

- Videos available on our YouTube channel: www.htchurch.tv
 - All notes, etc. available at: www.htchurch.com/john
 - Contact Pastor Nick at: pastornick@htchurch.com
-

Overview of John so far

- John, the author, is an eyewitness of these events. *John* is in four sections:
 - The Prologue, or introduction, takes up just 18 verses.
 - Next comes the *Book of Signs*, and it covers Jesus’ public ministry. This runs to Chapter 12.
 - The next section of the Gospel is the *Book of Glory*. It begins with the Last Supper and the Passion, followed by His Passion and Resurrection.
 - Finally, Chapter 21 is an Epilogue.
- In Chapter 1 we see the introduction and also the story of John the Baptist.
- Chapter 2 shows His miracles in Cana and Jerusalem.
- In Chapter 3, we have Jesus’ dialogue with the religious leader Nicodemus.
- In these early chapters, Jesus begins to speak of Himself as the Son of Man.
- In John 4, Jesus shares about Himself and His identity in Samaria.

Chapter 5: Jesus heals a man sick for 38 years

- Immediate controversy when Jesus told the man to take up his bed and walk.
 - Carrying a bedroll was forbidden under the very strict Sabbath regulations.
 - The authorities demanded to know who told the man to do this, and the man told them that it was Jesus.
-
-
-
-
-

The Father And The Son Are Working (John 5:15-17)

15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”

- For the first time the leaders actually want to kill Jesus.
- They would rather have killed Jesus than have Him tell someone to carry his bedroll on the Sabbath. This is the blindness that is caused by a religious spirit!
- Jesus’s reply is perhaps the most direct claim He has made about Himself to date. He’s claiming to be on the same level as God, making Him also His father.
- His claim is to have Divine authority, to be above the Sabbath itself.

Equal With God (John 5:18)

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

- A caution about how we interpret *John’s* phraseology: “the Jews.” John is not being anti-Semitic but is referring to the unbelieving Jewish leadership.
- John ch. 5 belies the commonly voiced idea that Jesus never claimed to be God.
- In verse 18, the Jews sought to kill Jesus not only for breaking the Sabbath, but for calling God His Father - which, in their minds, made Himself equal with God.
- Some Jews at any rate would have understood that Jesus was claiming to have a unique relationship with God, and to have in some sense a Divine nature.

- Modern scholarship recognizes that some Jews believed there was more than one Person in the Scriptures that was referred to as *Yahweh*, God of Israel.
 - The Old Testament Scriptures themselves show this in a number of places. Abraham converses with someone who acts and speaks as if he is *Yahweh*.
 - In other places, we see a mysterious person called the Angel of the Lord, or the Angel of *Yahweh*. This Angel speaks as if He is *Yahweh*.
 - Jacob understood that he was wrestling with a Divine person.
 - A rabbinical scholar, Alan Segal, has written a book about this idea, called “Two Powers In Heaven.” This view was ultimately rejected within Judaism – most likely because of the success of Christianity.
- It’s clear that these leaders understood this to be a blasphemous claim by Jesus: they understood Him to mean that He was equal with *Yahweh*.

The Father And The Son In Loving Relationship (John 5:19-20)

19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.”

- One of the most powerful discourses in the entire Bible about who Jesus is: about His relationship with the Father, His authority, and His power.
- Notice Jesus’ use of the “double amen” in this passage (“most assuredly”).
- And what is it that Jesus is so serious about?

- He says the Son can do nothing of himself but what he sees the Father do! He is claiming to operate and go throughout his day doing what God is doing.
- In verse 20, Jesus explains why this is because the Father loves the Son and shows him everything that he himself is doing. So, Jesus is claiming to have a relationship with God that no one has ever had.
- God spoke face-to-face with Moses, but this goes far beyond that. God is literally showing Jesus everything that God is doing.
- The Father will show Jesus even greater works than these.

Christ Gives Life To Whom He Will (John 5:21-23)

21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. 22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

- Jesus now begins to more claims that, if possible, are even more incredible.
- He can raise the dead and give life to people, out of his own will.
- In verse 22, he is claiming to have received a commission from God to literally be the Judge of all mankind. Try to imagine the effect on the audience!
- Perhaps most shocking of all, Jesus says God is doing this so that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father.
- Compare: *“I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.”* (Isa. 42:8)
- Whoever fails to honor the Son dishonors the Father who sent Him!

- To not believe in the Son is to make God a liar, because of the witness God has given concerning His Son.

Those Who Hear His Voice Will Live (John 5:24-30)

24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. 30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

- He begins in verse 24 with another “amen, amen.” Here is a claim to be able to save people from eternal death.
- Not only that, but the one who believes already has that eternal life within him. He won’t come into judgment, because he’s already passed into life.
- Verse 25 is another discussion of the Resurrection. It’s unclear if He is referencing the future miracle of Lazarus or the Resurrection of the Dead itself.
- In verse 25, the double amen makes it sure to us that the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and live!

- Jesus says that just as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted to the Son to have life in Himself.

The Son of Man (v. 27)

Jesus also claims authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of Man.

13 “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:13-14)

- Everyone will come forth at His voice, and He will judge truly.

*All quotes NKJV except as noted. New King James Version®
Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*