

The Gospel According To John

An expanded translation, not a paraphrase

Chapter 1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was right there with God, as close to God as could be, and the Word was God. ² He, this very one, was in the beginning already right there with God. ³ Everything came into being through Him, and apart from Him came nothing into being, not even one thing, of all that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of humankind. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness [*gloom*], and the darkness [*gloom*] did not overcome [*take over, get victory over, catch, catch on about, seize and comprehend, perceive*] it.

⁶ A human came into being, sent from from God, by the name of John. ⁷ This one came for the purpose of bearing witness in order that he might bear witness concerning the light, with the goal that everyone might believe through him. ⁸ That one was not the light, but he existed in order to bear witness to the light. ⁹ There was the light, the true light, which enlightens every human being who comes into this ordered universe. ¹⁰ He came into this ordered universe that itself came into being through Him, and it did not know him. ¹¹ To His own domain He came, and His own did not take [*receive*] Him to heart. ¹² But as many is the number of those receiving Him, to them He granted the authority to become children of God, to the ones who believe in His name, ¹³ who were begotten not out of blood, neither from the will of the flesh, nor out of the will of some man, but were begotten of God.

¹⁴ And the word became flesh and lived [*dwelt, took up residence, encamped*] among [*in*] us, and we saw [*looked at, beheld*] His glory, glory as of the unique one from the Father, full of [*filled with, completely full, fully ripened with, covered with*] grace and truth. ¹⁵ John bore witness concerning Him and cried out [*shouted, called in a loud voice*] saying, “This is the one of whom I spoke saying, ‘The one who is coming after me has existed in a position marked off in front of me because He existed before me. ¹⁶ For out of His fullness [*fulfilling, contents, total*] we all have received, even grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law came through Moses; that grace and that truth came to be through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever [*at any time*] seen [*perceived with the eye, looked upon*] God; the only and unique God who is in the bosom [*breast, chest, engulfed by, fold of a garment*] of the Father, that one has made Him known [*explained Him, interpreted Him, told about Him, described Him*].

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, that when the leaders of the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem in order that they might ask [*interrogate, inquire of, seek information from*] him: “You are who?”

²⁰ And he confessed [*testified, promised, admitted, declared, acknowledged*] and did not deny [*give a negative answer, say no, refuse to acknowledge*] but he confessed [*testified, promised, admitted, declared, acknowledged*], “I am not the Messiah [*the Christ*].”

²¹ And they asked [*interrogated, inquired of, sought information from*] him, “What then? You’re Elijah?”

But he said, “I am not.”

“You’re the prophet?”

But he countered with the response he selected from a number of possibilities, [*counter, made the choice to reply out of a number of possible replies, responded*], “No.”

²² Therefore they said to him, “Who are you, in order that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say concerning yourself?”

²³ He said [*conveyed his thinking*], “I am a voice in the wilderness [*desert, thin place, lonely place, unpopulated region, deserted region, avoided place, desolate place*] crying out, ‘Straighten the way for the Lord,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.”

²⁴ Now they were ones sent from the Pharisees.

²⁵ And they asked [*interrogated, inquired of, sought information from*] him and said to him, “Why therefore are you baptizing if you are not the Messiah [*Christ*] nor Elijah nor the prophet?”

²⁶ John answered them saying, “I baptize in [*with, by*] water; but in your midst [*at a point in or near your center, middle, among, in a position that all can see*] One whom you do not know [*perceive visually, have information about, have an interest in, have a relationship with, are expert about, discerned, understand, be aware of*] is standing. ²⁷ He is the one who is coming next, after me, of whom it would not be appropriate [*worthy, worth value, merit*] for me to bend down and loosen the thong of his sandal.”

²⁸ These things came to be in Bethany on the other side of the Jordan where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day he sees Jesus coming toward him and says, “Behold! [*Focus here!, Look! Open your eyes and see!*] The lamb of God, the one bearing away [*taking up, taking away, removing, carrying off*] the sin of the world. ³⁰ This is the one concerning whom I said, ‘After me is coming a man who has existed in a position marked off in front of me because He existed before me. ³¹ And, as for me, I had not known about [*recognize, have information about, have an interest in, have the facts about, understand*] Him. However, in order that He might be disclosed [*caused to be in a position to be observable, made known, shown*] to Israel, for this reason I came baptizing in [*with, by*] water.” ³² And John bore witness saying, “I have witnessed [*seen, looked at, beheld*] the Spirit gliding down as a dove out of heaven and it stayed upon Him. ³³ And, as for me, I had not known about [*recognize, have information about, have an interest in, have the facts about, understand*] Him, but the One who sent me baptizing in [*with, by*] water, that One said to me, ‘Upon whom you would see the Spirit gliding down and remaining upon Him, this one is the He who is baptizing in the Holy Spirit. ³⁴ And, as for me, I have beheld and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.

³⁵ Again, the next day, John and two of his disciples were standing there [*had taken a position, had set themselves in a place, were standing ready for orders*] ³⁶ and as his gaze was upon Jesus while He was walking, he said, “Behold! [*Focus here!, Look! Open your eyes and see!*] The lamb of God.” ³⁷ And the two disciples heard [*willingly listened to, heeded what was said, heard with comprehension, understood*] and they followed [*fell into step behind, got into motion in sequence behind, moved and kept up with, associated themselves with as disciples*] Jesus. ³⁸ And Jesus turned around and was looking at them as they were following Him, and said to them, “What do you seek [*what are you on the search for, what hard-to-find thing are you seeking, what is your desire, what are you pressing for, expecting*]?” And they said to Him,

“Rabbi [*My Master, Respected Teacher*], which translated means Teacher, where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see [*see with the intent of spending time there, visit*].” They came therefore and saw where he stayed, and they stayed alongside him that day, for it was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ It was Andrew the brother of Simon Peter, one of the two who had been listening to John and had followed Him. ⁴¹ He sought out first his own brother, Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah,” which is translated, “Christ.” ⁴² He brought him [*led, caused movement by taking the lead, took*] right up to Jesus. As Jesus was gazing at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas [*Rock in Aramaic*] which translates as Peter [*Rock in Greek*].”