

4262 JOHN

AUTHOR: The apostle John, 1902.

DATE WRITTEN: Uncertain. Probably late in the first century.

PURPOSE: To inspire faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

TO WHOM WRITTEN: Seekers, who want to examine the life of Jesus Christ; and believers who want to be strengthened in their faith.

MAIN THEME: An encounter with Jesus Christ demands a response. Those who believe have eternal life, but those who reject Him are under the condemnation of God (John 3:36; 5:24–29; 10:27–29).

KEY WORD: Believe.

KEY VERSE: 20:31.

SYNOPSIS:

- I. Analysis. The book may be divided into five parts.
 - A. The prologue. The eternal Word incarnate, 1:1–18.
 - B. The manifestation of Christ's divinity to the world accompanied by a six-fold testimony: that of John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit, the disciples, Christ's mighty works, the Father, and the Scriptures, 1:19–12:50.
 - C. The private revelation and instruction to the disciples, 13–17.
 - D. His humiliation and triumph over death, 18–20.
 - E. The epilogue, 21:1–23. See also John's Portrait of Christ, 4303 and The Overview of Christ's Life, 4308.
- II. Distinctive Features.
 - A. It is considered by many to be the deepest and most spiritual book in the Bible.
 - B. In it, Christ gives a more complete revelation of Himself and of God than in the Synoptic Gospels.

- 1. Of His person and attributes. See the I Am's of Christ, 4166.
- 2. Of His divinity, 1:1; 10:30–38; 12:45; 14:7–9; 16:15.
- 3. Of the work of the Holy Spirit. See the 6's, 7's, 8's of the Holy Spirit, 4165.
- 4. Of His own divine commission. For example, in the fifth chapter He declares Himself to be sent from God six times, 5:23, 24, 30, 36, 37, 38.
- 5. Of the Fatherhood of God. Christ speaks of God as "The Father" over one hundred times: God is the spiritual Father, 4:23; He is the life-giving Father, 5:21; the message is the Father's, 7:16; the Father is greater than all, 10:29; the works are the Father's, 14:10; God is the Indwelling Father, 14:23; the Eternal Father, 17:5; the Holy Father, 17:11; the Righteous Father, 17:25.
- C. Perhaps the most notable of all the peculiarities of this gospel is the fact that over one half of the space in the book is given to the events of Christ's life and His sayings during His last days.
- D. Discourses and conversations found only in John: the talk with Nicodemus, 3:1–21; with the woman of Samaria, 4:1–26; the discourse to the Jews at the Festival of Tabernacles, 7:14–39; 8:3–58; the parable of the Good Shepherd, 10; the series of private instructions to the disciples; His comforting words and intercessory prayer, 14–17; His meeting with the disciples at the Sea of Galilee, 21.
- E. John records eight miracles of Christ (beside Christ's resurrection) to prove His

divinity. Six of these are found only in this gospel: The water made wine, 2:1–11; healing the nobleman's son, 4:46–54; healing the man at the pool, 5:1–9; healing the man born blind, 9:1–7; the raising of Lazarus, 11; the second great quantity of fish, 21:1–6.

F. There are two great currents of thought flowing through the book which are profitable to follow:

- 1. Faith, John 3:16–18; 5:24; 6:29, 40; 7:38; 8:24; 10:37–38; 11:25–27; 12:46; 14:12.
- 2. Eternal life, 3:15–16, 36; 4:14; 5:24; 6:27, 51; 11:26; 12:50; 17:3; 20:31.

PROMINENT PEOPLE: Jesus, John the Baptist, the disciples, Mary—Mother of Jesus, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Pilate.

MAJOR THEMES IN JOHN

Christ the Word	700
Christ, Creator	680
Christ the Light	2168
Oneness with the Father	685
Confessing Christ	814
Mary (1)	2259
Temple Cleansed	318
John's Testimony	1906
Water of Life	4218
Christ's Compassion	3518
Christ's Power Over Nature	3812
I Am (2)	4166
Blood of Christ	679
Jesus the Messiah	695
Christ, Liberator	4008
Christ Defamed by the Jews	4137
Christ's Sacrifice	3366
Lazarus	2056
Feet washing	3404
Denial of Christ	815
Divine Restraints (1)	3027
Crucifixion	3495
Christ's Voice	3302
Thomas	3614
Christ Appears	2415
Breaking of Bread	538

