

Gospel of John Study Notes

Outline of John 1

- Prologue: John 1:1-18
 - The Word
 - God, Creation, Revelation, and Incarnation
- John the Baptist: John 1:19-34
 - Who John is not: John 1:19-28
 - Witness: John 1:29-34
- Peter and Andrew: John 1:35-42
- Philip and Nathanael: John 1:43-51

The prologue offers a grand introduction to the Gospel of John. The rest of chapter one introduces us to other characters including John the Baptist and the first disciples being called. Today, we'll focus on John the Baptist.

John the Baptist: John 1:19-34

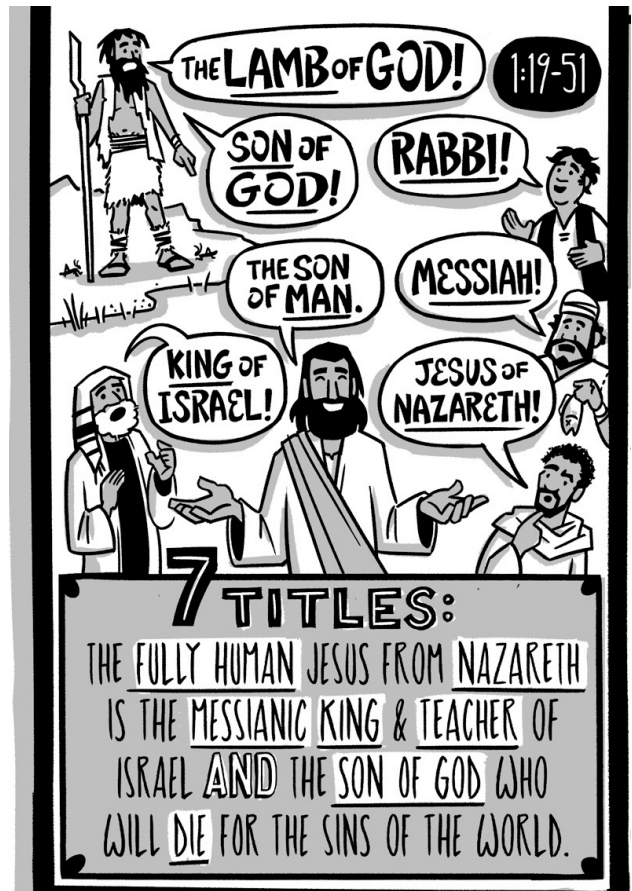
We got a hint of his ministry in the prologue (John 1:6-8, 15). The middle section of John 1 goes into more detail to explain who John the Baptist was and was not.

- Not the Messiah
- Not Elijah: see Malachi 4:5, 1 Kings 17-19, and 2 Kings 2:1-11
- Not The Prophet: see Deuteronomy 18:14-19
- Then who is John the Baptist? (John 1:23 quoting Isaiah 40:3):

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.'"
John 1:23

Finally, after years of obedience with no guarantee of success, John the Baptist sees Jesus.

More on John the Baptist: Matthew 3:1-6, Mark 1:2-6, Luke 1:1-24, 57-80, 3:1-13



John 1:19-34

New International Version

John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders 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.'"

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.

²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

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

John Testifies About Jesus

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

³² Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And 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.' ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

Notes from NIV Application Commentary

The term the Jews (Gk. *Ioudaios*) appears seventy-one times in this Gospel and generally represents the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem (particularly the temple) who are hostile to Jesus.

Malachi 4:5 taught that the Old Testament prophet Elijah would precede the coming Messiah. If John were not the Messiah, perhaps then he was Elijah. Because Elijah had been taken from the earth without dying (2 Kings 2:11), Jewish speculation proposed that he was mysteriously alive and would return at the end of time (cf. Mark 8:28).

Source: Wilkins, Michael J. NIVAC Bundle 6: Gospels, Acts (The NIV Application Commentary). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.