

WHO WAS JESUS

I. Text – John 1:1-5, 29-33

II. John plainly tells us why he wrote the fourth gospel. Read it in John 20:31, "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."

In order to bring us to a place of faith, John begins in the first chapter of his gospel by describing who Jesus was: the Word, the Light, the Lamb, and the Baptizer.

I. The Word – John 1:1

A. Christ Himself is the uttered speech and thought of God. He is the visible expression of the invisible God.

1. John 14:9 – Jesus saith unto him, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"

2. Hebrews 1:12 – "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 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."

B. The mystery of the relationship between God and Christ is revealed here. Not only was He with God, but He was God.

WHO WAS JESUS

II. The Light – John 1:4, 5

"The darkness comprehended it not . . ." what does this mean?

A. The darkness of willful unbelief remained unconscious of the dawning of this new day – "they knew not the time of their visitation" (Luke 19:42-44). All the substances of nature, and all their laws, have been in existence from the beginning of time. Why did man not see them? Think of recent discoveries!

B. The darkness overcame it not, darkness has not been able to overpower the bright shining of God's truth. Those who will not walk in the light of His truth will be overwhelmed with darkness.

III. The Lamb – John 1:29

This expression meant that Christ was the great sacrifice for sin, who was come to make atonement for transgression by His own death upon the cross. He was the true Lamb which Abraham told Isaac at Moriah God would provide (Genesis 22:8). He was the true Lamb to which every morning and evening sacrifice in the temple had daily pointed. He was the Lamb of which Isaiah had prophesied, that He would be "brought to the slaughter" (Isaiah 53:7). He was the true Lamb of which the Passover lamb in Egypt had

WHO WAS JESUS

been a vivid type. He was the sacrifice for sin that God promised to send into the world.

IV. The Baptizer – John 1:33

A. John 16:7 – "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you."

B. Nicky Cruz tells in his biography that the secret of overcoming for him was when he was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

Tell the story of how an old violin was being auctioned. No one believed it to be a Stradivarius until Paganini came into the shop and began playing the instrument. The master's touch revealed the rare value and brought out the hidden harmonies. (This illustration is found on page 13 of Wells of Living Water.)