JOHN

Chap. 1, The Divinity of Christ

Christ Eternal 700 8:58
 ▶ Christ the Word 700 1:14
 Christ's Names 3632
 Christ Divine (2) 702 Ro 1:4
 Christ Eternal 709
 ▶ Christ, Creator 680 1Co 8:6
 Christ's Names 3632 1:14
 p.p. 1Jn 1:2
 Christ the Life 2152 5:26
 Christ the Light 2168 1:9
 Enlightenment 2175
 Dullness (2) 1010
 Spiritual Darkness 2179 3:19

Ministry of John the Baptist Isa 40:3

God's Messengers 2074
 John the Baptist 1903
 Aids to Faith 1209 11:15
 Witnesses (2) 3855a
 Universal Call 1791
 p.p. Jn 1:20
 Forerunner 1904

Jesus Christ the Light of the World

Christ the Light 2168 8:12
 Christ's Names 3632
 ▶ Light Universal 4061 3:19
 Christ, Creator 680
 Incarnation 720
 Christ Unknown 2039 12:6
 Christ Rejected 2965 5:43

Spiritual Adoption

739 Ro 8:15
 Promises to Believers 2880 3:14-15
 Children of God 714 Ro 8:14
 Receiving Christ 2961 1Ti 3:16
 Faith (8) 1208 7:38
 Christianity 4139 3:5
 Regeneration 2154 3:3
 New Person 2582

Christ the Word

700 1Jn 1:1
 Incarnation 720 Ac 2:30
 Christ's Glory 683 17:5
 Christ's Names 3632 1:41
 Christ's Perfection 2731 19:4
 Virgin Birth 4271 3:16
 Beloved Son 706
 Christ Truth 3699 14:6

The Word Became Flesh

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.

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") **16** Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and^b is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders^c in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. **20** He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."
 "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"^d

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent **25** questioned him,

The Witness of John the Baptist Mt 3:11; Mk 1:2; Lk 3:16

John the Baptist 1903 1:19-23
 Witnessing (2) 3604 Ac 2:32
 Preeminence of Christ 716 1:27
 Christ Eternal 709
 ▶ Fullness of Christ 1124 Eph 1:22-23
 God's Grace 1445
 Lawgiver (2) 2053 7:19
 Christ's Grace 1446 2Co 8:9
 Christ Truth 3699
 God Unseen 2490 5:37
 ▶ John the Baptist's Testimony 1906 1:29
 Oneness with the Father 685
 Beloved Son 706
 Christ a Witness 689
 Christ's Names 3632

John the Baptist's Answer to the Messengers of the Jews

John the Baptist 1903 1:29
 Priests (1) 2058
 Levites 2114

Truthfulness 3701

p.p. Lk 3:15; Jn 3:28
 p.p. Dt 18:18; Mal 4:5; Mt 11:14
 Elijah (1) 1112
 Elijah 4295

John the Baptist Announces his Role as Forerunner

Self-abasement 3193
 Obstacles Removed 1562
 Spiritual Highway 1563
 Forerunner 1904
 Prophecy Fulfilled (3) 2893

Channels of Truth 4005

Isaiah 1803
 Pharisees 371
 p.p. Mt 21:23

^a 5 Or *understood* ^b 18 Some manuscripts *but the only Son, who the Jews (hoi Ioudaioi)* refers here and elsewhere in John's Gospel to those Jewish leaders who opposed Jesus; also in 5:10, 15, 16; 7:1, 11, 13; 9:22; 18:14, 28, 36; 19:7, 12, 31, 38; 20:19. ^c 19 The Greek term traditionally translated *the Jews* (*hoi Ioudaioi*) refers here and elsewhere in John's Gospel to those Jewish leaders who opposed Jesus; also in 5:10, 15, 16; 7:1, 11, 13; 9:22; 18:14, 28, 36; 19:7, 12, 31, 38; 20:19. ^d 23 Isaiah 40:3

John's Baptism 760 3:23
Christ Unknown
2039 4:10

Preeminence of
Christ 716 3:31
Self-abasement 3193
Humility (3) 1716 1Ti 1:15
Unworthiness felt 4215
John the Baptist
Baptizing Mt
3:6; Mk 1:4
Beth-barah 403 10:40

