

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

LESSON 1 - INTRODUCTION

ASSIGNMENT

First READ through the Gospel of John from the beginning to the end. READ it again as you study.

MEMORIZE: John 20:30,31.

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 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."

WHAT WE WANT TO LEARN FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

- A. Why the book is written.
- B. The main thought of the book.
- C. How the book is put together.
- D. The signs which show Jesus is the Son of God.

WHY THE BOOK IS WRITTEN

John tells us very plainly in chapter 20:30,31 why he wrote the book. Why did John write it?

Was John able to tell about all the things Jesus did? John 21:25

MAIN THOUGHT OF THE BOOK OF JOHN

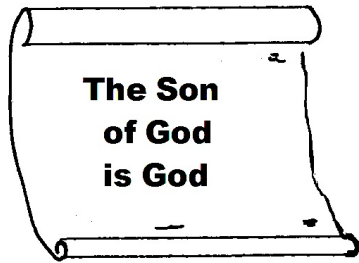
Each Gospel tells us "what Jesus is like" in a different way.

Matthew: In Matthew we see Jesus Christ as King.

Mark: In Mark we see Jesus Christ as Servant.

Luke: In Luke we see Jesus Christ as Man.

John: In John we see Jesus Christ as God. (A. Martin, John - Life Through Believing, p.12.)

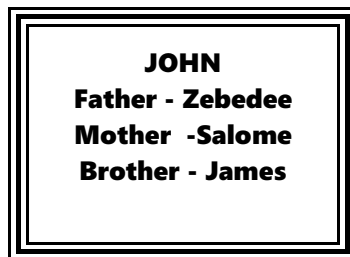


Even though each Gospel speaks mostly about one part of the life of Jesus Christ, it also shows us the other parts of His life. John speaks mostly about Jesus being God. John uses the name "Son of God" when he talks about Jesus. As we study the Gospel we will see that John shows us that the Son of God is God. Jesus is able to do things that only God can do.

WRITER OF THE BOOK

John wrote this book or Gospel about 95 years after Christ was born. John was an old man. His book was the last Gospel written. John thought that those who would read his Gospel had already read the other Gospels. He thought they would know much about the life of Christ already.

John wrote mostly about what Jesus did in Jerusalem and Judea. He says very little about what Jesus did in Galilee. He often speaks about himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Read John 13:23; 19:26; 21:7,20. John does not brag about being loved by Jesus. He shows us that Jesus loves each person.



John does not use his own name when he talks about himself. We know he was John, the son of Zebedee and Salome. He was a fisherman. He was not John the Baptist. His brother's name was James. James also was a disciple of Jesus. See Matthew 4:21 and Matthew 20:20. (A. Martin, op. cit., p.13.)

HOW THE BOOK IS PUT TOGETHER

A. Easy to understand.

The book seems easy to understand. Yet there is more in it than the greatest Bible student can understand. We may study it all our lives and still find new things in it.

We will not be able to cover everything in this course. We will learn some things to guide us. These will help us find more precious truths later.

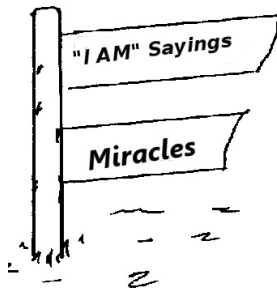
B. Outline of the book of John.

1. The opening words The Son of God is God, John 1:1-5.
2. The Son of God becomes Man, John 1:6-18.
3. The Son of God shows Himself to the Jews, John 1:19-12:50

4. The Son of God teaches His disciples, John 13:1-17:26
5. The Son of God is honored in His suffering, John 18:1-19:42
6. The Son of God shows his power through His resurrection John 20:1 - 21:25.

The Gospel of John can be divided into two parts. Part one, John 1:1-12:50. Part two, John 13:1 - 21:25. In the first part the work of Jesus was with the Jews or the people of the world. In the second part the work of Jesus was with His followers.

