

Journey Into God's Word



Numbers 12-36

Proverbs 1-6

John 1-5

My Dear Co-Workers,

There are many different views concerning who Jesus is. If you were Muslim, you would believe that He was only a great prophet. Many Hindus are happy to declare that Jesus is god but to them He is one of many gods. Even many who call themselves Christians have trouble with Jesus' declaration, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (**John 14:6**) In this age of universalism, such declarations, that "Jesus is the only way one can be saved" are considered narrow-minded and even dangerous. Yet when we study the gospel of John, we see a clear presentation of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, truly God, the second member of the Holy Trinity, and is the only way by which we may be saved.

John states his reason for writing the gospel that bears his name in **John 20:31**. There he declares, " But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."

Remember what we learned in Hebrews during the past two weeks. "Jesus is God's Son, whom He appointed heir of all things and through whom He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in Heaven." (**Hebrews 1:2,3**)

Many have only a vague belief in Jesus and don't really accept Him as anything more than a great teacher. Take another look at **Psalms 110**. Peter used this Psalms to show that Jesus is the Messiah, sits at the right hand of God, and is Lord over all. (**Acts 2:32-35**) You can't claim to believe in Jesus and call Him only a good man. The Bible declares Him Lord and Christ; "God made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (**Acts 2:36**)

Read **John 1:1-5** and then describe what these verses have to say about who Jesus is. Compare **Genesis 1:1-5** to **John 1:1-8**. According to **John 1:12**, what happens to those who receive Him and believe Him?

Look at how the word “wisdom” is used in **Proverbs 1-3** and compare it to the use of “Word” in **John 1:1-14**. Do you see how God has not only created but also through Jesus, the “Word,” now enters His creation to recreate it by the provision of life through His death and resurrection? “In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.”(**John 1:4**) “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.”(**John 1:14**) “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”(**John 1:17**) “For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”(**Colossians 1:16,17**)

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (**Romans 10:13, Act 2:21**) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”(**John 1:29**)

Look at **John 1:41,42** and describe what Andrew did once he decided to follow Jesus. Who have you brought to Jesus lately? You will only be able to bring others to Christ if you can, with certainty, declare, “We have found the Messiah (that is, the Christ)” (**John 1:41**).

Now let us celebrate, for God has reentered His creation! The Wine of the Holy Spirit has come. “Then John gave this testimony: ‘I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on Him. I would not have known Him, except that the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, The Man on whom you see the Spirit come down on and remain is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.’ ”(**John 1:32-34**) The world’s wine is running out. The water of life, Jesus, is creating new wine. At the wedding in Cana He does this in 6 stone water jars (representing the 6 days of creation). A new creation is taking place. Almost every miracle Jesus did was renewal of fallen creation—giving new wine (life) through the restoring of sight, making the lame walk, even raising the dead. Maybe you are one of those who have spent most of your life drinking the cheap wine of a self-centered life. Come now to the living waters of life, Jesus Christ, and let Him give you the new wine of His Spirit and the new life resulting from His resurrection.

In the book of Numbers we see the Children of Israel wandering for an extra 38 years in the wilderness because they insisted on drinking from the cheap wine of unbelief, refusing to enter the Promised Land. Unbelief paralyzes, immobilizes and keeps us from being all God wants us to be. In **John 5:5,6** we read, “one who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked him, ‘Do you want to get well?’” Now He is asking you, “do you want to get well?” Then receive and dare to believe for Jesus is saying, “whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”(**John 4:14**) How does **John 3:16-18** make it absolutely clear that belief is essential if one is to drink the water of life that Christ is giving?