John the Baptist
1903 3:26
Christ's Sacrifice 3366
John the Baptist's
Testimony 1906 1:30
Lamb of God 3365 1Co 5:7
Christ's Names 3632
Sin-bearer 3362
John the Baptist's
Testimony 1906 1:36
Christ Eternal 709
Christ Honored 1677
Forerunner 1904
Christ Unknown 2039
Messianic Hope
4186 4:25
John's Baptism 760

p.p. Mt 3:16; Mk 1:10
Spirit upon Christ
1610 Ac 10:38
Spirit as Dove 2504 ■

p.p. Mt 3:11; Mk
1:8; Lk 3:16
Divine Witness 703
Divine Direction 1468
Spirit Promised 1603
God's Messengers 2074
Divine Tokens 3644

Confessing Christ 814
► Christ Divine (4)
704 5:31
Son of God 707 3:18

Andrew 140 1:39–40
John's Disciples 1905

p.p. Jn 1:29
John the Baptist's
Testimony
1906 3:28–36
Lamb of God 3365
John the Baptist's
Disciples
Follow Christ

Followers 1017

Seeking Christ 307

Come 1787
Fellowship with
Christ 1265

"Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶"I baptize with^a water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

John Testifies About Jesus

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

³²Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."^b

John's Disciples Follow Jesus

³⁵The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter^c).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

⁴⁴Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵Philip 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. ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

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."

⁴⁹Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

⁵⁰Jesus said, "You believed because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." ⁵¹He then added, "Very truly I tell you,^e you^f will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

Andrew 140 1:42

Four in the Afternoon
1710

Andrew Brings
Peter to Christ
Personal Work 3907 1:45
Home Religion 1668 4:53
Peter 2746 6:58–69
Witnessing (2) 3604
Bringing People to
Jesus 4134 1:45–46
Jesus the Messiah
695 4:26
Christ's Names 3632 6:32
Andrew 140 6:8–9
Soul-winners 3908
Hearts Read 2033
Names Changed 2518
Unrealized Service
4214 Ac 11:25–26

The Calling of Philip

Philip (1) 2753 6:5
Apostles Called
2082 Ac 20:17
Seeking Savior 4101 5:14
Bethsaida 411 12:21

Philip Brings
Nathanael to Christ
Personal Work 3907
Philip (1) 2753
Ac 11:25–26
Bringing People to
Jesus 4134 8:3
Messianic Prophecies 2890
Confessing Christ 814
Jesus of Nazareth
1891 18:5
Joseph (2) 1918
Prejudice 448 7:52
Uncharitableness
661 Ac 28:4
Nazareth 2571 ■

Hearts Read 2033
Innocent 1761 1Pe 2:22
Pleety 2986 8:29

Nathanael's
Confession of Faith
Bartholomew
(Nathanael) 344 21:2
Believers Known
2035 10:3
Fig Tree 3677 Jas 3:12
Divine Vision (1)
507 Rev 1:14
Great Faith 1207
Confessing Christ
814 4:29
Son of God 707
Christ King 3421 12:13
Divinity Acknowledged 4148 4:42
Spiritual Vision 509
Believers 1212
► Fuller Revelation (1) 2499 13:7
► Truly, Truly 3751 3:3
Christ's Glory 683
Angels (3) 145 2Th 1:7
Glorified Christ
682 Ac 9:4–5
Son of Man 722 5:27

^a 26 Or in; also in verses 31 and 33 (twice) ^b 34 See Isaiah 42:1; many manuscripts is the Son of God.

^c 42 Cephas (Aramaic) and Peter (Greek) both mean rock. ^d 50 Or Do you believe . . . ?

