

Message One  
**An Overview of the Gospel of John**  
**And**  
**An Introduction to Life and Building in John 1**

Scripture reading: John 1:1, 4, 14, 29, 32, 42, 51

**I. The central thought of the Gospel of John is on the divine life and God's building:**

- A. The Gospel of John reveals that in Christ, the Word of God, is life – 1:4; 11:25; 14:6:
  - 1. He came that man may have life – 10:10b.
  - 2. He is the bread of life – 6:35.
  - 3. He has and even is the water of life – 4:14; 7:37-38.
  - 4. He gives life to man so that they may have eternal life, passing out of death into life – 5:21-24.
  - 5. He even lives in man as life – 14:19.
- B. The Gospel of John unfolds God's building, His habitation among men on earth:
  - 1. Christ in the flesh was God's tabernacle – 1:14.
  - 2. Christ's body was God's temple before His death and after His resurrection – 2:19-22; cf. 2:16.
  - 3. All the believers, as God's many abodes, are to be built together as God's eternal habitation – 14:2, 23.
  - 4. The Lord prayed in His last prayer before crucifixion that all His believers must be built up into one – 17:11, 21-23.

**II. The Gospel of John is divided into two main sections:**

- A. The first section, composed of Chapters 1 to 13, is on the Lord's coming through incarnation as a man, Jesus, in order to bring God into man and to declare God to man.
- B. The second section, composed of Chapters 14 to 21, is on the Lord's going in death and coming back in resurrection to bring man into God and to abide in and with man for God's building.

**III. An overview of the Gospel of John:**

- A. Chapter 1 gives an introduction to life and building – see IV below.
- B. Chapter 2 shows that the principle of God as life is to change death into life.

- C. Chapters 3 to 11 present nine cases to illustrate how God as life meets the different needs of different kinds of people.
- D. As a result, in the beginning of Chapter 12 a miniature of the church is produced – 12:1-11.
- E. Chapters 12:12 to 17 explain how the church is produced through the multiplication and increase of the incarnated God-man by means of His death and resurrection – 12:24.
- F. Chapters 18 to 20 show the accomplishing of the multiplication and increase, which causes Him to have many brothers (20:17) and enables Him to enter into them (20:22) to be their life and everything that they may be constituted His Body and His increase and expression.
- G. Chapter 21 reveals that He will be with the believers in an invisible way until His coming back – 21:22.

**IV. An introduction to life and building as revealed in Chapter 1:**

- A. In the eternity past was the Word of God, Who was with God and the very God Himself, possessing divinity but not humanity – vv.1-2
- B. In creation, He created all things – v.3; cf. Col. 1:16; Rom. 4:17.
- C. In His incarnation, He became flesh, putting on humanity, and tabernacled among men, full of grace (God enjoyed by us) and reality (God realized by us), declaring God to man – vv.14, 18.
- D. In His death, He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world – v.29.
- E. In His resurrection, He is the Spirit, regenerating the believers, that is, those receive Him, as the children of God (vv.12-13) and transforming them into living stones for His building – vv.32, 42; cf. 1Cor. 15:45b; John 16:16-18; 1Pet. 2:5; 1Cor. 3:12.
- F. In the eternity future, the Son of Man, who has both divinity and humanity, is the center for the communication between heaven and earth and for the union of God and man in eternity – v.51; cf. Gen. 28:11-22.

Message One

Reference Scripture Verses:

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 1:4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

**John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

**John 1:32** And John testified, saying, I beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He abode upon Him.

**John 1:42** He led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter).

**John 1:51** And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

**I.A.**

**John 1:4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**John 11:25** Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

**John 10:10** The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have *it* abundantly.

**35** Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me <sup>a</sup>shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.

**John 4:14** But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water gushing up into eternal life.

**John 7:37-38. 37** Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. **38** He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

**John 5:21-24. 21** For just as the Father raises the dead and gives *them* life, so also the Son gives life to whom He wills. **22** For neither does the Father judge anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, **23** In order that all may honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. **24** Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and does not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.

**John 4:19** Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live,

you also shall live.

### I.B.

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

**cf. John 2:16** And to those who were selling the doves He said, Take these things away from here; do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise.

**John 2:19-22. 19** Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. **20** Then the Jews said, This temple was built in forty-six years, and You will raise it up in three days? **21** But He spoke of the temple of His body. **22** When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

**John 14:2** In My Father's house are many abodes; if *it were* not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

**John 14:23** Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him.

**John 17:11** And I am no longer in the world; yet they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given to Me, that they may be one even as We are.

**John 17:21-23. 21** That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me. **22** And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one; **23** I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

### III.

**John 12:1-11. 1** Then Jesus, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2** Therefore they made Him a supper there; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of the ones reclining *at table* with Him. **3** Then Mary took a pound of ointment, of very valuable pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. **4** But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was about to betray Him, said, **5** Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? **6** But he said this not because it mattered to him concerning the poor, but because he was a thief, and holding the purse, carried off what was put into *it*. **7** Then Jesus said, Leave her alone; she has reserved it for the day of My burial. **8** For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me. **9** Then a great crowd of the Jews found out that He was there, and they came, not because of Jesus only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. **10** And the chief priests took counsel to kill Lazarus also, **11** Because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed into Jesus.

**John 12:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

**John 20:17** Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.

**John 20:22** And when He had said this, He breathed into *them* and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

**John 21:22** Jesus said to him, If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me.

#### IV.

**John 1:1-2.** 1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

**John 1:3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not one thing came into being which has come into being

cf. **Col. 1:16** Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.

cf. **Rom. 4:17** (As it is written, "I have appointed you a father of many nations") in the sight of God whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls the things not being as being.

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

**John 1:18** No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

**John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

**John 1:12-12.** 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name, 13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

**John 1:32** And John testified, saying, I beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He abode upon Him.

cf. **1Cor. 15:45** So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam *became* a life-giving Spirit.

**John 14:16-18.** 16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever, 17 *Even* the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know *Him*; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you *as* orphans; I am coming to you.

**John 1:42** He led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter).

**cf. 1Pet. 2:5** You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**cf. 1Cor. 3:12** But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

**John 1:51** And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

**cf. Gen. 28:11-22. 11** And he came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and he lay down in that place. **12** And he dreamed: There was a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** And there was Jehovah, standing above it; and He said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and to your seed. **14** And your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed. **15** And, behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will cause you to return to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. **16** And Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, Surely Jehovah is in this place, and I did not know it. **17** And he was afraid and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. **18** And Jacob rose up early in the morning and took the stone that he had put under his head, and he set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. **19** And he called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz previously. **20** And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go and will give me bread to eat and garments to put on, **21** So that I return to my father's house in peace, then Jehovah will be my God, **22** And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house; and of all that You give me I will surely give one tenth to You.