

## "John's Introduction to the Gospel of John"

### John 1:1-18 .... "The TABLE OF CONTENTS"

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  - We're Introduced to Life's Main Character — GOD
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#### NEW VOCABULARY WORDS

- **the Beginning**
- **God**
- **Word**
- **Life**
- **Light**
- **Darkness**
- **Witness**
- **World**
- **Believe**
- **Children of God**
- **Born of God**
- **Glory**
- **Grace and Truth**

## WE'RE INTRODUCED TO LIFE'S MAIN CHARACTER— GOD

### *"In the Beginning"* (v. 1)

- This is more than a statement of TIME .... it's a Statement of ORIENTATION .... a Statement of ORIGIN  
.... a Statement of DESIGN

— **Gen 1:1** "In the beginning God created ...."

**Jn 1:3** "All things were made through him ...."

Col 1:15-16 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16  
For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created  
through him and for him.

*How Helpful Is This to a Planet Full of People who are Desperate to Find Meaning & Purpose in Life!!*

"The two greatest days in a person's life are the day he was born and the day he finds out why he was born." Anonymous

*"In him was life, and the life was the light of men"* (v. 4)

- **In him was Life**

**Gen 2:7** .... God breathes into man the "breath of life"

**Acts 17:24-25** The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

- **Life Was Light?**

– Life gets tied to ILLUMINATION. In other words in order to have life, one Must Be ABLE TO SEE & UNDERSTAND Something ...

.... To See WHAT?

**John 17:1-3** When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

**Jer 9:23-24** Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

– When God Seeks to "Give us Life" he does so by Giving Us a GREATER REVELATION of Himself— THIS IS WHAT WE'RE DESIGNED FOR!!!

“The Scriptures are profuse in describing for us God’s person, His character, and how He has chosen to reveal Himself. In mining the wealth of that content we come to understand how profoundly He has responded to the cry of the human heart— “Who are You, God?” This ought to be the paramount quest of every man, woman, and child, because from that knowledge flows every other answer to the cries of the heart and mind.” Ravi Zacharias, “Cries of the Heart”, p.2

## **WE’RE INTRODUCED TO THE MISSION OF CHRIST**

The INCARNATION: “The light shines in the darkness” (v. 5) .... “the true light, was coming into the world” (v. 9) .... “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (v. 14)

**What Was This All About? .....** **Jn 1:18** .... The Light has “made the unseen God Known”

**Col 1:15-16** He is the image of the invisible God,

**2 Cor 4:6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**1 John 5:20-21** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the

true God and eternal life.

**Jn 1:14** .... the Word (the communication/revelation of God) became flesh — So that we could see His Glory

**Why is God's Glory So Important in the Human Existence?— Why Does This Passage Matter to Me? .... How is this "RELEVANT"?**

**1. God's Intention is about His Glory (His Intention/Design in Creating)**

Hab 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Isa 43:6-7 bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

1 Peter 4:11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen

Isa 43:21 the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

— If we're ultimately up to something different than what God is ultimately up to— then that's a problem!

**2. Man's Design and Hunger is about His Glory**

**Moses** ... Exodus 33:18-23 & 34:5-8

**What is "the Glory of God"?** .... Hebrew - 'kabod'

- Ex 34:6-7

- Jer 9:24

- The Life, Teaching, Death & Resurrection = the Clearest Revelation of the Glory of God

**Ps 63**

- v. 3 ... "steadfast love" = HESED —> Ex 34:6 = "abounding in steadfast love"

Ps 42:1-5 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? .... 5 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, .... 6 My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you ..... 7 Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls;

*The Mission of Christ = to Reveal the Glory of God (His love, compassion, righteousness, justice, etc.) in the Clearest of Ways*

**WE'RE INTRODUCED TO THE GREATEST CRIME IN HUMAN HISTORY**

.... The REJECTION of the Glory of God

**Jn 1:10-11**

*Why Does Man Reject the Glory of God?*

**Jn 3:19-20** .... Man avoids the light because he LOVES the DARKNESS

**Rom 1:18-25** .... man exchanged God's glory as his ultimate pursuit for something else that he wanted more

*We Reject God (revealed by His glory) because we WANT SOMETHING ELSE!* (We don't want His holiness, His righteousness, His compassion, His love, His Sovereignty, etc.)

- We want physical/selfish/temporary pleasure— more than the Pleasure of Glorifying God
  - .... We want the Pleasure of SEX more than the Glory of PURITY
  - .... We want the Pleasure of INDULGENCE more than the Glory of SELF-CONTROL
- We want to be ANGRY— more than we want to Glorify God through Forgiveness & Mercy
- We want EASE — more than we want to Glorify God through Taking Up Our Cross so His Successful Transforming Presence can be seen in our lives
- We want PRIDE — more than we want to Glorify God through Humility

*The Gospel Begins with Repentance Because Man's Natural Posture is Rejection.*

*The Good News .... Jn 1:12*

- Believing & Receiving => Becoming
  - .... There's a NEED to BECOME
  - .... There are PARAMETERS to Becoming