

We will begin our 1st lecture on the book of John. /I will begin with the introduction. /1. The Apostle John recorded the book. /2. The book was recorded in Ephesus. /3. The book was written at around 90 A.D.

/4. The Characteristics of the Book of John.

/A. The original text puts an emphasis on Jesus's sermon-like and lengthy teachings rather than the events themselves. /B. The early parts of the book include a wide range of one-on-one conversations.

/For example, Nicodemus of Jerusalem. /3:1 /The Samaritan woman. /4:1 /The king's official in Cana. /4:43 /The paralytic in Jerusalem. /5:1 /The blind man /9:1 /Martha and Mary in Bethany /11:17

/The text is called the "Eagle Gospel." /It is the holy gospel. /Of the nine miracles that appear in the book, six are found exclusively in the book of John. /Additionally, the book does not include details about Jesus's birth or his childhood.

/5. /The Characteristics of the Style of Writing.

/A. It is clearly written in simple Greek.

/B. The text frequently uses expressions that say, "I am blank." /For example, "I am the bread of life." / "I am the light of the world." / "I am the gate for the sheep." / "I am the good shepherd." / "I am the vine."

/These sayings are used to teach us that Jesus is the Son of God, that he is God himself.

/6. The Theological Themes

/All four books of the Gospel write about Jesus's life from a theological standpoint. /The writer of the book of John emphasizes several themes. /A. Faith is one of these themes. /1:7 /20:31 /1:12 /The word "faith" appears 98 times in the text.

/Next, B. The book emphasizes the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. /The book of John emphasizes the godhood of Jesus, the Son of God. /1:14 /20:31 /6:35 /13:13 /These verses emphasize this idea. /1:1 /8:58 /10:30 /14:9

/The book also does talk about Jesus's humanness. /4:6 /11:35 /19:28

/Next, C. The words "eternal life" appear in the book. /The text describes salvation as "eternal life." /Jesus was with God before the Creation. /Jesus is the source of life. /3:15 /10:10 /20:31 /Also, if we become one with Jesus, we are given eternal life. /4:14

/After this comes D. The word redemption appears frequently. /John the Baptist introduces Jesus as the Lamb of God. /1:29 /3:14 /Jesus referred to his body as the living bread that is offered so the world may live. /6:51

/He also referred to himself as the good shepherd, the one who lays down his life for the sheep. /10:11 /This doctrine of redemption is found in the text.

/We will now begin the lecture on John 1. /The title of the chapter is “Witness.” /I will give you the main points of this chapter. /First, Christ comes as the light. /Verses 1-5. /Second, God sends his witness so that he may bear witness. /Verses 6-8.

/Third, Christ’s coming and those who receive Christ. /Verses 9-13. /Fourth, the Word becomes flesh. /Verses 14-18. /Fifth, John the Baptist’s unmistakable attitude. /Verses 19-23. /Sixth, John bears witness about Christ. /Verses 24-34.

/Seventh, John the Baptist sends the disciples to Jesus. /Verses 35-37. /Eighth, Jesus calls four disciples. /Verses 38-44. /Ninth, Nathanael’s faith. /Verses 45-51.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

/When it says “the beginning,” the Bible is talking about the time before the creation of the heavens and the earth. /Our Jesus was with God the Father even before eternity began. /We cannot measure it in human time. /As I said, it is before eternity.

/The word “Word” is “logos” in Greek. /This refers to Christ. /Jesus Christ came to this world as the Word. /Christ is God. /God has no beginning and no end.

/Christ is called the “Word” because God displays himself and his will through Jesus Christ.

/Verse 2. /He was in the beginning with God.

/Christ is second to God in the Trinity. /He was with God before eternity began.

/Verse 3. /All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

/Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things. /God the Trinity created everything. /Jesus the Son himself created the heavens and the earth and everything else. /Proverbs 8:22 /Hebrews 1:2

/Verse 4. /In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

/Christ is the source of all physical and spiritual life. /He is the Creator of life. /He is the Creator of life of all creation. /He is also the Creator of our lives.

/Jesus is life, and he is the light of men. /8:12 /1 John 1:5 /Jesus Christ is the spiritual light. /He is the spiritual life. /Therefore there is darkness and death apart from Jesus. /Whoever receives Christ is given life. /Ephesians 5:14 /Thus we are given life.

