LESSON 1

A Introduction to the Gospel of John

The Life of Christ
The Place of John in the New Testament

• One of the Four Gospels
• What is the Gospel?
• “Good News”
• 1 Corinthians 15:1–4
The Place of John (cont.)

- Good News Concerning . . .
  - Death
  - Burial
  - Bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ
The Place of John (cont.)

- One of the four Gospels
- One of the longest books of the New Testament
- The best-loved books of the New Testament
The Contents of John

- Different from the other Gospels
- Portrait of Christ
- Prominent words
- Audience
- Emphasis and outstanding sections
- Basic characteristics
Answers the Questions Posed by the Synoptics

- *Syn-optic*
- Syn: “together/alike”
- Optic: “to see”
- Synoptic—“to see alike”; “to see the same thing”
Answers (cont.)

• Who is this great King?
  – Christ as revealed by Matthew

• Who is this great Servant?
  – Christ as revealed by Mark

• Who is this great Man?
  – Christ as revealed by Luke
The Unique Characteristics of John

- John emphasizes **evangelism**
- John records only **seven** miracles
- John focuses on Judea rather than on **Galilee**
The Unique Characteristics of John (cont.)

- John emphasizes Jesus’ own words concerning Himself
- John is not trying to prove Christ’s deity so much as he is letting Jesus Christ prove His own deity
The Application of the Gospel of John

• Jesus Christ ought to be real to each of us

• Jesus Christ is more than a fact in history. He still lives!
<table>
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<table>
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LESSON 2

The Purpose of John’s Gospel

The Life of Christ
John’s Two-Fold Purpose

1. To cause us to believe that Jesus is the Christ (20:31)

2. To show us how to obtain life through His name (20:31)
Four Passovers

• Passover One—A.D. 29: Jesus is Lord of the temple (2:13–14)
  – We see Christ’s courage
  – We see Christ’s power and strength
  – We see Christ’s manliness
  – We see Christ’s other traits
Four Passovers (cont.)

• **Passover Two**
  – A.D. 30: Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (5:1)

• **Passover Three**
  – A.D. 31: Jesus did not attend (6:4)

• **Passover Four**
  – A.D. 32: Jesus is Lord of life (18–19)
The Timeline of John’s Gospel

• The dates of Christ’s ministry
  – The first three months (fall of A.D. 28)
The Timeline of John’s Gospel

• The dates of Christ’s ministry
  – The first year (beginning with our January, A.D. 29)
The Timeline of John’s Gospel (cont.)

• The dates of Christ’s ministry
  – The second year (A.D.30)
The Timeline of John’s Gospel (cont.)

- The dates of Christ’s ministry
  - The third year (A.D. 31)
The Timeline of John’s Gospel (cont.)

• The dates of Christ’s ministry
  – The last months (January to March/April, A.D. 32)
The Timeline (cont.)

• The dates of the events that John records
  – Gaps of time between chapters and verses

• The bulk of John’s Gospel
  – Deals mostly with the month **Nisan**
  – Deals mostly with the year A.D. **32**
The Timeline (cont.)

- Chapters 13–20 deal with the last day of Christ’s life
Lessons for Our Lives

- Christ is the central person in history
- The cross and resurrection is the central truth in history
- Salvation by faith alone in Him alone is the central message in history
- Proclamation of the gospel is the central responsibility of believers
LESSON 3

The Geographical and Political Situation at the Time of Christ

The Life of Christ
The Size of Israel
The Location of Israel
Physical Features
Varied Climate
Varied Geography
Varied Crops
Political Division of the Land

• Three Major Areas
  – Judea
  – Galilee
  – Samaria
Political Division (cont.)

- Roman Provinces
  - Judea and Samaria
  - Galilee and Perea
  - Iturea and Trachonitis
  - Decapolis
Geographical Divisions

- The Coastal Plain—Rich Soil
- The Shephelah—Rolling Hills
- The Cis–Jordan Hills—Israel’s Cities
- The Jordan Valley—Continental Rift
- The Trans–Jordan Hills—1,320’ to 3,940’
Geographical Divisions

Mediterranean  

SEA LEVEL

Jerusalem 2,680 Feet

Dead Sea

Scale of Miles

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90
Geographical Divisions

• Coastal
  – Rich soil
Geographical Divisions

- The Shephala
  - Rolling hills
Geographical Divisions

- The Cis-Jordan Hills – Israel’s cities
Geographical Divisions

- The Jordan Valley
  - Continental rift
Geographical Divisions

• The Trans-Jordan Hills
  – 1,320 ft. to 3,940 ft.
Cities

- Jesus Visited 21 cities
- Most were located in the Cis–Jordan Hills
The Amazing Jordan Valley
Afro-Arabian Rift
The Amazing Jordan Valley (cont.)
The Dead Sea
Lessons from the Dead Sea

• When fresh water flows in, but nothing flows out:
  – We lose our joy and enthusiasm
  – We become bitter and harsh
  – We produce no life and our soul shrivels