

Thread



In the Beginning

God Is Doing Something New Through The Word

Episode 70: In the Beginning

Episode 71: Wine, Wind, & Water

Episode 72: Healing, Hunger, & Discipleship

Episode 73: Life, Light, & Voice

Episode 74: The Friendship of God

Episode 75: Basin, Towel, & Spirit

Episode 76: Abiding, Fruit, & Becoming One

Episode 77: Lamb, Garden, & New Creation

The Book of John - Overview



- John has been called the 'spiritual Gospel' due to his focus on the meaning of the Word becoming incarnate and the relationship between the disciples and Christ
- Some differences:
 - The cleansing of the temple occurs at the start of Jesus' ministry, rather than at the end
 - In John most of Jesus' ministry takes place in Judea and Jerusalem, as opposed to in Galilee, as in the other Gospels
 - There are no exorcisms, parables, or teaching about the kingdom in John
 - In John, Jesus' death does not take place on Passover, as in the Synoptics

The Book of John - Overview



- Authorship
 - Like Matthew, Mark, and Luke, John does not name its author.
 - But we do find references to a 'Beloved Disciple' which early church tradition identified with John the son of Zebedee
 - Note how John identifies the Beloved Disciple as the source of the traditions in the Gospel of John (19.34-35)

The Book of John - Overview



- Structure

Chapters	Heading	Significance
1:1-18	Prologue: The Word becomes flesh	Focus is on the deity of Christ
1:19 - 12:52	The Book of Signs (Jesus' public ministry)	Focus is on the fullness of God's gifts through Jesus
13:1 - 21:22	The Book of the Passion (last words, death, resurrection)	Focus is on the glory of God revealed in the cross
21:23 - 25	Epilogue	

Thread



In the Beginning

God Is Doing Something New Through The Word



¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.



¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



When God Begins Again





Point 1: In The Beginning – The Word Already Existed

“In the beginning was the Word”

John 1:1 (NIV)



Point 2: In The Beginning – The Word Reveals Relationship

“The Word was with God...”

- Describes relationship, connection, intimacy

John 1:2 (NIV)



Point 3: In The Beginning – The Word Creates New Possibilities

“³ Through Him all things were made...”

- Everything that exists began with the Word

John 1:3 (NIV)



Point 4: In The Beginning – The Word Brings “Zoe” Life

“⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind ...”

- “Zoe” (ζωή) – Life
- Refers to the “God-kind” of life - a spiritual, eternal, abundant life that comes directly from God

John 1:4 (NIV)



Point 5: In The Beginning – The Word Brings Light Into Darkness

“⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

No matter how deep the darkness, light always prevails.

John 1:5 (NIV)



What Is God Beginning In Your Life?

- The same voice that spoke creation into existence still speaks today
- Are you listening? How will you respond today?

John 1:5 (NIV)



Communion

John 1:1 -14 (NIV)