

# Son of God

## Portraits of Jesus—part 1

January 3, 2021

Jesus is...

### **BEGIN THE NEW YEAR: STUDY THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, 1 CHAPTER/WEEK.**

This week we begin a study through the gospel of John. These devotions will cover the “big ideas” of chapter 1. Go ahead and read the whole chapter of John 1.

Each week we’ll be looking at “portraits of Jesus”—who He is, His identity, person, teaching, mission, and His relationships.

#### **DAY 1: The Word. (Deity)**

1. “Word” is the Greek word “logos.” It was used in Greek philosophy as “the explanation,” or “the reason.” It was the “answer” to life for which everyone searched. John uses this word to tell us a few things about Jesus Christ, The “Word.”

*John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.*

2. *WAS GOD*: “The Word was God.” Deity. John records six people who gave witness that Jesus is God. John the Baptist, Nathanael (1:49), Peter (6:69), the blind man (9:35-38), Martha (11:27), and Thomas (20:28).

- **Eternal Word (beginning)**

*John 1:2 He was with God in the beginning.*

3. The notion that Jesus was just a good man, a teacher, an example for us to follow is preposterous. He existed in eternity past and is eternal.

- **Creative Word**

*John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

4. He is not a created being, like everything and everyone else.

- **Incarnate Word**

*John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

5. He came by the Virgin Birth. (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)

6. What strikes you from today’s devotional.

## **DAY 2: Jesus, the light and life**

### **The Light.**

*John 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

1. Light is a metaphor for truth.

*John 8:12 (Jesus) "I am the light of the world."*

*1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*

2. This is in contrast to both Satan as the prince of darkness and the darkness of the fallen world.

a. Satan is depicted as the "power of darkness." (Lk. 22:53)

*John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*

b. The word "understood" can mean either overcome or understood.

### **The Life.**

*John 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

*John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

3. "Life" is that which everyone seeks. It is the missing "it" for which we are looking. It has several applications:

a. It is the inclination and power to love in a completely other-centered way.

b. It is that deep satisfaction for which we all seek.

c. It is the awareness and enjoyment that comes from knowing you're walking with God in the path of truth, and that one day it will all be worth it.

4. What strikes you from today's devotional?

**DAY 3: The Son of God.** (John 1:15-28, 49)

- Jesus reveals God to us (Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3)

*John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.*

1. “Made known” – The meaning of the term is to explain, unfold, to make clear.

*John 1:49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."*

*John 1:34 "I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."*

2. Son of God and God the Son are synonymous names.

3. One of the centurions overseeing the crucifixion was convinced of who Jesus was.

*Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"*

- Eternal

*John 1:15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"*

4. We know Jesus was born six months after John. John was referring to Jesus' pre-existence.

- Fullness of grace and truth

*John 1:16-17 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

5. If God only dealt with us on the basis of our disobedience and truth, we'd be in a heap of trouble. But he offers us grace and truth if we will receive him!

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## **DAY 4: The Lamb of God and the Messiah.**

### **The Lamb of God**

*John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

1. The people of the Old Testament were very knowledgeable about sacrificial lambs!
2. Every day two lambs were sacrificed at the altar. Those lambs were brought by men to men.
3. But here is God's Lamb, given by God to men!
4. The lambs that man brought to God were symbols of atonement, but not the actual atonement itself. They were symbols of a coming atonement!
5. Only The Lamb of God can take away sin.
6. Isaiah picks up the same theme.

*Isaiah 53:4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. [5] But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

### **The Messiah.**

7. Here, we begin to see the effect Jesus had on people. John and Andrew were following Jesus. He asks them, "What are you seeking?" ("What are you looking for in life?"). He invited them to spend the day with Him. Undoubtedly He shared with them who He was, His mission and purpose, revealed their own hearts to them, and answered their questions. He blew them away. There was something wondrous about Jesus Christ. They brought their brothers, James and Peter, to Jesus.

*John 1:41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). [42] And he brought him to Jesus.*

8. "Messiah" – "anointed" – "Christ" (Greek)—a deliverer, the answer to man's problem, promised throughout O.T. history!
9. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## **DAY 5: The King of Israel.**

*John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."*

*[46] "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.*

1. Nathaniel was a cynic. He was skeptical of such a claim.

*47] When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."*

*[48] "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."*

2. Nathanael discovered that Jesus knew all about him! He knew where he had been and what he had been doing. Jesus also knew the cynicism that Nathaniel had had about Jesus, and yet that cynicism didn't seem to affect how Jesus related to him. It blew Nathanael away.

*John 1:49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."*

### **The Son of Man.**

3. The title "Son of Man" is used eighty-three times in the gospels. It is a term that speaks of both the divinity and humanity of Jesus.

*John 1:50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." [51] He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

### **4. Review: Here are the terms of Jesus' identity in John 1**

- The Word
- Light
- Life
- Son of God
- Lamb of God
- Messiah
- King of Israel
- Son of Man

5. What strikes you from this week's devotionals of John 1?