

**The Gospel of John**

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**The Gospel of John**

**Lesson #11**

**The Journey**

Jim Hoffman

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**God is Judging Us**

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“The Lord will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me.”

Deuteronomy 28:20

Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone.

Hosea 4:17

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**The Gospel of John**

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- **John 1:19** And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”
- Now why would the priests and Levites want to interrogate John? – Because he was causing quite a stir by baptizing Jews.
- The Baptist also probably made them not as sure of what they were teaching as their smugness may have indicated. (no truth, no confidence)

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### The Gospel of John

- Bear in mind they were not actually interested in John’s answers to their questions – they were there to shut him down.
- John was a threat to their business of shaking down the weak for money and building their power base which they thought was the common people.
- This was actually a very dangerous time for John the Baptist – the Jewish leadership was evil and powerful.

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### The Gospel of John

- The Jews had a promise from God through Malachi **“Behold, I will send you Elijah** the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”
- **John 1:21 And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”**

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### The Gospel of John

- Malachi prophesied **“I will send you Elijah”** and John the Baptist’s demeanor and roughshod style of preaching would have connected the two.
- Matt 11:13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14 **and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.** (Jesus)
- John already denied being Elijah so this sort of leaves us with one option – Malachi’s prophecy was not of a literal return of Elijah, but a **“type”** of return.

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### The Gospel of John

Typology is the biblical study of types. Types, meaning symbols, are used to represent something else. For example, the Passover lamb in Exodus served as a type or symbol of Jesus Christ who would later come as a sacrifice for the atonement of sins.

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### Isaac as a "TYPE" of Christ

Isaac and Jesus were "only, beloved" sons of a righteous father.

Both sons carried the wood for their own sacrifice.

Both were "bound" and placed on top of the wood.

Both sons were "resurrected" or "given back" to the their fathers on the third day.

The sacrifice was offered in the land of Moriah.

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### The Gospel of John

The Ark was a type of Christ – it provided shelter from judgment for all who would enter.



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### The Gospel of John

- And what about, “**Are you the prophet?**”. The prophet, what prophet?
- Deut 18:15 “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.” (Moses)
- It seems to me as though the Jews who came to inquire were unsettled and a bit obsessive over just who John the Baptist was.

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### The Gospel of John

- John is not giving the answers the Jews wanted so they press him some more – Who are you!!
- **John 1:22 So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23 He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”**

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### The Gospel of John

- John is casting himself as one who opens the way for Messiah, “Make straight the way of the Lord”.
- Isaiah prophesied of an unknown “voice” crying in the wilderness.
- In Isaiah’s day the prophecy applied to the return of Israel from captivity – in John’s day the meaning is more spiritual making the way of the Lord straight and clear.

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### The Gospel of John

• Isaiah 40:3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 **Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level,** and the rough places a plain. 5 **And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,** for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

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### The Gospel of John

• Rev 16:17 **The seventh angel poured out his bowl** into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" 18 And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, **and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.** 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 **And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.**

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### The Gospel of John

- During Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week humanity will see the seals broken, followed by the trumpet judgments followed by the bowl judgments.
- The above take us all the way through the Tribulation and right to the threshold of the Millennial Kingdom but the earth is a mess.
- The great earthquake of the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl reconfigures and renovates the planet.

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### The Gospel of John

- When the Baptist speaks in the Judean wilderness he is prophesying of something new – valleys lifted up and mountains made low.
- John is saying that obstructions to seeing Messiah will be removed and when Messiah is manifest, God's glory will be seen.
- John paves the way for Jesus who opens the way to God!

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### The Gospel of John

- **John 1:25** They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” **26** John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, **27** even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”
- In effect, John is announcing the Messiah is here – he stands among you in this generation.

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### The Gospel of John

- There is an application of this to us in our day.
- In John's day the Jews had talked of the coming of Messiah almost to exhaustion and finally he is here!
- In our day, we've spoken of the end times throughout our “saved” lives and now we can perhaps see his coming is nearer than we ever talked about.

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### The Gospel of John

- It would have been exhilarating and fearful for the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jew to realize Messiah was so close.
- For us the same is true – when we were young in the Lord and thought of his coming we were thrilled to be living in that time.
- Now that we are perhaps here – in that time just before the Rapture, there is a certain exciting, but fearful tension in us.

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### The Gospel of John

- We believe we will not be here for the Great Tribulation, but we are not sure just how bad it will be for us before Jesus comes for us.
- Will some of us have to give our lives for our faith? (this happening today around the globe)
- We know we will be spared from Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week, but how bad it will be right before the Rapture is an unknown.

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### The Gospel of John

“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’  
 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’”

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### The Gospel of John

It seems all too evident to me that now is the time for us to prepare. We have a serious test ahead with that one question that ought to consume us.

What did I do with what I was given?

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Questions?

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