

JOHN

John Tells About Jesus, the Son of God

Christ Comes to the World

1 Before the world began, there was the Word.^a The Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was with God in the beginning. **3**All things were made through him. Nothing was made without him. **4**In him there was life. That life was light for the people of the world. **5**The Light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overpowered the Light.

6There was a man named John^b who was sent by God. **7**He came to tell people about the Light. Through him all people could hear about the Light and believe. **8**John was not the Light, but he came to tell people about the Light. **9**The true Light was coming into the world. The true Light gives light to all.

10The Word was in the world. The world was made through him, but the world did not know him. **11**He came to the world that was his own. But his own people did not accept him. **12**But some people did accept him. They believed in him. To them he gave the right to become children of God. **13**They did not become his children in the human way. They were not born because of the desire or wish of some man. They were born of God.

14The Word became a man and lived among us. We saw his glory — the glory that belongs to the only Son of the

Father. The Word was full of grace and truth. **15**John told about him. He said, "This is the One I was talking about. I said, 'The One who comes after me is greater than I am. He was living before me'."

16The Word was full of grace and truth. From him we all received more and more blessings. **17**The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18**No man has ever seen God, but God the only Son is very close to the Father.^c And the Son has shown us what God is like.

John Tells People About Jesus

19The Jews in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John.^d The Jews sent them to ask, "Who are you?"

20John spoke freely and did not refuse to answer. He said clearly, "I am not the Christ."^d

21So they asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"ⁿ

He answered, "No, I am not Elijah."

Then they asked, "Are you the Prophet?"ⁿ

He answered, "No, I am not the Prophet."

22Then they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to tell those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

Word The Greek word is "logos", meaning any kind of communication. It could be translated "message". Here, it means Christ. Christ was the way God told people about himself.

John John the Baptist, who preached to people about Christ's coming (Matthew 3, Luke 3).

but . . . Father This could be translated, "but the only God is very close to the Father."

Also, some Greek copies say, "but the only Son is very close to the Father."

Elijah A man who spoke for God. He lived hundreds of years before Christ.

Prophet They probably meant the prophet that God told Moses he would send (Deuteronomy 18:15-19).