

John 20:30-31 (ESV)

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Q: Who is the “John” in the Gospel of John?

Q: Any idea when it was written? Who it was written to? What it was written for?

Q: In the gospels Jesus frequently refers to himself as the “Son of Man.” What would a Jew living at that time have thought about such a title? (Hint: Daniel 7:9-14).

Q: Why didn’t Jesus just refer to himself as “the Messiah?” What sort of Messiah were the people looking for?

John 1:1-18 (ESV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 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. 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.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law

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was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

MORE DISCUSSION:

1. What book of the Old Testament do verses 1 and 2 remind you of? Why do you think John structured the opening this way?
2. What was the Father's role in creation? What was the Son's role? (See Gen 1:1-3, John 1:3, 1 Corinthians 8:6.) Explain in your own words.
3. What do the symbols of life and light tell us about Jesus? How has he brought these qualities into your life?
4. Who is the "man sent from God" in verse 6? What did he come to do?
5. John contrasts Jesus' rejection by the majority with his reception by a few (verses 9-13). Have things changed today? Why or why not? What does this tell us about the condition of the human heart?
6. Verse 14 says, "The Word became flesh." Which of these statements accurately describes Jesus?
 - a. He is 100% God and 100% man
 - b. He is 50% God and 50% man
 - c. Sometimes he is God and sometimes he is man
7. Why is it important that Jesus is both man and God?
8. What other important points do you see in this opening section of the gospel of John?