *The Apostle of Love*.

Analysis of John 1:1-2

- 1. *In the beginning was the Word:*** No matter how far back you go in history, Jesus was. We cannot wrap our minds around this very well, but He is eternal past, present, and eternal future. He, unlike the enemy, is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and immutable. ***And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2-The same was in the beginning with God.***

Jesus is the Word incarnate.

LOGOS VERSUS RHEMA

The Remnant Company of the Last Days will be lovers of the Word. They will know both the *Logos* and the *Rhema* of the Word. In the Greek language the words *Logos* and *Rhema* are both translated in English as *Word*. There is, however, a great difference in the meaning of the two Greek words. *Logos* is the written and spoken Word of God. In John Chapter 1, it was the *Logos* that became flesh and dwelt among us. *Logos* is the representation of all Jesus is to His people. At First Love, we believe that the Word of God, the *Logos*, is inerrant, was written by the Holy Spirit through human vessels and is Truth. A great faith teacher who has gone to be with the Lord, Pat Carver, said of the Word, “We can pray the Word about a situation and expect God-kind of results. The person we pray for has a free choice whether to accept what God has for them, and, by praying the Word on their behalf, we give them the benefit of choosing either life or death, blessing or cursing, going God’s Way or their own way (Deuteronomy 30:19). As we confess the Word, believe it, read it, speak it, and act on it we begin to merge with it and it becomes our way of life. As we live the Word, His strength, His ability, His peace, His love, His joy, His confidence, and His faith become ours. As we pray His Word, the weary ones, the weak ones, the deceived ones, the sick ones will be ministered to, protected by and brought gently to our Good Shepherd.”

Carver goes on to list what the Bible says about His people. We should regularly confess this over our lives: *Since God so loved the World that He gave His only Son, Jesus, and I have believed in Him and made Him my Lord (John 3:16, Rom. 10:8-10); I am a new creature, old things have passed away, all things are new, and I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2nd Cor. 5:17-21). I have been delivered from the authority and power of darkness (sickness, disease, worry, sadness, doubt, fear, loneliness,*

despair, rejection) and translated into the Kingdom of His Dear Son (Col. 1:13).

I am blessed with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:13).

There is no condemnation and I am free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:1-2).

I am more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37).

I am healed and whole (1st Peter 2:24).

I reign in life by Christ Jesus (Romans 5:17).

I am complete in Him (Col 2:9-10).

According to the Word of God you are:

New Creation, Heir of God, Joint-heir with Jesus, One with the Word, Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, in perfect health, Chosen One, Blessed with every spiritual blessing, Standing and acting on the Word, Doer of the Word, Free from law and tradition, Free from want, In favor with God and man, Saved, Redeemed, Sanctified, Forgiven, Eternal, Resurrected with Him, Victorious in all things, Carefree, Oak of righteousness, Wealthy in all things, Part of His Body, Having no lack in anything, Set apart, Peculiar, a Gift, Salt, a Believer, a Branch of the Vine, high and lifted up into heavenly places, an Overcomer, Partaker of the Divine Nature, a Member of the Royal Family, Unwavering, Loving, Redeemed from the curse of the law and its ability to rule you, Forgiving, Full of joy, Tenderhearted, Delivered from evil, Far from oppression and fear, Blessed of the Father, Temple of the Holy Spirit, Single-minded to His Word, Strong in Him and the power of His Might, a Faith being, Walking in Victory, Healed, Steadfast, Reigning in life, Speaking faith-filled words, God-inside minded, Pulling down enemy strongholds in Jesus Name, Beloved in the brethren, Complete in Him, Bearing fruit that remains, Well-grounded in the Word, Living an abundant life in Him, Rejoicing in each day, Peaceful, Casting down any thoughts contrary to His Word and thinking on all those things that are pure, lovely, honest, and of good report. Clad in His full armor and trusting in His Ability.

Pat Carver Ministries, Inc.

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible with 176 verses. All but a few of these verses refer directly to the Word of God. Verse 9, for example, tells us the Word cleanses us. This is typed in the Bible by the brazen laver filled with water with which the priest washed himself in the Old Testament Tabernacle. Verse 24 tells us that the Word is our counselor. Verse 105 tells us that the Word is our guide. Verse 165 tells us that the Word gives us peace.