Sin has infected all of life. It has polluted God’s wonderful creation. Like the poisonous snakes we read about in **Numbers 21** which bit the children of Israel, resulting in death, **Roman 6:23** declares, “the wages of sin is death.” But that’s not all: “but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Read **Numbers 21:8,9** and compare it to what Jesus is saying in **John 3:14**. What does this mean to you? “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”(**John 3:36**)

As you have studied **Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Hebrews**, are you beginning to see how Jesus is now the ultimate Passover Lamb? Can you recognize how He reveals the presence of God? We see the Passover three times in John. As Jesus cleanses the temple in **John 2:12-23**, in what way does it show how He wants to clean our lives up? “Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to His temple; who can stand when He appears? For He will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.”(**Malachi 3:1-3**)

Now spend some time in **Proverbs 1-6**. Carefully go through these six chapters listing what they are telling you to avoid, in addition to what you are now to do as a child of God. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Knowledge.”(**Prov. 1:7**) What do you think this means? “Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men.” (**Prov. 2:14**) “By wisdom the Lord laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding He set the heavens in place; by His knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let the dew drop down.” (**Prov. 3:19,20**) What does this tell you about why it is important to let Christ clean out your head so you can develop the mind of Christ? (See **Romans 12:1,2**) Instead of worrying so

much, why not mediate on **Proverbs 3:5,6**. What three things are you told to do in order to receive the promise, “He will make your paths straight.”?

“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”(**1Cor. 3:16,17**) Are you letting Him clean out your temple? In what ways do **Proverbs 5** and **6** show that sexual lust will destroy you? What six things does God hate? (See **Proverbs 6:16-19**) **Proverbs 6:1-15** warns you to avoid three things. What are they?

Numbers 12-36 goes into great detail how rebelliousness, unbelief and fear can be deadly. As you study these chapters, what did you learn from the mistakes the Children of Israel made, which would prevent you from wandering aimlessly for the next 38 years in a spiritual wilderness? What characteristics do Caleb and Joshua demonstrate that you would like to have take place in your life? What happened when “the people grew impatient in the way”? (**Numbers 21:4**) Many today who say that they are followers of Jesus have fallen into the prosperity cult. Read the story of Balaam in **Numbers 22-24**, then read **2 Peter 2:15-22** and describe why a lust for money and the good things of this life can destroy good, well-meaning people. (See **Jude 11** and **Numbers 31:16** to see what happened to Balaam). In **Numbers 33:50-53** God told Moses that before the Israelites could settle in the Promised Land they had to drive out the wickedness before them. If we truly receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we will want Him to drive all that is not clean out of us. Sinful thoughts and practices must be removed to make room for the new. Sometimes we are afraid to clear out all the sin in our lives because we may be afraid of the giants in the Promised Land, like the Children of Israel were. Remember **Heb. 12:1,2** that tells us to throw off “the sin that so easily entangles” us. We must get rid of the idols in our lives. If we don’t, they will sooner or later destroy us. These idols include greed, which, if it is not controlled, results in the pollution of the world we live in. “Do not pollute the land where you are.”(**Numbers 35:33**) It results in violence and bloodshed. “Bloodshed pollutes the land,” “Do not defile the land, where you live and where I dwell.”(**Numbers 35:33,34**) Let Christ the Hope of Glory come and live within every part of your life; then you will also be able to say, “we know this Man (Jesus) really is the Savior of the world,” (**John 4:42**)

Jesus was hated for healing on the Sabbath, but Jesus saw that the “image bearers” (needy people created in the image of God) were more important than the traditions of man which went far beyond God’s commands. Nowhere in the Old

Testament does God say don't show love to others on the Sabbath. (See **John 5:1-18**)

“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom He is pleased to give it.”(**John 5:21**) Do you desire to cross over from death to life? If so, what is **John 5:24** telling you to do? What is critical in addition to studying the Scriptures? (**John 5:39,40**)

There is so much more that we have to learn from the Scriptures that testify of Jesus. That is why I want you to join me this next week in reading **Deuteronomy 1-16, Proverbs 7-12, John 6-10**.

God has great things in store for you. Join Jesus in declaring in word and deed, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.”(**John 4:33**) So many are desiring to know what He is teaching you. My prayer is that you will continue to share the hope and life that Jesus provides as you reach out to those in need daily.

Yours in Christ,

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