

C H A P T E R

1

Read verse 1. Other writers begin with the birth of Jesus, but John goes back to the "beginning", to Genesis 1:1, and introduces Jesus by a new name, "the Word."

9. By what new name does John introduce Jesus? _____

Again read verse 1. Three things about Christ's relationship with God are revealed here. He was in the "beginning," He was "with God," and He "was God."

10. In this verse, John reveals _____ very important facts about Christ.

Read verses 2 and 3. A new fact is added here. Christ was not only "in the beginning," but was IN also on the planning and creation of the universe.

11. Without _____, nothing in the universe was made.

Read verses 4 through 9. Verse four reads, "In Him was life and the life was the light of men." That life was divine life, and this enlightens and cleanses the heart of man.

12. Jesus brought _____ and _____ into the world.

Verse 5. Some translations read "and the darkness was not able to overcome it." I believe "comprehend" is better. In the Bible, darkness represents sin and ignorance, and light, righteousness or enlightenment. See John 3:19-21 for further treatment of this theme.

13. Darkness can neither _____ nor _____ the Light.

Verse 6. This verse introduces John, the forerunner of Jesus, to us. He is often referred to as John, the Baptist.

14. True or False? John the Baptist and John, the author of this Gospel, are one and the same.

Verses 7 and 8. This God-sent man declares flatly that he is not that "light."

15. John was sent to bear _____ to the "light."

Verse 9. This verse is quite difficult, but it seems to mean that every man is born with a conscience, and Jesus can enlighten and discipline this conscience, if man does not "turn Him off."

16. True or False? No man need be lost if he will open his heart to the "light."

Read verses 10 and 11. The creator of the world was present, but was not recognized by His creation. He was born a Jew, but the Jews rejected him.

17. Jesus was unrecognized by the _____ and rejected by the _____.

Read verses 12 and 13. The Jews, as a people, did not receive the "light," yet some individuals among them did. To these there was given an amazing promise: reconciliation to God, and a new life as sons of God.

18. What "right" was given to those who believed? _____

Again read verse 1, and then read verse 14. These verses tell us of the incarnation: Deity housed in a human body.

19. The _____ became _____.

Read verses 15 through 17. This stupendous event, God dwelling among men in a human body, brought blessing upon blessing to man. The law was necessary to demonstrate the righteousness of God, Jesus came to show His loving kindness.

20. This verse tells us that " _____ and _____
came by Jesus Christ."

Read verse 18. No human has ever seen God, but the only begotten Son knows Him intimately, and can demonstrate His love and tell us all about Him.

21. The _____ of
God is Jesus.

Read verses 19 through 23. If the student is not familiar with the circumstance surrounding the birth of John the Baptist, he should read Luke 1:5-25, and 57-80. John understood his mission as "forerunner" of the Messiah. His strong preaching of the Jews' need for repentance before Messiah's arrival aroused the people and caused many to follow him. The Priests in Jerusalem became concerned because this was a movement over which they had no control. They, therefore, sent messengers to John to find out what it was all about. To their questions, he answered that he was not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet.

22. John's answer to the Pharisees was that he was the _____ of one
crying _____.

Read verses 24 and 25. Evidently, two groups were sent to question John. One by the Jewish leaders, and one by the Pharisees. The Pharisees were a strict religious

sect, the legalists of their day. They wished to know why John was baptizing if he was not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet.

23. The Pharisees asked John, "Why do you _____?"

Read verses 25 and 27. We are reminded of the prophetic words of Zecharias, John's father. "And thou, child, shall be called the prophet of the Highest, for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways." John directed attention away from himself, and towards Jesus. It might be said of him that he "played down" his own role.

24. True or False? Considering all the circumstances, John's role was important.

Read verse 28. The events related in this verse were when John was baptizing in the Jordan River near Bethany (Bethabara).

25. Find Bethany on your map. John was baptizing in the _____
_____.

Read verses 29 through 31. John said that he was merely preparing the way for someone greater who was to follow. When he saw Jesus in the crowd he said, "Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world." The Jews were familiar with the term of the law which required the sacrifice of a lamb and, therefore, should have realized the significance of this term.

26. John described Jesus as _____
_____.

Read verses 32 through 34. John, author of this Gospel, does not record the baptism of Jesus. Read this account in Matthew chapter 3, and Luke 3:21, 22. We see here that it was immediately following the baptism of Jesus that the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, descended upon Him. This was the "sign" to which John referred.

27. The "sign," given to John that he might recognize Jesus was
_____.

Read verses 35 through 37. Many of the early followers of Jesus were first followers of John. Here John introduces two of them to Jesus, and they turn and follow Him.

28. True or False? John tried to keep his disciples from following Jesus.

Read verses 38 and 39. These two wished to know where Jesus lived. His answer, "Come and see", could be called the almost universal answer of Jesus to those who really wish to know Him.

29. True or False? Jesus shunned the common people who came for the purpose of getting to know Him.

Read verses 40 through 42. One of these two was named Andrew. We are not told the name of the other. Andrew found his brother Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah." Andrew's acquaintance with Jesus was short, but he had seen and heard enough to convince him of the truth of John's witness. When Andrew had led Simon to Jesus, Jesus said, "You are called Simon, but I am going to rename you Peter." (Cephas, a stone) After Andrew's "conversion," his first action was to bring another (his brother) to Jesus.

30. Andrew set a good _____ for Christians to follow.

Read verses 43 and 44. The above events happened in Judea, where John was baptizing. The other Gospel writers tell us that at this time Jesus returned to Galilee. In verse 43 we read that Jesus, before starting, found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." This implies previous acquaintance, so it may be that Philip was the "other disciple" of verses 37-40. Philip's hometown was Bethsaida, a fishing village on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was also the home of Peter and Andrew.

31. Locate Bethsaida on your map. It is the hometown of _____,
_____, and _____.

Verses 45 and 46. When Philip found Nathanael and told him about Jesus, his first reaction was disbelief, as shown by his statement, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip did not argue. He said, "Come and see." Demonstration is better than argument, any time, anywhere.

32. When Nathanael voiced his disbelief in Jesus as the Messiah, Philip replied,
" _____."

Verses 47 through 51. Jesus told Nathanael that he would see even greater things than His ability to see Nathanael while still under the fig tree, even that he would see heaven opened, and angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

33. Nathanael immediately confessed Jesus, saying, "Master, Thou art _____,
_____, Thou
art the _____.

34. Jesus promised Nathanael that in the future he would see _____
_____ than those just witnessed.

CONCLUSION

In this chapter we have seen John the Baptist preaching repentance, and baptizing the repentant. We have then witnessed a very strange thing; John pointing his disciples to Jesus, saying, "Here is a greater one whom you should follow." We see Jesus gathering a few followers with the invitation "Come and see", and "Come,

follow me." We see some of these going out and bringing others to Jesus. Do you see any suggestion in this of what we, as Christians, should be doing if we truly believe that Jesus is the light of the world?

ANSWERS:

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| 9. The Word | 17. World, Jews |
| 10. Three | 18. The right to be called sons of God |
| 11. Him or Christ | 19. Word, flesh |
| 12. Life and Light | 20. Grace, truth |
| 13. Comprehend nor overcome | 21. Only begotten Son |
| 14. False | 22. Voice in the wilderness |
| 15. Witness | 23. Baptize |
| 16. True | 24. True |
| | |
| 25. River Jordan | 30. Example |
| 26. The Lamb of God | 31. Philip, Andrew and Peter |
| 27. The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove
descending upon Him | 32. Come and see |
| 28. False | 33. The Son of God, King of Israel |
| 29. False | 34. Greater things |