/Verse 5. /The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

/ “Darkness” here symbolizes sin. /The light of Christ is shining over all creation.
/Romans 1:20 /This dark world does not know Jesus, who is the true light. /Jesus, who is the light, has come. /However, the people of the world do not know Jesus. /They are drenched in their sin.

/Verse 6. /There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

/John the Baptist was sent by God. /He came to bear witness to Jesus. /John the Baptist is not the light. /He came to be a witness to Jesus and to introduce him. /He makes known the name of Jesus so that people will believe in Jesus Christ.

/Verse 9. / The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

/Jesus is the true light. /He came to this earth in the flesh. /Christ shined his light of the gospel to the people of the world.

/Verse 10. /He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

/In the Old Testament times, the Christ was in the world in spirit. /During these times, Christ worked through the prophets. /1 Peter 1:10-11 /The spirit of Christ was at work within the prophets. /However, the people of the world did not know him. /They did not know Jesus as their Savior.

/Verse 11. /He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

/Jesus was born in his own land, the land of Judea. /But the people of Judea did not receive him. /Of course, of the Jews, there were people who did believe in Jesus. /However, most of them did not.

/Verse 12. /But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

/Anyone, Jew or Gentile, who receives Jesus becomes a child of God. /Those who receive Jesus are people who believe in him. /To receive Jesus, we need to believe in him.

/Anyone who believes in Jesus becomes a child of God. /Through the word and the Holy Spirit, we believers are born again. /Our spirits come alive. /The branch of the vine is connected to the tree.

/We believers have become one with the life of Christ. /We have become children of God. /We not only have this privilege, but we also receive the authority of being his children. /Matthew 28:18 /God’s only begotten Son Jesus gives us this authority.
/Matthew 10:1 /Mark 16:17,18 /Ephesians 1:19-22

/Verse 13. /who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

/We did not become children of God because of our blood or the will of the flesh. /We did not come to believe in Jesus because of the will of man. /We have become children of God because of the Holy Spirit. /3:6

/Verse 14. /And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

/The Word became flesh. /Christ, who was there before eternity, became flesh and came to this earth. /Christ's spirit took on humanness as he came into this world. /In Christ is the glory of the only Son of God. /14:9

/God reveals himself to us through Jesus. /God the Father shows us his existence and his glory through Jesus. /Jesus was full of grace and truth.

/Grace refers to the things God gives to us for free. /This is the grace of redemption that we have received. /Also, Jesus is the truth. /Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. /He is the center and completion of the Old and New Testaments. /God reveals the truth of redemption through his only begotten Son, Jesus.

/Verse 15. /(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

/John the Baptist bore witness about Jesus. /John the Baptist says that Jesus was before him. /What he means is that Jesus is greater than he. /Jesus Christ existed before eternity.

/Jesus was before Abraham existed. /He was there before the creation of the world. /Jesus existed before eternity as the Trinity. /8:58

/Verse 16. /For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

/Jesus Christ was full of grace and truth. /We believers are enjoying the grace and truth we have received through Jesus. /God gave the people the law through Moses. /He gives us grace and truth through Jesus Christ.

/Verse 18. /No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

/Because God is in spirit, we cannot see him with the eyes of our flesh. /Exodus 33:23 /Exodus 24:10,11 /No one has ever seen God, and no one ever will. /Romans 6:16

/God whom we cannot see is revealed through Jesus Christ. /Jesus Christ is the God of love. /He is God who is holy and righteous. /Jesus is a powerful God.

/Everything about God the Father is made known through Jesus. /Therefore whoever has seen Christ has seen God. /14:9 /Jesus Christ is God, the only begotten Son. /Jesus Christ is God the Son.

/Verse 19. /And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

/The Jews here are the people in power. /They are the 70 members of the Sanhedrin. /These people sent priests and Levites to question John the Baptist. /They ask him “Who are you?”

/John the Baptist openly tells them everything. /He says, “I am not the Christ.” /He made it clear that he was not the Christ.

/Verse 21. /And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

/When the people asked him if he were Elijah, John the Baptist replied, “No.” /The Jews thought Elijah, who had ascended into heaven, had come back. /Malachi 4:5 /It was known to them that Elijah would come before the Christ.

