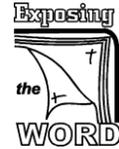




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# The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

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## 1- Verifying the Messiah

We live in a world where it is common place for a company to produce a duplicate, or a counterfeit, of almost everything. Fake Rolex watches, women’s purses, clothes of famous designers are forgeries and you never know for sure when you buy it if is a genuine article or a fake.

When Barry Bonds was chasing Hank Aaron’s major league home run record each time that Barry would come up to bat the balls were switched. The umpire would receive a special set of balls to replace the regular game balls. The special sets were marked in both obvious as well as some other ways less noticeable so that when the tying and breaking home run was hit the ball could be authenticated. The reason was they wanted to prevent any forgery of the ball that was expected to be worth a half million dollars.

There are many who claim that Jesus was a fake. Some claim He was just a man who seized on the opportunity to proclaim He was the Messiah without actually being.

If this is true then our faith is of no value at all. The apostle Paul said, in relation to one of the great verifications that Jesus is the Messiah, concerning the resurrection, ***1 Corinthians 15:14 “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.”***

One of the reason this is such a critical verification is that Jesus had many time prophesied that He would rise. One such instance is ***Luke 9:22 “Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.”***

It is precisely this type of event and miracle that verifies that He is the Messiah. I have therefore entitled this series in John, *Verifying the Messiah*. We will see in John many things that authenticate that He is who He said He was.

The gospel of John are wrapped around seven “sign” miracles that Jesus performed. If you count the resurrection of Jesus then there would be eight but most scholars see seven signs.

The four gospels present Jesus from distinct points of view. Matthew went back to Abraham because he wrote to a Jewish audience and wanted to show His Jewish roots. Mark did not give any genealogy because he presented Christ as a servant that does not need a lineage. Luke, the Gentile writer went back to Adam to present Him as the Son of Man. John however goes back to before creation to the beginning.

*The Bible Knowledge Commentary* says: “And John begins with a theological prologue. It is almost as if John had said, ‘I want you to consider Jesus in His teaching and deeds. But you will not understand the good news of Jesus in its fullest sense unless you view Him from this point of view. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, and His words and deeds are those of the God-Man.’ ” (p 217)

In this study of John there are several men who gave testimony to the fact that He was the Messiah. Our first stop today is one of these testimonies.

### The Testimony of John the Apostle ***1:1-5, 14, 18***

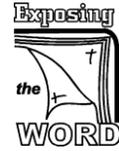
The testimony of John is a very broad subject that will in some ways be woven



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throughout the entire study of John. John the Apostle is the writer of the gospel of John as well as four other books. (1 John, 2 John, 3 John and the Revelation)

## I- More Than An Eye Witness:

An eyewitness account of something is important evidence. But, for instance, you go to a basketball game and witness someone score 20 points you can tell the story. I suggest you could not tell the story nearly as well as someone on the team who was in the huddle, heard the locker room speech and set the critical screen that allowed the shooter to score. This type of inside information makes them more than an eye witness. Notice what John said about the relationship he had with Christ in *1 John 1:1-3* ***“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”***

So we see the credential for this first eye witness is indeed one who walked, talked, touched and lived with the one he is testifying about. John was in what is called the inner circle of disciples, a very select few men. On the Mount of Transfiguration we see him. *Mar 9:2* ***“And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.”***

It was John, the beloved, which stayed with Jesus when Peter deserted Him. He in

fact went into the trial of Jesus while Peter did not enter. *John 18:15-16* ***“And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. 16 But Peter stood at the door without...”***

It was this John that Jesus entrusted the care of His mother to at the cross. So we can certainly say he is qualified to testify. We must listen to such a one concerning Christ.

## II- Preexistence of The Word:

John, as have stated, takes us back to before time existed, before creation was created. *Joh 1:1-2* ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God.”***

The Word here is referring to the Lord Jesus and we can see right away that He was uncreated and eternal. He had no beginning because He existed in the beginning. While the book of Genesis declares what happened at creation, John declares the existence of Christ before.

We see the obvious stated next when he states that Christ was with God. This statement sets forth the eternal relationship of the Son to the Father. This relationship did not begin with the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem but has been eternal.

Then a strong declaration of the deity of Christ follows, ***“and the Word was God.”***

## III- His Creation Work:

The Scripture emphatically testifies that Christ was the Creator. This does not decrease the work of the Father and Holy Spirit in the least. Notice what John testifies in *John 1:3-4* ***“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life...”***

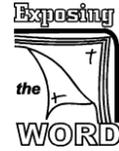
Lets see some other verses that declare this as well.



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**Col 1:16** “**For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.**”

**Heb 1:2** “**Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.**”

**Rev 4:11** “**Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**”

This leaves nothing outside the scope of the creation. This is all things, all places, from deepest space to all mysteries.

Please notice also it said, “***In Him was life.***” Physical life as well as spiritual life is sourced in Him and Him alone.

#### **IV- The Light**

John tells us in ***John 1:4b-5*** that He is the light. We will see in a later study in this series that He declare that He is the light of the world. (see ***John 8:12***)

Notice that it is light that provides men the ability to see where they are going clearly. He was the Creator of physical light and the giver of spiritual light.

***1:6*** “***That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it.***” (HCSB)

The darkness is nothing but the evil and sin of the fallen world. It cannot prevail against the light of the world.

#### **V- God Became Man:**

John tells us next about John the Baptist’s testimony. We will look at that next session. Then he tells us that God wrapped Himself in flesh and took on human form. ***John 1:14*** “***And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only***

***begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.***” This includes all that we celebrate with the birth of Christ as well as the untold suffering He took on at Calvary. John tells us that Christ was full of grace and truth. The purpose of this was for God to reveal Himself to mankind. ***John 1:18*** “***No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.***”

We will see the acts of this man Jesus as we go forward that verify that He was Messiah.

#### **VI- Purpose of God:**

John, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will unfold for us seven sign miracles. The intent was never to publish an exhaustive compilation of all that Jesus did. In fact John makes it clear that would be impossible in the last verse of this gospel. ***John 21:25*** “***And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.***”

Yet the over bearing purpose of John is that men will take a look and see that Jesus was indeed the Messiah and that by faith in Him they can have life. ***John 19:35*** “***And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.***”

In ***John 20:30-31*** we again see it stated that all of the acts of Jesus are not recorded. We also have what I feel is the ultimate purpose of this testimony of John. “***And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.***” Have you believed?