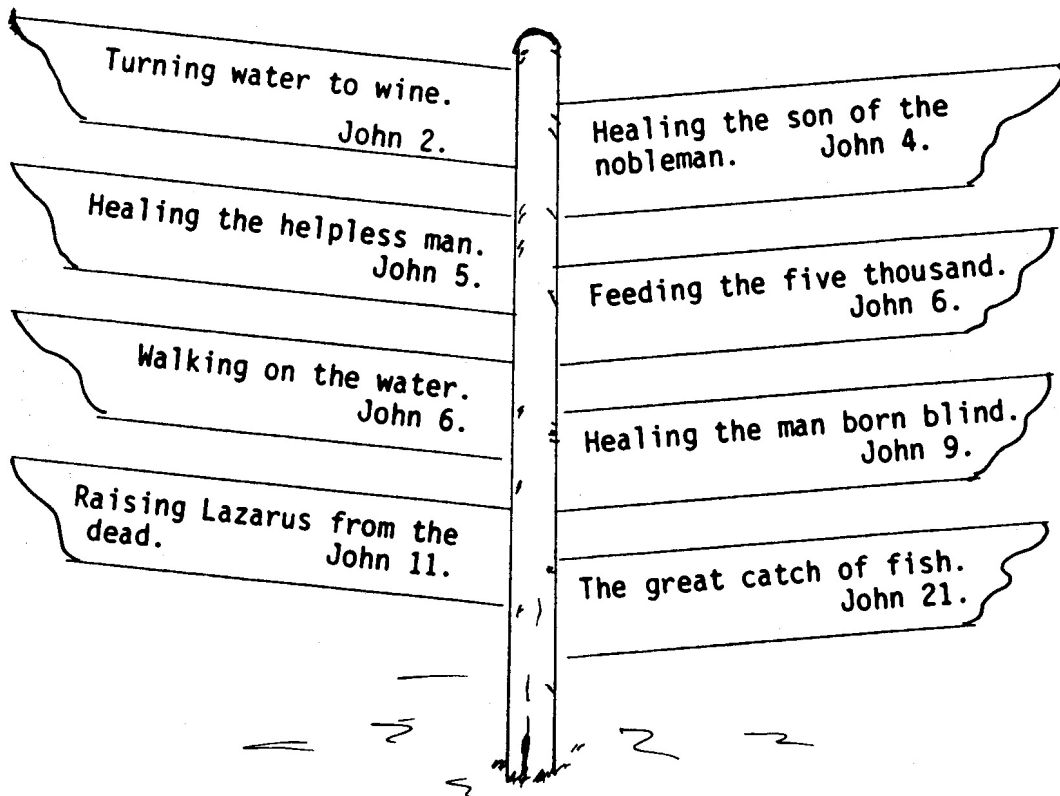
SIGNS WHICH SHOW JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD



In chapter 20:30,31 John says that he is giving us signs to show that Jesus is the Son of God. Some of these signs are the miracles which Jesus did. John also writes about Jesus calling Himself "I am." In this name Jesus shows Himself to be God. We also read about the visits Jesus had with them, He showed them Who He was.

A. Miracles.

Some of these signs are the miracles which Jesus did. John gives us only eight of the many miracles which Jesus did.



Seven of the miracles are found in the first part of the book. The last miracle is found at the end of the book.