/This does not mean Elijah, who had ascended into heaven, would literally come. /It meant that someone would take on Elijah’s ministry and character. /John the Baptist came to take on Elijah’s role. /Luke 1:17 /Matthew 11:14

/For this reason, John the Baptist says that he is not Elijah. /He says “no” to show the Jews that he is not the Elijah they are looking for. /The Jews also ask John the Baptist, “Are you the Prophet?”

/Moses prophesied that a prophet like him would be raised. /Deuteronomy 18:15 /He was referring to Christ. /Jesus Christ also came to this world as a Prophet. /If we look at verses 22-23, we see the people asking John the Baptist another question.

/They ask him, “Who are you?” /He replies, / “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, / ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’” / “Voice” in this verse refers to our ideologies or emotions.

/His words and his voice disappear once they deliver their thoughts. /John the Baptist was in this position. /John was to disappear after introducing Christ who is the Word.

/John bore witness to Jesus, and then he disappeared. /He only lifted Jesus up while he denied himself. /This is John the Baptist’s humility. /We too must bear witness to Jesus and lift him up, and then we must disappear.

/Verse 24. /(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)

/The Pharisees had fallen into ritualism of the law. /They had the wrong notion about Christ. /In verse 25, the Jews ask John the Baptist, “Why are you baptizing?” /Being baptized is a sign of being clean from sin. /Ezekiel 36:25 /Hebrews 10:22

/Verses 26-27. /John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

/John the Baptist baptized with water. /Baptizing with water is an act of repenting of sins and cleansing the heart. /John the Baptist bore witness to Christ. /He bore witness to the one who was to come after him. /When John says, “He who comes after me,” he is referring to Jesus Christ.

/Jesus Christ was born six months after John the Baptist. /John the Baptist said, “But among you stands one you do not know... the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” /John knows that Christ is God and he is a servant, a created being.

/John the Baptist properly knew about Jesus. /He also knew what kind of being he was. /That is how John the Baptist was able to properly bear witness to Jesus.

/Verse 29. /The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

/John the Baptist bore witness to Jesus. /Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. /John is referring to Jesus’s atoning death on the cross. /In the Old Testament times, people offered cows and sheep as atonement sacrifices.

/It is saying that Jesus also will become an atonement sacrifice. /Jesus does not have any sin. /But he will carry our sins for us and die in our place. /Like a lamb dying in place of sin, Jesus too will die for us.

/Verse 30. /This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’

/Physically, Jesus came six months after John the Baptist. /However, Jesus is before John the Baptist in that he is God. /Jesus existed as God in the Trinity before eternity began. /John the Baptist baptized with water.

/Verse 32. /And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

/Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. /At this moment, the Holy Spirit descended from heaven like a dove. /The Holy Spirit came down like a dove. /The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus.

/In Old Testament times, doves were given as sacrifices. /The Holy Spirit is teaching Jesus that he will become an atonement sacrifice. /When Christ does become the atonement sacrifice, the Holy Spirit will be with Christ and work in him.

/John the Baptist did not know Christ through his own wisdom. /God showed John and made it known to him. /When John saw the Holy Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, he knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

/God made it known to John. /This is not a story that is produced by a subjective heart. /God, through an objective revelation, made Jesus known to John. /The Holy Spirit revealed this to John.

/Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit. /Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus washes all our sins away. /We are baptized by the Holy Spirit the moment we believe that Jesus Christ is Savior.

/John the Baptist saw everything happen according to the revelation of God's word. /He personally experienced these events and bore witness to Jesus.

/Verse 35. /The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,

/Two of Jesus's disciples make their entrance. /They are Andrew and the Apostle John. /Andrew and the Apostle John were originally disciples of John the Baptist. /John the Baptist sent his two disciples to Jesus.

/John the Baptist was not disappointed to see his disciples go to Jesus. /Rather, he gave thanks and was glad.

/Verse 38. /Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

/Jesus asked his two disciples a question. /He asked Andrew and the Apostle John, /"What are you seeking?" /The two disciples wanted to know where Jesus was staying, as they wanted to be with him.

/Verse 39. /He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

/Jesus said to them, "Come and you will see." /They went to where Jesus stayed, and they believed that Jesus is the Son of God. /Revelation 2:17 /It is better to see once than to hear one hundred times.

/We can only know if we see things ourselves, if we arrive at a place. /If we go and participate, we will come to know the Son of God. /We come to believe in Jesus. /We come to know Jesus.

