

Remnant Life Church
July 30, 2017
John – The Evangelist
John 1:1-5

- Begin a series of messages from the Gospel of John
 - This morning
 - First, understand who John is and His place among the disciples and the early spread of Christianity
 - Second, what makes John's writing unique among the 4 Gospels
- Background on John the man
 - John was a Galilean
 - A region in northern Israel
 - Included Nazareth and Capernaum
 - Sea of Galilee and Jordan River on its eastern border
 - A fisherman by trade along with his brother, James, and most likely his father and other men who worked with them.
 - In other words, he was a common man of the time
 - We see here the earliest measure of Jesus' intent – His message is for everyone
 - Jesus often taught and even rebuke the disciple's thinking regarding the Samaritans and Gentiles
 - How did he meet Jesus?
 - He was already a man who feared and followed God
 - (1:35) he not only had the fishing business but he was a disciple or follower of John the Baptist
 - He probably came to hear The Baptist preach in the wilderness surrounding Galilea
 - John was every bit the rough fisherman who worked the Sea of Galilea
 - He told someone casting out demons in Jesus name to shut up because they were not a disciple of Jesus (Luke 9:49-50)
 - He wanted Jesus to call down fire from heaven on a city that had snubbed them (Luke 9:54)
 - He even wanted a special place of honor in heaven (Mark 10:35)
 - But He was also a man with a deep connection to Jesus perhaps more than the other 11
 - While he did abandon Jesus in the Garden like the others but he was the only disciple at the cross (John 19:26)
 - Jesus asked him to care for his mother – a tremendous honor and sign of trust (John 19:27)
 - He runs to the empty tomb with Peter (John 20:22-3)

- He is the first to recognize Jesus when He appears to them after the resurrection when they are fishing and trying to figure out what to do next ([John 21:7](#))
 - He was also one of three disciples accorded a special place with Jesus; one of the inner circle trio of Peter, James, and John
 - These three only:
 - Are listed first in the list of the Apostles ([Mk 3:16-17](#); [Matt 10:2](#))
 - Witnessed the raising of Jarius' daughter (1 of 3 times Jesus' raises someone from the dead – also, the “sleeping girl” in [Mark 5](#) and Lazarus in [John 11](#))
 - Were with Jesus at the transfiguration ([Matt 17](#); [Mk 9](#); [Luke 9](#))
 - Spoke with Jesus (along with Andrew) about the end times in [Mark 13](#)
 - Went further into the Garden with Jesus while He prayed ([Mk 14](#))
 - Much discussion about the title he gives himself of “the one whom Jesus loved”
 - John uses that reference 4 times
 - It is not to elevate himself over the others
 - It is actually a sign of deference to Jesus so that John would not take attention away from Jesus
 - It is actually a title of modesty
 - In every way possible John was a central figure in the ministry of Jesus and the 12 disciples
- The Gospel of John
 - Most likely written sometime in the later first century around 85-95
 - Written from Ephesus (located in modern-day Turkey)
 - John lived and ministered there
 - Most likely taken from here when exiled to the island of Patmos (located in the Aegean Sea; a Greek island off the southwest coast of modern-day Turkey) where he wrote the book of Revelation
 - Then returned to Ephesus after he was liberated where he died of natural causes
 - The only one of the disciples to do so
 - John wrote the Gospel for several reasons
 - The date of the late 80's means the temple was destroyed over 10 years before (70 AD by the Romans led by General Titus)
 - No formal place for the Jews to offer sacrifices and worship
 - He seized an opportunity to present Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the Feasts and the Law thereby filling the void left by the destruction of the temple
 - To help mend the growing rift between the Christians and the Jews again, presenting Jesus as not only the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies, but as God ([John 1:1](#))
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- How does it fit within the 4 Gospels and the Synoptics
 - From the Greek to the Latin meaning to see all together or side by side (we get the word synopsis)
 - Matthew, Mark, and Luke comprise the synoptic Gospels because of the amount of similar material they contain
 - Mark written first; then Matthew, then Luke
 - Matthew contains nearly all of Mark's material while Luke about half of it
 - Matthew and Luke often use the exact same wording as Mark
 - John is an almost completely unique writing with 95% of his material not found in the other three
 - This is not to say that his book does fit in with the other three
 - But John's focus and purpose were different
- The purpose of the first four books
 - Matthew writes as a teacher emphasizing the sermons of Jesus
 - Primarily written to the Hebrews
 - He presents Jesus as King and lion-like
 - Presents the lineage of Jesus because a King must have one (**Matt 1:1-16**)
 - Traces the regal line of Jesus through David and King Solomon
 - Mark writes as a preacher emphasizing the miracles of Jesus
 - Primarily written to the Romans
 - He presents Jesus as a servant and ox-like
 - Does not present a lineage because a servant does not need one
 - Luke writes as a historian focusing on Jesus' parables
 - Primarily written to the Greeks
 - He presents Jesus as the perfect man and man-like in every way
 - Presents the physical lineage of Jesus because a perfect man should have one (**Luke 3:23-38**)
 - Traces the physical line of Jesus through David and his son Nathan (Solomon's older brother)
 - John writes as a theologian focusing on the doctrine of Jesus' ministry
 - Written to all the world
 - He presents Jesus as Mighty God and eagle-like
 - Does not present a lineage because God has none
- The four creatures that are the type of Jesus in the Gospels – lion, ox, man, eagle - are from the prophet Ezekiel (**Ez 1:10**)
 - Also from the book of **Rev 4:7** which John calls the Four Living Creatures
 - Matthew, Mark, and Luke focus on the humanity of Jesus; John focuses on His deity

- John's message is a fairly simple one:
 - Jesus is the promised Messiah
 - He is the one foretold through the Old Testament
 - He is God
- We use what we have examined this morning as a backdrop and foundation (or context) for what we will look at over the next several weeks
- To know who Jesus was, His ministry, and His heart means to know the book of John