

# The Book of John - 8

**Introduction:** We are looking at the second half of **chapter 1**. In the second half of chapter 1, we discover that the Bible begins to reveal the chosen witnesses of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## I. Prologue - The Revelation of the Word 1:1-14

### A. The Word vs. 1-5, 9-14

## II. The Chosen Witnesses of the Word 1:19-4:54

### A. John the Baptist

The Bible tells us in **verse 15** that *“John bare witness of him and cried...”*

**Verse 15** also summarizes the testimony of John and his positive declaration of the Messiah. The verse continues and states, *“...and cried, saying, **This was he of whom I spake**, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.”*

John preached of the coming Messiah. He prepared the way of the Lord, but he did so **by faith**.

The Bible says, **v31**, *“**And I knew him not**: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.”*

It repeats this phrase, “I knew him not,” in **verse 33**, again **signifying his faith** in God and His Word.

*“**And I knew him not**: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.”*

In **verse 15**, we see the **positive declaration** by John the Baptist, but in **verses 16-18**, we see an emphasis on the **blessedness of the Lord Jesus Christ**, amplifying what we found already in **verse 14**. Notice with me in **verse 16** the marvelous abundant grace upon grace...

*“And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.”*

AT Robertson, in his Word Studies, said this, *“Here the picture is “grace” taking the place of “grace” like the manna fresh each morning, new grace for the new day and the*

*new service.”*

**Verse 17** states, *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”*

You and I can thank the Lord, as we saw in **verse 14**, that our Savior is **full of grace** and **full of truth**. And then, right before the record of John beginning in **verse 19** we find these final words in **verse 18**.

The Bible says, *“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, **he hath declared him.**”*

**Merrill C. Tenney**, in his commentary, stated this concerning verse 18 in John 1. *“The verb translated declare, which describes the method of this interpretation, the word declared “is the verb technically used in Greek literature of a declaration or exposition of divine mysteries.” It implies that the interpretation of God given by the Son is complete and final as far as the needs of men are concerned.”<sup>1</sup>*

And how true this is when we consider that we are told in Hebrews 1 that in these last days, God has spoken to us through His Son.

In **verse 19**, we saw that this delegation was made up of priests, and Levites were sent to question John. And so, we began to consider this question, Who are thou?

This is a question that every Christian ought to answer, who are you? Those who know who they are in Christ have no problem declaring who they are because they know **whose they are**.

**Verse 20** states, *“20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, **I am not the Christ.**”*

**Verse 20** shows us the immediate response from John. He told them first **who He was not**. Notice with me first, John states,

*“...I am not the Christ.”*

It is very interesting that John begins immediately by declaring this. He spoke clearly to those who came to Him, understanding the common thoughts of the day and particularly the ideas of the folks who were coming to ask him the question, “Who art thou?”

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<sup>1</sup> Merrill C. Tenney, John: The Gospel of Belief, The New International Commentary on the Old and New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1976), 73.”

When we look at the answers that people gave in the Gospel records concerning the **identity of the Lord Jesus Christ**, we find that there were certain folks who, in some way, exemplified the Lord.

*“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?**”*

Notice the response recorded for us in **verse 14** of **Matthew 16**, *“And they said, Some say that thou art **John the Baptist**: some, **Elias**; and others, **Jeremias**, or **one of the prophets**.”*

What a testimony to these servants of Christ for looking like the Savior.

**Malachi 4:5**, the Bible says, *“5 Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet** Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:”*

The close relationship in the Matthew passage I just read to you between John the Baptist and Elias **just underscored the common expectation of the day concerning the coming of the Messiah**.

Again, Tenney, in His commentary, had this to say, *“It was common Jewish belief that Elijah would precede the Messiah’s coming. Hence, if John were not the Messiah, he might be His predecessor. This same belief was reflected in the utterance at the cross in response to Jesus’ misunderstood cry, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani” (Matt. 27:46, 47). Some standing by, who did not understand Jesus’ Aramaic, thought that He was calling for Elijah who was supposed to rescue God’s favored ones when they were in peril.”*

<sup>2</sup>

What you and I see, though, by way of application for us, is an **unwavering testimony concerning our Lord**. In the end, they begin to question by what authority John was preaching and baptizing. (**v25**)

John the Baptist, though, did not change the truth to appease this delegation. Next, John is asked this second question, *“What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.”*

So, who are you, John? John answers this question in **verse 23**.

**John 1:23** *“23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.”*

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<sup>2</sup> Merrill C. Tenney, John: The Gospel of Belief, The New International Commentary on the Old and New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1976), 78.

John states, I am simply a voice for the Lord. He found His purpose and direction being grounded in God's Word.

All that John was and all that His life was concerned with centered around **the call and command of God**. His identity was in His God, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Who are you John?** I am a servant of the King. **What are you doing John?** I preparing the way of my King. **Don't you want some prestige John?** Nope I am just a voice for Him who is preferred before me, for His is before me.

His response shows us precisely what our response ought to be, **which is a scriptural response**.

**Colossians 2:6-9** tells us this by way of application as we think about John the Baptists testimony and the fact that He was unwavering, "6 *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk ye in him:** 7 *Rooted and built up in him, and **stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught,** abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 **Beware** lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and **not after Christ.** 9 *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*"**