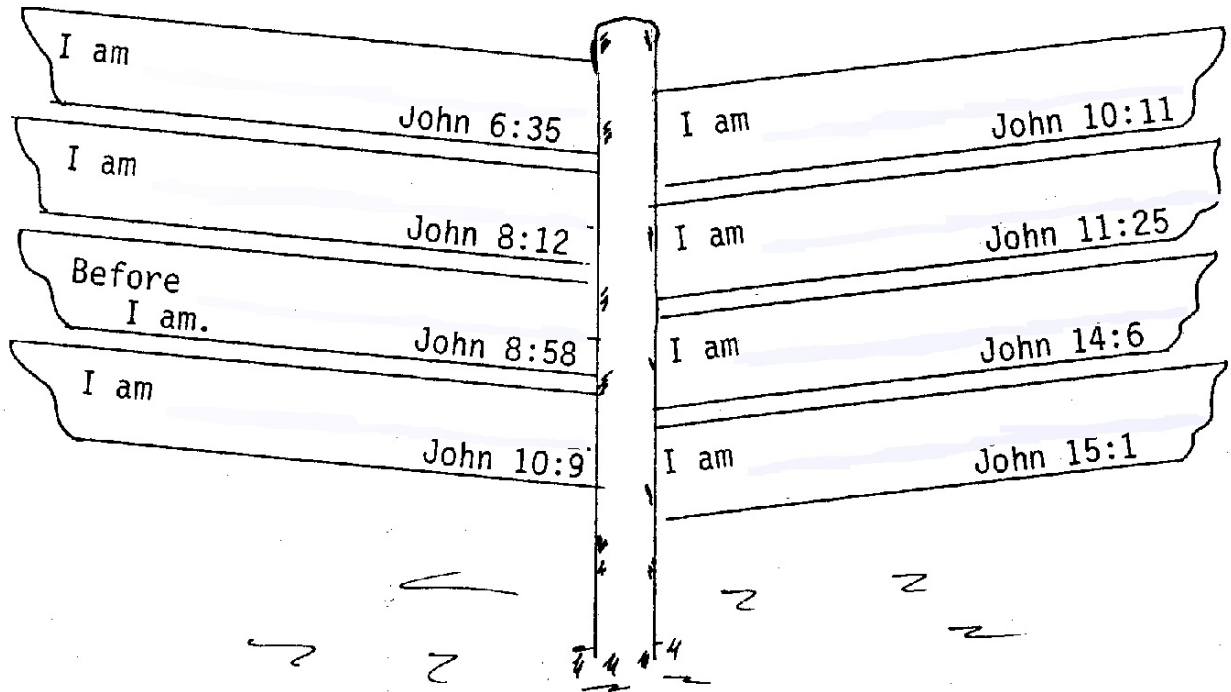
B. "I am" sayings.

There are eight other signs found in this book. They are called the "I am" sayings. In the Old Testament Moses met the One who called Himself "I am" at the burning bush, Exodus 3:14.

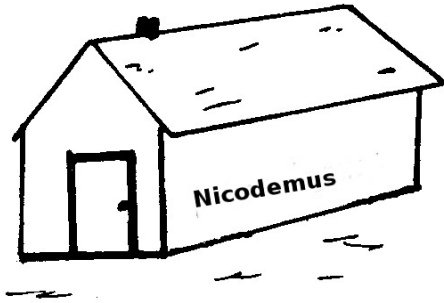
What happened in Exodus 3?

On this page write down the eight "I am" sayings as found in John. We find the "I am" sayings only in the Gospel of John.

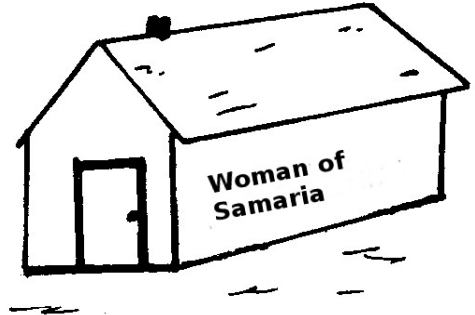
In John chapter 18:5,6,8, Jesus answered the soldiers with the words, "I am he." What happened to the soldiers when Jesus said, "I am he?"



C. Visits

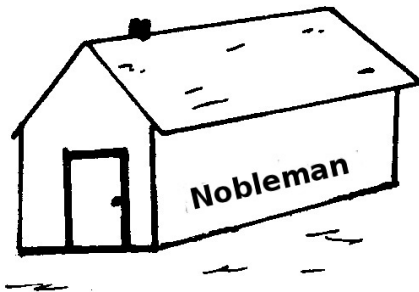


In the Gospel of John we learn that Jesus saw every person as a special person. He visited with people.