^e 51 The Greek is plural. ^f 51 Gen. 28:12

Chap. 2, The Humanity of Christ
The First Miracle at Cana of Galilee
Wedding Feasts 3406 ■
► Cana 624 4:46
Mary (1) 2259 2:3-5

Journeys of Jesus 4303c
Christ a Guest 3400 ■
Marriage (1) 1620
Social Fellowship 4105
p.p. Lk 11:6
Wine (2) 3576 1:51-53
Devout Mothers 1670
Mary (1) 2259 2:5
Telling Jesus 4209
p.p. Jn 19:26

Christ's Hour 1706
Mary's Spiritual Perception
Mary (1) 2259 2:12
Great Faith 1207
Obedience (6) 2619
p.p. Mk 7:3

Divine Power (1) 3812 ■
Preparation for Blessings 2954
Effort Demanded 4391 4:16
Water 3787 ■
Obedience (6) 2619 11:29
Feasts 3405 6:13

Christ's First Miracle
p.p. Jn 4:46
Christ's Miracles
2369 4:46
Divine Power (1) 3812

Bridegroom 546

Wine (2) 3576

p.p. Jn 1:14

Christ's Glory 683
Life Manifested 4059 2:11 3:9
Miracles Testify 4069 3:2
Believers 1212
Capernaum 641 4:46
Mary (1) 2259 19:25
Christ's Brothers 544 7:3
Apostles' Names 2081

p.p. Dt 12:5; Dt 16:6; Mal 3:1
Festival of Unleavened Bread 1256
Jerusalem (1) 1881
Pollutions (3) 960 ■

Jesus Changes Water Into Wine

2 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴"Woman,^a why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.^b

⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

¹¹What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

¹²After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

¹³When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and oth-

ers sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."^c

¹⁸The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

²³Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name.^d ²⁴But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."^e

Christ Cleanses the Temple Mt 21:12; Mk 11:15
Temple Cleared 318 ■
Sheep 184
Oxen 181
Greed 2133
Money Changers 2397 ■
Divine Indignation 3958
Reverence (3) 3031 ■
Sacrilege (1) 3038

House of God 3925 ■
Merchandise 557
Rev 18:12
p.p. Ps 69:9
Zealousness 1074 Ac 17:17
Christ's Zeal 1075 4:34

Christ's Authority Questioned
Sign-seekers 902 4:48
Divinity Challenged 4149

p.p. Mt 26:61; Mk 14:58
Sufferings Predicted 713
Resurrection (4)
2410 Ac 2:31

Dullness (2) 1010
► Dullness (5) 1013 3:4
Herod's Temple 557p Ac 3:10
► Truth Misunderstood 4210 3:4

p.p. Ps 16:10; Lk 24:8; Jn 14:26
Resurrection (7) 2413
God's Word Sure 430
Believers 1212 4:53
Christ's Words (3)
3887 12:16

Festival of Unleavened Bread 1256
Faith (6) 1206
Miracles Testify 4069
Christ's Miracles 2369
Christ's Works 3913
Christ Silent 3291

► Omniscience (1)
3849 16:30
Hearts Read 2033 Ac 15:8

Chap. 3, Christ the Divine Teacher
Instructs Nicodemus concerning the New Birth

p.p. Lk 23:13
► Secret Discipleship 1016 7:13
Pharisees 3171
► Nicodemus 2588 3:2
Nicodemus 2588 3:10
Confessing Christ 814
Christ, Teacher 3555 7:14
Fear of People 859
Christ's Works 3913
Christ's Miracles 2369
Miracles Testify 4069 7:31
The Spiritual Birth
► Truly, Truly 4216 5:24
Truly, Truly 3751 5:19
Spiritual Vision 509
Regeneration 2154
2Co 3:3
Heavenly Kingdom 2008 Ac 14:22

^a 4 The Greek for *Woman* does not denote any disrespect. ^b 6 Or from about 75 to about 115 liters

^c 17 Psalm 69:9 ^d 23 Or in him ^e 3 The Greek for *again* also means *from above*; also in verse 7.

Dullness (5) 1013 4:11
Great Mysteries 2486
Secret Things 2493
Lack of Insight
4049 6:60
Truth Misunderstood
4210 4:15
Requirements (2)
3009 4:24
Baptism Directed 756 3:22
Regeneration 2154
Spiritual Kingdom
2007 18:36
Christianity 4139 8:31–32
The Flesh 1290
Spiritual Life 2153
p.p. Jn 5:24
New Person 2582 Ro 6:4
p.p. Ecc 11:5
Nature's Mysteries
4076 ■
Human Ignorance
2036 1Co 2:8
Great Mysteries
2486 Ro 11:33
Regeneration 2154

