

*For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon lone, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.*

Isaiah 28:10

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First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY 210

**REVIEW OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

(based on William Barclay's The New Daily Study Bible)

Revelation 4:6-7: *And before the throne there was a sea of glass like crystal; and in the midst of the throne and round about the throne, were four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind. And the first living creature was like a lion, and the second living creature like a calf (ox), and the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.*

1. LION: The Gospel of Matthew, which saw Jesus as the Messiah and the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
2. OX: The Gospel of Luke, which saw Jesus as the great servant of men and women and the universal sacrifice for all people.
3. MAN: The Gospel of Mark, which is the plainest, the most straightforward and the most human of the gospels.
4. EAGLE: The Gospel of John, because the eagle alone of all living creatures can look straight into the sun and not be dazzled, for John has the most penetrating gaze into the eternal mysteries and the eternal truths and the very mind of God. Many people find themselves closer to God and to Jesus Christ in John than in any other book in the world.

This Gospel of John is different from Matthew, Mark & Luke:

1. John has no account of the birth, baptism, or temptation of Christ.
2. It tells us nothing of the Last Supper, Gethsemane, or His ascension.
3. There are no stories of the healing of people possessed of demons.
4. It contains none of the parable stories spoken of so prominently in the other Gospels.
5. The other Gospels report that the ministry of Jesus as a preacher did not emerge until after John the Baptist was imprisoned (Mark 1:14; Luke 3:18,20; and Matthew 4:12). But in John Jesus' ministry overlapped for a considerable time with the ministry of John the Baptist before he was imprisoned (John 3:22-30, 4:1-2).
6. The setting for most of Jesus' ministry in the other three Gospels is mainly in Galilee with Jesus reaching Jerusalem only in the last week

- of His life. In John, the main setting for Jesus' ministry is Jerusalem and Judaea, with only occasional trips to Galilee.
7. John alone tells of the marriage feast at Cana of Galilee, of the coming of Nicodemus to Jesus, of the woman of Samaria, of the raising of Lazarus, of the way Jesus washed the disciples' feet, of the teaching on the Holy Spirit, of Thomas speaking, of Judas protesting over the anointing by Mary at Bethany.
  8. John gives details which the other gospels leave out, such as the barley loaves brought by the young boy and multiplied by Jesus, the distance (between three and four miles) the disciples had rowed when Jesus came to them in the storm, that there was 6 stone water pots at the wedding at Cana, that four soldiers gambled for the seamless robe of Jesus, the exact weight of the myrrh and aloes which Nicodemus brought to anoint the body of Jesus, etc.

These differences are easily explained. John had most probably read the other three Gospels before he wrote his own. He fully accepted them and bore witness to their truthfulness, but he saw that they were lacking in the events of Jesus' early ministry. Thus, the Gospel of John contains the first acts of Christ, while the others give an account of the latter part of his life.

There are, however, differences that cannot be explained. John, for example, puts the cleansing of the Temple at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, while the others put it at the end. Secondly, John dates the crucifixion of Jesus on the day before the Passover, while the other gospels date it on the day of the Passover.

Nevertheless, the detailed knowledge that John had of Palestine and Jerusalem (remember that he wrote this gospel around 100 AD and Jerusalem had been destroyed in 70 AD) and the detailed information he gives concerning the events he writes of indicate that he had intimate knowledge of what he was writing.

#### Reasons for John writing this gospel

1. The Christian Church was no longer made up predominately of Jews who had become Christians, but of Gentiles. Therefore, he was writing mainly for a Greek audience that was made up of deep thinkers and philosophers. John wanted to write a gospel not so much interested in telling facts but truth. He did not see the events of Jesus'

- life simply as events in time but as windows looking into eternity and wanted to convey the spiritual meaning behind the things Jesus did.
2. John wrote to destroy the heresies that had arisen from false teaching in the Christian Church. For example, there were some Jews who look to the memory of John the Baptist as the spiritual leader of the Church. In Acts 19:1-7 we see an example of this group who were on the fringe of the Christian Church but never got beyond the baptism of John the Baptist. John the Apostle makes clear in his gospel that John the Baptist denied over and over that he was the leader over Christ.

Another heresy that caused much problem in the early Church were the Gnostics. The Gnostics believed that matter was essential evil and that spirit is essentially good. They therefore believed that God had nothing to do with creation, and in fact, the force that did create was actually evil and hostile to God. That is why John insists that "*God so loved the world.*" John presented the Christian message that not only did God create the world, but His presence was in the world that He made. Some Gnostics believed that Jesus was not God but some demi-god between the real God and the world or people. He did not have a real body because God could not touch matter, which made up a body, and was evil. Other Gnostics believe that the Spirit of God came into Jesus only when He was baptized, but it left Him before He was crucified since God could not suffer and die. To counter Gnosticism John presented Jesus as one who was undeniably human and yet at the same time undeniably God.