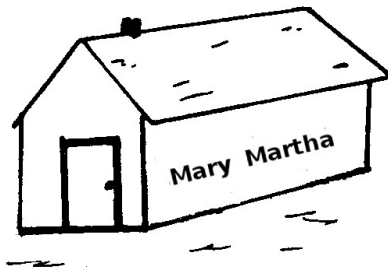
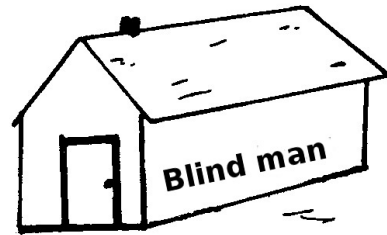
With whom did He visit in chapter 3?

To whom did He talk in chapter 4:1-30?

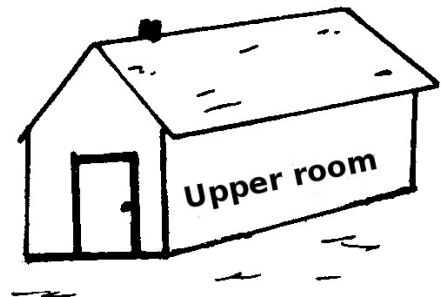


In this Gospel we read of short visits too.

There was a visit with the man who worked for the king (nobleman) in chapter 4; the blind man in chapter 9; Mary and Martha in chapter 11.

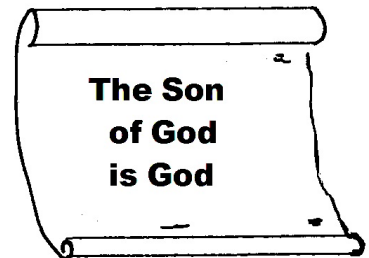


John tells us about a very important visit with the disciples in the upper room, chapters 13 and 14. It was just before Jesus died.



IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

1. John does not tell us much about the birth of Jesus. He does not tell us much about the baptism of Jesus. But John tells us much about the time before the death of Jesus. He tells us much about the time after the death of Jesus.
2. John wants us to understand that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus, the Son of God is God. If we believe Jesus is the Son of God, we will have life that lasts forever. We will know that we are on the way to heaven, John 20:31.



WORDS TO LEARN

1. assignment - work to be done by the student.
2. disciple - one who learns. Example - the 12 workers who learned from Jesus.
3. eternal - from always to always; without end.
4. guide -
 1. the person or thing that shows the way
 2. to show the way; to lead.
5. ministry - the work of helping others to know God better.
6. miracle - something done that man alone cannot do.
7. nobleman - a man who worked for a king.
8. outline - to tell about something in a few words.
9. precious - of great value, worth a lot.
10. resurrection - to live again after death.

Lesson 1 - Review

Fill in the blanks. Some questions have two answers.

1. John tells us about _____ miracles in the first part of the book.
 - a. ten
 - b. six
 - c. seven
 - d. four
2. The Gospel of John is a good book to study because _____.
 - a. it divides up into many parts.
 - b. it is easy to understand.
 - c. it is a very short book.
 - d. it shows us Jesus Christ.
3. John, the writer of the book, is the son of _____.
 - a. Zebedee and Salome.
 - b. Zacharias and Elizabeth.
 - c. Levi and Mary.
4. The miracles in John are called _____.
 - a. signs.
 - b. wonders.
 - c. "I am" sayings.
5. John wrote mostly about the work of Jesus in _____.
 - a. Galilee.
 - b. Samaria.
 - c. Jerusalem.

6. An important visit of Jesus told about in John is .
- a. sermon on the mount.
 - b. the visit in the upper room.
 - c. the visit on Mount Olivet.

7. John tells us very little about .
- a. the birth of Jesus Christ.
 - b. the last week before the death of Christ.
 - c. the baptism of Jesus.

8. Jesus said:
- a. I am .
 - b. I am .
 - c. I am .
 - d. I am .
 - e. I am .
 - f. I am .

9. Write out John 20:30,31

10. **Match:**

- a. In Matthew we see Christ as God
- b. In Mark we see Christ as Servant
- c. In Luke we see Christ as King
- d. In John we see Christ as Man