

Gospel of John (lesson 2)

Follow up answer from last lesson.

Genesis 6:3

3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”

In this lesson we will continue with John's introduction to his Gospel. John the Baptist is brought into the picture using events that some people at the time of his writing would be first hand witnesses.

John 1:6-7

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

This is John the Baptist's calling, not John the author of the Gospel. Jesus was hidden from public view until he was baptized by John. God protected Jesus with obscurity until it was time for Jesus' ministry. Last lesson we saw that Jesus is the light of the world.

John 1:8, 9,

8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

John's assignment was to prepare the way for Jesus' ministry. He called the people to repentance, and identified Jesus when he baptized him. We have the same assignment today. We are to call people to repentance, and introduce them to Jesus.

Malachi 3:1

3 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

God told the Israelis his plans in advance as God always does. John was the wake up call to the Jews as they were in a spiritual slumber. God stopped speaking to them through the prophets for about 400 years at the end of the Old Testament. Jesus did not have to be validated by John the Baptist. John's assignment was to wake up the people to spiritual things so they can see the light of Jesus.

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John 1:10, 11

10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

The world was so corrupt that it didn't recognize its creator. His own, the Hebrews, who are supposedly worshiping him, rejected him.

John 1:12, 13

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

This scripture provides the instructions on how to become a child of God. We are all God's creation, but we are not all God's children. We have to receive Jesus and believe in his name to become born again as God's child.

John 1:14

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is a perfect description of Jesus and his ministry on earth. The “Word of Jehovah” the *davar* from last lesson, became flesh.