

What can we learn about how John tells us Jesus was received?

John is setting the scene for how Jesus was received by the people of his day. What can we learn from their responses as he describes them?

1. What does John tell us the purpose of Jesus, the Word, coming into the world? (verse 7)
2. What does John mean by the use of the word 'receive' when applied to Jesus/the Word? (verse 12a)
3. What did/does Jesus/the Word give the right to become when we receive him? (verse 12b)
4. What are the three ways John describes that we can gain this right?
5. Which is the only one of these ways that John says is true?

AND FINALLY...

Throughout this passage of Scripture John tells us something very important about the nature of God. Read through verses 1-3, 14 and 29-34 and see if you can pick out particular clues to what John is teaching us about what kind of God he is telling us He is?

Verse 18 _____

Verse 34 _____ note also v. 29b.

verse 33 _____



An Introduction: Why a fourth gospel?

What is so different?

Matthew, Mark and Luke all share similar story lines and order. They all mostly concentrate on Jesus' ministry in Galilee, the northern part of Israel.

Mark was the first Gospel to be written. He was closely associated with the apostle Peter. An ancient tradition says he was the cousin of Barnabas who went on to partner with Paul on his first missionary journey.

Matthew is understood to have been written next. It follows most of Mark's information, but was specifically written as a teaching manual for converts from Judaism who needed to hear the Gospel from their perspective.

Then **Luke**, a partner with Paul, wrote his Gospel for the benefit of new believers from the non-Jewish, Gentile world, those who were 'outsiders', marginalised or under-valued. Again, Luke uses the same main basic material known from both Mark and Matthew. But, he tells us that he did further investigations for his two works, the Gospel in his name and The Acts of the Apostles.

John wrote much later than the others. The early church historian Eusebius records it was understood John wrote so that we, the Church, might understand the reason for Jesus' miraculous signs throughout his ministry. John also concentrates much on Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem, especially during the great religious feasts and gives us greater understanding of how Jesus is linked to the fulfilment of God's promises to his people Israel.

John's Introduction to Jesus

In the beginning...

John gets right to the point in a way the other gospels don't, but at first it seems a little strange: Who or what is this 'Word' he is writing about? See verses 1-18

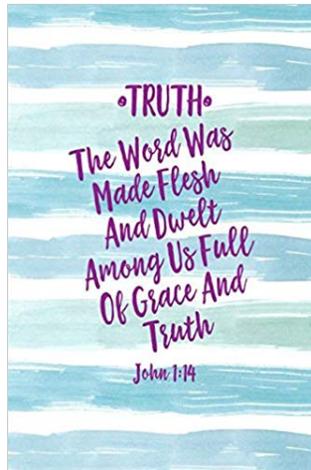
- Where is he from? _____
- Who was he with? _____
- What did the Word do? _____
- What did he have in himself? _____
- What did the word do? _____

What does all the above tell us about the nature of the person who John calls the 'Word'?

Who is this Jesus according to the apostle John

Throughout this first chapter of John's gospel he notes that Jesus is referred to in many different ways and sometimes with titles. List as many of them as you can find...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____



A man bearing witness - John the baptiser

John caused quite a stir in the social and religious life of Judea and nearby Jerusalem. **1.** What were the questions asked of John the baptiser, and...

2. What does this tell us about what the religious leaders were thinking about at the time John was baptising people in the River Jordan? see verses 19-28

1. Who did they think John the baptiser might be?

2. What sort of person were they looking for?

First followers

It is interesting to note John's account of how Jesus first disciples were called to follow him. Read through verses 35 to 51 again to see how this all occurred.

Look at verse 35 and note who Jesus first two disciples were with:

Why did they start to follow Jesus?

Who did they believe they had found? (verse 41)

And, what do you think this would this have meant to them?
Look back at verse 20.

When Jesus encountered Nathanael, who was Jesus declared to be? (verse 49)