

John 1-21 – Review (Part 1)

In our half-way review, which included the first 12 chapters, our lists were not complete. John likes the numbers 3, 7 and 12. The Gospel of John talks about the seven witnesses to Jesus. Five are mentioned in chapter five and the other two are mentioned in chapter fifteen.

The Seven Witnesses.

1. Jesus Himself. 5:31, 8:14
2. John the Baptist. 5:33-35
3. The signs which Jesus accomplished. 5:36
4. God the Father. 5:37-38
5. Scripture. 5:39-40
6. The Holy Spirit. 15:26
7. The 11 disciples. 15:27

John only selected seven signs out of the many signs which Jesus performed. Some of the signs backed up his “I am” statements. Jesus’ signs manifested his glory (2:11). The purpose of the signs is that people might believe in Jesus. (2:11, 20:30-31)

The Seven Signs.

1. Changing water to wine at the wedding in Cana. 2:1-11
2. Healing the son of an official via long distance (Cana to Capernaum). 4:46-54
3. Healing the man who was lame for 38 years. 5:1-16
4. Feeding over five thousand people from five loaves of bread and two fish. 6:1-14 (I am the Bread of Life)
5. Giving sight to a man who was born blind. 9:1-38 (I am the Light of the world)
6. Raising Lazarus from the dead who had been in the tomb for four days. 11:1-44 (I am the Resurrection and the Life)
7. Jesus’ own resurrection. 20:1-21:23

There are seven “I am” statements in the Gospel of John. Normally the focus of the “I am” statements is on the statements where “I am” is followed by a description like “the bread of life” or “the light of the world”. There are also times when Jesus just said “I am”. One example is when Jesus said “Before Abraham was, I am.” The people picked up stones to stone him because they understood this statement, “I am” to be a claim by Jesus that he was God. The “I am” statements are a reference to the special name by which God revealed himself to Moses at the burning bush. The name we know as Yahweh was considered by some Jews as so holy that it should not be written or spoken.

The Seven “I am” Statements.

1. I am the Bread of Life. 6:35, 48, 51
2. I am the Light of the World. 8:12
3. I am the Door of the sheep. 10:7, 9
4. I am the Good Shepherd. 10:11, 14
5. I am the Resurrection and the Life. 11:25
6. I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. 14:6
7. I am the True Vine. 15:1

Additional “I Am” Statements

1. John 4:26 – When the Messiah appears, he will teach us all things. Jesus said to her, “**I am**, the one speaking to you.”
2. John 6:20 – When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, Jesus said to them, “**I am**, do not be afraid.”
3. John 8:24 – Unless you believe that **I am**, you will die in your sins.
4. John 8:28 – When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that **I am**.
5. John 8:58 – Before Abraham was, **I am**.
6. John 13:19 – I am telling you these things before they happen, so that when they happen you may believe that **I am**.
7. John 18:5, 6, 8 – When the crowd sent to arrest Jesus told Jesus that they were seeking “Jesus of Nazareth”, Jesus replied “**I am**”.

The Gospel of John makes it clear that Jesus is God. He is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. In the first verse of the Gospel of John, we learned that the Word, Jesus, was God. All things were made through him. John chapter five gives Jesus’ defense to his claim that he is equal with God. He gives life to whomever he wishes. He has been given authority to judge in the final judgment. Only God can give life to whomever he wishes. God alone is the judge of all the earth. He will separate out the sheep from the goats. Near the end of the book, Thomas gave the strongest confession of who Jesus is when he said “my Lord and my God.”

What have you learned from the Gospel of John? What great truths have you been reminded of? What did you learn about Jesus? What did you learn about God’s work in his sheep?

The Gospel of John is like a court case where John has laid out convincing evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world. His challenge to everyone who reads this book is, “Do you believe?”