Ignorance of a Jewish
Leader Jn 6:52
Nicodemus 2588 7:50–51
Spiritual Blindness 500
Spiritual Ignorance 2037
Experience (2) 2030 9:25

Experience (1) 2029
Dullness (1) 1009
Unbelief (2) 1220 4:48
Christ Rejected 2965
Christ a Witness 689 3:32

Secret Things 2493
p.p. Pr 30:24; Jn 6:38;
42; Ac 2:34
Heavenly Origin 4040
Son of Man 722

Conditions of Salvation
Vision Dominates
506 3:29–30
Bronze Serpent 535 ■
Sufferings Predicted
713 18:32
Eternal Life (2)
2157 3:35–36

Promises to Believers
2850 5:24
Christ Indispensable
638 6:35
Crucifixion 3495
Faith (6) 1206 3:36
God's Love 2206 16:27

► Universal Love
4124 10:16
► Infinite Value
2243 1Co 6:20
► God's Gift 3123 4:10
Only Child 4077 ■
Beloved Son 706

Virgin Birth 4217 1Jn 4:9
► Only Savior 4188 6:68
Divine Messenger 694
Christ's Mission 684 9:39
Savior 3360 Ac 5:31
Salvation (2) 3117
Faith (6) 1206

Believers 1212
Son of God 707 9:35
No Condemnation
3124 5:24
Unbelief (3) 1221 3:36
Unbelievers (1) 1212
Unbelievers (2) 4211 8:24

Light Rejected
Judgment and
Privilege 1352 9:41
Condemnation (1)
3129 Ro 5:18

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^a gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You^b must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”^c

9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.^d 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^e 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”^f

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people

loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John Testifies Again About Jesus

22 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. 23 Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. 24 (This was before John was put in prison.) 25 An argument developed between some of John’s disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. 26 They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him.”

27 To this John replied, “A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.’ 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become greater; I must become less.”^g

31 The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts

Christ the Light 2168
Light Universal
4061 Ro 12:20
Sin Loved 3348
Spiritual Darkness
2179 Ro 13:12
Works of Darkness
802 Ro 13:12
Evil Works 3909
Concealment 800

Sons of Light 745
Doers 1030
Walking in Truth 3765
Good Works (2) 3903

Christ’s Judean
Ministry

Judea 1954

Baptism Directed 756 4:2
p.p. 156 9:4
John’s Baptism
700 Ac 10:37
Aenon 1136
Christ Baptized 759

p.p. Lk 3:19–20
Imprisonment 3478

John’s Disciples 1905 ■

Ceremonialism 2988

John the Baptist
1903 5:33
John the Baptist’s
Testimony 1906
Witnessing (2) 3604
Multitudes 2786
Christ Mobbed 2787

p.p. Jas 1:17
Spiritual Gifts 486
Dependence 3798 15:4–5
Gifts from God
4157 1Co 4:7
p.p. Jn 1:20, 23
John the Baptist’s
Testimony 1906 3:33

Humility (3) 1716
Christ Honored 1677
Forerunner 1904 ■
John’s Humility
Church Similarities 4142 10:11
Christ, Bridegroom
736 Rev 21:2

Christ’s Friendship 1326
Unselfishness 3227
Spiritual Joy 1930
Christ’s Voice 3302 10:4
Vision Dominates
506 Ac 7:55

Christ’s Dominion 717
Growth of Kingdom
2380
Self-abasement 3193
p.p. 1Co 15:47
Preeminence of
Christ 716 13:13
Christ’s Greatness 1463
► Heavenly Origin
4040 6:38

Christ a Witness 689 8:14
Christ Rejected 2965
Christ’s Wisdom 3838

^a 6 Or but spirit ^b 7 The Greek is plural. ^c 8 The Greek for Spirit is the same as that for wind. ^d 13 Some manuscripts Man, who is in heaven ^e 14 The Greek for lifted up also means exalted. ^f 15 Some interpreters end the quotation with verse 21. ^g 30 Some interpreters end the quotation with verse 36.