Although Barclay does not mention this, there was also the heresy of the Nicolaitans. These were people who professed to be Christians but lived licentious, immoral lives, especially the practice of pagan sexual practices. They tried to reconcile Christianity with paganism.

### Who was John?

John was the son of Zebedee, a well-off fisherman. His mother was Salome, who seems likely was the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus. With his brother James and his friend Peter he had a partnership in the fishing trade. Seemingly these three were in Jesus' inner circle and the leaders of the disciples.

The young John was apparently ambitious and had a temper and at times intolerant and exclusive (Mark 9:38 & Luke 9:49). For example, the sons of Zebedee wanted to blast a Samaritan village out of existence because it would not give them hospitality when they

were on their way to Jerusalem and had to cross into Samaria (Luke 9:54). Yet John was also courageous (Acts 4:1-13).

In the Book of Acts, John always appears as the companion of Peter and never speaks at all. In Paul's letters he appears only once. In Galatians 2:9, he is named as one of the pillars of the Church, who gives approval to the work of Paul.

Did John write the Gospel of John? Most scholars believe that John actually wrote this book or that others wrote while he spoke.

The Purpose of the Book: In his own words, John says the purpose of his writing John was "*that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name*" John 20:31.

#### Review of the Entire Book

1. What are the synoptic Gospels and why are they called this?
2. Who is the beloved disciple?
3. What does Gospel mean?
4. Who was the youngest of the disciples?
5. Who was in Christ's inner circle?
6. Who is known as the Apostle of Love?
7. What is Logos and what is Rhema and to which was John referring in his gospel when the translators translated the word *Word*?
8. What OT prophet was John the Baptist identified with by Jesus?
9. Who was Cephas?
10. What is Nathanael's other name in scripture?
11. What does wine symbolize?
12. What are the last recorded words in scripture of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and where were they spoken?
13. Who came to Jesus by night?
14. Who were the Pharisees?
15. Who were the Sadducees?
16. What kinds of love are the following: *agape, phileo, stergo*?
17. Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus?
18. What is the largest religious group in the world?
19. What do the following symbolize: bread, the thief, the shepherd, the sheep, the hireling?
20. What does the phrase "*Next year in Jerusalem*" refer to?

21. What does *Hosanna* mean?
22. What is the significance of Jesus washing His disciples' feet?
23. What are some benefits of using the Name of the Lord?
24. Who anointed Jesus with costly perfume?
25. How long had Lazarus been dead when Jesus arrived on the scene?
26. What do the following Jehovah compound names of God mean:  
*Jireh, Raphe, Nissi, Shalom, Shammah, Tsidkenu?*
27. What is the *paraklete*?
28. Who is the prince of this world?
29. What is spiritual *Israel*?
30. Who was Elizabeth?
31. What is the longest prayer in the Bible?
32. Who was Malchus? Caiphas? Annas?
33. What and when is the cock crow?
34. What did Pilate symbolize by washing his hands?
35. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?
36. Where did Apostle Thomas evangelize?
37. How many times did the risen Christ appear to His disciples during  
the 40 days he was on earth after the resurrection?
38. What happen to Peter?

### He Brought Me In

He brought me in, He brought me in,  
O, I'm so glad He brought me in.  
Just look back yonder, where I have been  
O, I'm so glad, He brought me in.

### Victory, Victory!

Victory! Victory!  
Over all the powers of darkness,  
Victory!  
When the battle's in array,  
Angels help us in the fray,  
And God fights for those who pray  
Victory!

### Joy is the Flag

Joy is the flag flown from the castle of my heart  
From the castle of my heart, from the castle of my heart.  
Joy is the flag flown from the castle of my heart,  
Since the King is in residence there.

So lift it high in the sky, let the whole world know,  
Let the whole world know, let the whole world know.  
So lift it high in the sky, let the whole world know  
That the King is in residence there.

### I Want To Be Real

I want to be real, Lord, I want to be real.  
Remove every doubt, Lord, I want to be real.  
Thou seest my heart, Thou knowest every part.  
I want to be real, Lord, I want to be real.

### Not By Might

Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord,  
Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord.  
This mountain shall be removed, this mountain shall be removed,  
This mountain shall be removed, by My Spirit, saith the Lord.

### My Jesus Will Work a Wonder

My Jesus will work a wonder.  
My Jesus will see you through.  
My Jesus will work a wonder.  
Just wait and see what He will do.

He'll subtract your fears in the valley.  
He will add to your strength on the mountain steep.  
He will multiply the blessings all around you,  
And divide the waters that are deep.