/We need to enter the holy world and see. /We need to encounter the Lord. /We need to communicate with the Lord on a personal level. /Verse 39 says, "It was about the tenth hour." /This would be 4 in the afternoon in Judea.

/However, they say this is Roman time. /If we calculate it in Roman time, it is 10 in the morning.

/Verses 40-41. / One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ).

/Andrew followed Jesus and discovered the Christ. /Andrew went to his brother, Simon, and said that he had found the Messiah. /We must first evangelize to those who are near to us. /Matthew 5:15

/Here, "Messiah" means "Christ." / "Messiah" is the Hebrew word, /while "Christ" is the Greek word. / "Messiah" means "anointed one." /Simon followed his brother Andrew and went to Jesus.

/Andrew saw Jesus and met the Messiah. /Like Andrew, we must first go, and then we must lead others. /We first need to believe in Christ and enter the world of profound truth.

/I first must enter the profound spiritual world. /Then, I must properly guide others to this world. /We need to bring our neighbors to Jesus. /Here, Jesus says to Peter, "You shall be called Cephas."

/Cephas and Peter have the same meaning. / "Cephas" is the Aramaic name, /while "Peter" is the Greek name. /The name means "Rock." /In this way, we too must evangelize. /1 Corinthians 9:16 /Romans 1:14 /Ezekiel 3:18

/We need to preach the gospel to our close brothers. /We need to preach the gospel to our close families and relatives. /Furthermore, we need to preach the gospel to everyone we meet. /Jesus came to preach the gospel. /Woe to us if we do not preach the gospel.

/Everyone who does not believe in Jesus will go to hell. /We first believed in Jesus and are saved. /Thus we must preach the gospel and save the lives of others. /We also need to go to other nations and preach the gospel to foreign people.

/Verses 43-44. /The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

/Jesus preached to Philip. /Philip lived in the same village as Andrew and Peter. /In this way, we must preach the gospel to those nearby, to everyone we encounter.

/Verse 45. /Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

/Nathanael and Bartholomew are believed to be the same person. /Luke 6:14 /John 21:2 /Moses in the Law and the prophets prophesied about Jesus.

/Verse 46. /Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

/Philip said to Nathanael, “Come and see.” / “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” thought Nathanael. /Nathanael was caught up in traditional thoughts.

/He judged a person based on their looks. /That was when his friend Philip said, “Come and see.” /Preaching the gospel is not a difficult task. /We simply have to say to our close friends, “Come and see” and bring them to church.

/Verse 47. /Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”

/Jesus recognized Nathanael when he saw him. /Jesus looks at the heart. /Nathanael was indeed an Israelite. /He was a true descendant of Abraham, /and he was a true person of God. /Nathanael was not cunning in any way.

/In him was no deceit or hypocrisy. /He was a truthful person. /God delights in those who are truthful. /We need to be truthful not only in our words and actions, but also in our hearts and thoughts.

/In verse 48, Nathanael asks Jesus, “How do you know me?” /Jesus replies, “When you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” /Nathanael was far away, but Jesus saw his spirit.

/Nathanael was praying under the fig tree. /Jesus was listening to his prayer. /We also must pray frequently in the quiet place.

/Verse 49. /Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

/Nathanael encountered Jesus and heard him speak. /Immediately, he accepted Jesus as his Savior. /He personally went to Jesus, saw him, and heard his words. /He heard Jesus’s words and had faith.

/He accepted Jesus and was saved. /This shows how important it is for us to meet with Jesus. /After we meet him, God will show us even greater things. /Verse 51 says that heaven opens.

/God's angels ascend and descend on the Son of Man. /Heaven is opened. /The angels ascend and descend on Jesus. Genesis 28:11,12 /The ladder that Jacob saw symbolizes Jesus Christ.

/Jesus Christ is the ladder that connects heaven to earth. /Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. /He is our only way to heaven. /The verse here says that the angels of God ascend and descend on the Son of Man.

/This is the greatness of New Testament revelation. /Through the redemption of the cross of Jesus Christ, the wall between God and man is broken down. /We have peace with God.

/People are saved through Jesus Christ. /Jesus is the mediator. /The grace of God reaches us through Jesus. /We give glory to God through Jesus when we believe in him.

/This concludes our 1st lecture on the book of John. /Thank you.