But what about the difference between the *Logos* and the *Rhema*? *Logos* is the Word of God. It is the whole Bible, the whole revelation of God, the knowledge of God, the same for all eternity and for everyone all the time. Through it, we receive general prophecies and general instructions from the Body of Christ.

The *Rhema* is a specific word from the Word. It is a specific word for a specific person. It is a word of knowledge. It is individual scriptures revealed by God for a specific situation and a personal prophecy to an individual.

Logos and *Rhema* are Greek words because the New Testament is written in Greek. However, this same differentiation can be seen in the corresponding Hebrew Words in the Old Testament. For example, according to our Greek scholar, Matthew Marshall, in the often quoted verse in Isaiah 55:11-*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the things whereto I sent it*-the Hebrew word for word means “a matter or thing spoken of (decreed).” Therefore, *rhema* would be the best Greek translation of word in this passage, instead of *logos*.

As the *Logos* which became flesh and dwelt among us, Jesus is found in every book of the Bible. Someone came up with this summary:

THE INCARNATE WORD

In Genesis He is the Seed of the Woman.

In Exodus He is the Passover Lamb.

In Leviticus He is our High Priest.

In Numbers He is the Pillar of Cloud by day and the Pillar of Fire by night.

In Deuteronomy He is the Prophet like unto Moses.

In Joshua He is the Captain of our Salvation.

In Judges He is our Judge and Lawgiver.

In Ruth He is our Kinsman Redeemer.

In 1st and 2nd Samuel He is our Trusted Prophet.

In Kings and Chronicles He is our Reigning King.

In Ezra He is our Faithful Scribe.

In Nehemiah He is the Rebuilder of the Broken Down Wall of our human life.

In Esther He is our Mordecai.

In Job He is our Dayspring from on high and our Ever-living Redeemer.

In Psalms He is our Lord our Shepherd.

In Proverbs and Ecclesiastes He is our Wisdom.

In the Song of Solomon He is the Lover and the Bridegroom.

In Isaiah He is the Prince of Peace.

In Jeremiah He is the Righteous Branch.

In Lamentations He is the Weeping Prophet.

In Ezekiel He is the Wonderful Four-faced Man.

In Daniel He is the Fourth Man in the burning fiery furnace.
 In Hosea He is the Faithful Husband, forever married to the backslider.
 In Joel He is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit and Fire.
 In Amos He is our Burden-bearer.
 In Obadiah He is the Mighty to Save.
 In Jonah He is our Great Foreign Missionary.
 In Micah He is the Messenger of Beautiful Feet carrying the Gospel.
 In Nahum He is the Avenger of God's Elect.
 In Habakkuk He is God's Evangelist crying, "Revive thy work in the midst of the years."
 In Zephaniah He is the Savior.
 In Haggai He is the Restorer of God's Lost Heritage.
 In Zechariah He is the Fountain Opened in the House of David for sin and uncleanness.
 In Malachi He is the Sun of Righteousness, rising with healing in His Wings.
 In Matthew He is the Messiah.
 In Mark He is the Wonder-worker.
 In Luke He is the Son of Man.
 In John He is the Son of God.
 In Acts He is the Holy Spirit.
 In Romans He is the Justifier.
 In Corinthians He is the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 In Galatians He is the Redeemer from the Curse of the Law.
 In Ephesians He is the Christ of Unsearchable Riches.
 In Philipines He is the God Who Supplies All Our Needs.
 In Colossians He is the Fullness of the Godhead Bodily.
 In 1st and 2nd Thessalonians He is our Soon-coming King.
 In 1st and 2nd Timothy He is our Mediator between God and Man.
 In Titus He is our Faithful Pastor.
 In Philemon He is a Friend that Sticketh Closer than a Brother.
 In Hebrews He is the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant.
 In James He is our Great Physician.
 In 1st and 2nd Peter He is the Chief Shepherd who soon shall appear with a crown of unfading Glory.
 In 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John He is Everlasting Love.
 In Jude He is the Lord coming with Ten Thousand of His Saints.
 In Revelation He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

A most interesting scripture about the Word of God comes from the Lord Himself in Psalm 138:2b where he indicates that He values his Word even more than He values His own name, the name whereby we are saved and whereby demons flee! And indeed, John 1 tells us that He, as the Word, became flesh and dwelt among us.

...for Thou hast magnified Thy word above Thy name. Psalm 138:2