

Lesson 4 John: Presenting Christ as the Son of God

1. John presents Christ as the Son of God in His Deity, to convince all the world that Jesus was who He claimed to be: God Himself! As such, there could be no middle ground to accept Christ as a good teacher: He was either a liar to be rejected, or God Incarnate - to be worshipped and served in all humility!
2. In the Temple in Jerusalem, and in the surrounding vicinity.
3. This is a direct confirmation of His Deity, as Jesus repeated the very words of Jehovah God from Exodus 3:14. This expression in Exodus became the most sacred Jewish name for God: YHWH, or Yahweh (transliterated to Jehovah) – the Self-existent One – the Great I AM. The Jews understood the meaning of His words and sought to kill Him for blasphemy – claiming to be God.
4. 1) The Gospel of John, 2) First John, 3) Second John, 4) Third John, 5) The Revelation of Jesus Christ.
5. In order to explain why men sin, the Gnostics believed that all matter was evil. The spiritual had to be free from everything material. They came to believe that freedom from material sin lay in knowledge of spiritual things, which was only available to the intellectuals. Their major error was in denying the deity of Christ (since He came in the flesh and had a body).
6. Jesus is God, He created all things, He is life itself, He gave light to men's darkness, but He was rejected by men in darkness, yet He gave life to become sons of God to those who receive Him and are born of God (not their own acts), He became flesh in order to declare God to us.
7. 1) He has faced realistically the problem of his own personal sin; 2) he has seriously considered the one divine remedy for sin; 3) he has wholeheartedly complied with God's terms for obtaining forgiveness for sin (to "receive" Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord); 4) he manifests in his life that his claims to repentance and faith are real; i.e., he leads a holy life.

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When the Father Speaks to the Son

Please note that in each case when the Father Speaks to the Son the theme is the death of the Son.

At His Baptism

Baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

Matthew 3:16-17

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. **17** And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**"

Mark 1:9-11

9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, **Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

Luke 3:21-22

21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, **Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.**

When Jesus prays for the Father's glory

John 12:23-36

23 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. **24** Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. **25** He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. **28** Father, glorify Your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again."

29 Therefore the people who stood by and heard *it* said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."

30 Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. **31** Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. **32** And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself." **33** This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

34 The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how *can* You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"

35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. **36** While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

At His Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-8

17 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. 4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!**" 6 And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. 7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." 8 When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

Mark 9:2-13

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. 3 And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. 4 And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.

5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.

7 And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, **This is my beloved Son: hear him.**

8 And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves. 9 And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead. 10 And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.

11 And they asked him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?

12 And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought. 13 But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.

Luke 9:28-36

28 And it came to pass about eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. **29** And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering.

30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

33 And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.

34 While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. **35** And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, **This is my beloved Son: hear him.**

36 And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.

2 Peter 1:17-18

17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

“WHAT MANNER OF MAN?”

When the first missionaries went to Japan, a young Japanese who wanted to learn English, was given the Gospel of John to translate into his native tongue. In a short time he became very restless and agitated. At last he burst out with the question, “Who is this Man about whom I have been reading, this Jesus? You call Him a man, but He must be God!”

Arnold's Commentary