John the Baptist's Testimony 1906 5:33
 Receiving Christ 2501
 God of Truth 3700
 Divine Messenger 694
 Oracle of God 2500
 Christ's Words (1) 3885
 Spirit upon Christ 1680
 Beloved Son 706
 Christ's Dominion 717 Eph 1:22
Fullness of Christ 1124
 Eternal Life (2) 2157 4:14
 Faith (6) 1206 5:24
 Promises to Believers 2850
 Unbelief (3) 1221 8:24
 Future of Wicked (5) 1372 Ac 1:25
 Spiritual Loss 2875
 God's Wrath 312 10:18
 Chap. 4, Christ the Soulwinner (He wins the Samaritan Woman) p.p. Jn 3:22
 Pharisees 3171
 Samaritans (1) 3135 4:9
 Baptism Ditched 756 Ac 2:38
 Apostles 2080
 Judea 1954
 Galilee 1384

Samaria (2) 3134 Ac 8:1
 p.p. Ge 33:19; Jos 24:32
 Shechem (2) 3259
 Parental Gifts 1639
 Jacob 1837
 Jacob 4288
 Joseph (1) 1917
 Joseph 4289
 Wells 3820
 Christ's Humanity (1) 721
 Mid-day Meal 1302 4:31
 Noon 1708 19:14
 Day 3542
The Conversation at the Well
 Woman's Work (1) 3864 Ac 9:36
 Thirst 3612 19:28
 Apostles' Names 2081
 Food (3) 1298
 Samaritans (1) 3135 4:20
 Samaritans (2) 3136 4:39
 Racial Prejudice 4083 Ac 10:28
 Separation (3) 289
 Bigotry 446
 Exclusiveness 447
 Discourtesy 861
 Dullness (2) 1010
 Ignorance of God 2038
 Christ Unknown 2039 8:19
 Ask 2841
 Lost Opportunity 2656
 God's Gift 3123 Ro 5:15
 Living Water (1) 3789 7:37-38
 Dullness (5) 1013 4:33
 Doubters 1224
 No Understanding 1014
 Unrealized Power 4213
 Divinity Challenged 4149
 Preeminence of Christ 716
 Jacob 1837
 Jacob 4288
 Samaritans (2) 3136

The Inward Well of Living Water

his testimony. ³³Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. ³⁴For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God^a gives the Spirit without limit. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John — ²although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)^b

¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³Jesus answered, "Every-

one who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

²⁵The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you — I am he."

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

²⁷Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman.

Unsatisfied 1121 Rev 18:14
 Water 3787
 Christ's Gifts 488 6:51
 Whosoever (2) 3828
 Ac 10:43
 Satisfaction 984 6:35
 Thirst Satisfied 985 6:35
 Water of Life 4218
 7:38-39
 Eternal Life (2) 2157 4:36
 p.p. Jn 6:34
 Shallowness 4204
 Truth Misunderstood 4210 4:33

Hearts Read 2033
 Salvation (3) 3118
 Effort Demanded 4151 5:8
 Searcher 2032
 Marital Infidelity
 Christ Reproves 798
 Confession of Sin (3) 818

Exposure of Sin (1) 803
 Sin Known to God 804 Rev 18:5
 Marriage (2) 1621

Spiritual Quickening 315
 Spiritual Perception 1008 Ac 10:34
 Christ, Prophet 697 6:14
 Samaritans (1) 3135 4:40
 Samaritans (2) 3136
 Mt Gerizim 2431
 Sacred Places 3106

Spiritual Worship Required

Universal Worship 2385
 Mutability 2479

Jerusalem (3) 1883
The Jews a Channel of Blessing
 Ignorance of God 2038
 Spiritual Knowledge 2023
 p.p. Ro 8:4; Php 3:3
 Kingdom at Hand 2010
 Spiritual Dawn 2172

Universal Father 1247
 Sincerity 2987

Worshippers 3952
 Rev 4:10
 Deep Truth Revealed to the Lowly
 God a Spirit 3432 Ac 17:24
 Worship God 3921
 Rev 14:7
 Requirements (2) 3009 6:53
 True Worship 3923
 Christ Unknown 2039
 Messianic Prophecies 2890
 Messianic Hope 4186 8:56
 Christ, Teacher 3555
 p.p. Jn 8:24
 Revelations 2494
 Jesus the Messiah 695 6:14
 I Am (2) 4166 6:35

p.p. Jn 4:8
 Astonishment 301
 Christ Reverenced 3033
 Racial Prejudice 4083

^a 34 Greek he ^b 9 Or do not use dishes Samaritans have used