

*The*  
GOSPEL OF JOHN

*The*  
HOLY BIBLE

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

*Containing the Gospel of John*



CROSSWAY

WHEATON, ILLINOIS — [ESV.ORG](http://ESV.ORG)

ESV® Bible, The Reader's Gospel of John  
The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)  
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway,  
a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.  
All rights reserved.

ESV Text Edition: 2016

**Permissions notice:** The ESV text may be quoted (in written, visual, or electronic form) up to and inclusive of five hundred (500) consecutive verses without express written permission of the publisher, provided that the verses quoted do not amount to more than one-half of any one book of the Bible or its equivalent measured in bytes and provided that the verses quoted do not account for twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the total text of the work in which they are quoted.

Notice of copyright must appear as follows on the title page or copyright page of printed works quoting from the ESV, or in a corresponding location when the ESV is quoted in other media:

“Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.”

The “ESV” and “English Standard Version” are registered trademarks of Crossway. Use of either trademark requires the permission of Crossway.

Permission requests for use of the anglicized ESV Bible text that exceed the above guidelines must be directed to: HarperCollins Religious, The News Building, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF, UK.

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV) is adapted from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. All rights reserved.

Printed in China  
Published by Crossway  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187, U.S.A.  
crossway.org

Crossway is a not-for-profit publishing ministry that exists solely for the purpose of publishing the Good News of the Gospel and the Truth of God's Word, the Bible. A portion of the purchase price of every ESV Bible is donated to help support Bible distribution ministry around the world.

The ESV Bible is free online and on mobile devices everywhere worldwide, including a selection of free Bible resources, at [esv.org](http://esv.org).

---

RRDS	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

## INTRODUCTION

The account you hold in your hands is a biographical testimony to the life of Jesus. It has been read by millions of men and women since it was written by one of Jesus' disciples a few generations after Jesus lived. Perhaps no other single document has influenced the world as widely and deeply as the Gospel of John.

From earliest days this was called a "Gospel," which means "good news"—John wrote to tell us news of an astonishing series of events. The Gospel of John is not about a heroic ancient figure whom we should strive to emulate, as much other ancient literature is, but rather about what this ancient figure has done on our behalf. Rather than striving to emulate him, we collapse into the freedom of his work in our place—living a life of perfect love and service we could never live, dying a death of rejection and condemnation we deserved to die, and rising to the new life of indestructible glory that we could never achieve.

John quietly shows that Jesus is the fulfillment of every ancient longing and promise of earlier parts of Scripture.

## Introduction

Jesus is the sacrificial lamb who takes away the sin of the world. He is the loving shepherd who cares gently for his wayward sheep. He is the door through which all must come to the Father.

Jesus not only fulfills ancient promises from way back then, he fulfills every longing of the human heart today. He is the bread of life without whom our souls will remain ever hungry. He is the living water without whom our thirst will never be quenched. He is the light of the world without whom our very best days remain shrouded in darkness. He is the true vine without whom our most strenuous efforts at a fruitful and flourishing life finally wither and die away.

John wrote this book to give you Jesus Christ, the only hope in this misery-filled world.

## P R E F A C E

### THE BIBLE

The words of the Bible are the very words of God our Creator speaking to us. They are completely truthful;<sup>1</sup> they are pure;<sup>2</sup> they are powerful;<sup>3</sup> and they are wise and righteous.<sup>4</sup> We should read these words with reverence and awe,<sup>5</sup> and with joy and delight.<sup>6</sup> Through these words God gives us eternal life,<sup>7</sup> and daily nourishes our spiritual lives.<sup>8</sup>

### THE ESV TRANSLATION

The English Standard Version® (ESV®) stands in the classic stream of English Bible translations that goes back nearly five centuries. In this stream, accurate faithfulness to the original text is combined with simplicity, beauty, and dignity of expression. Our goal has been to carry forward this legacy for this generation and generations to come.

The ESV is an “essentially literal” translation that seeks as far as possible to reproduce the meaning and structure of the original text and the personal style of each

---

<sup>1</sup>Ps. 119:160; Prov. 30:5; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18 <sup>2</sup>Ps. 12:6 <sup>3</sup>Jer. 23:29; Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:23 <sup>4</sup>Ps. 19:7–11 <sup>5</sup>Deut. 28:58; Ps. 119:74; Isa. 66:2 <sup>6</sup>Ps. 19:7–11; 119:14, 97, 103; Jer. 15:16 <sup>7</sup>John 6:68; 1 Pet. 1:23 <sup>8</sup>Deut. 32:46; Matt. 4:4

## Preface

Bible writer. We have sought to be “as literal as possible” while maintaining clear expression and literary excellence. Therefore the ESV is well suited for both personal reading and church ministry, for devotional reflection and serious study, and for Scripture memorization.

### THE ESV PUBLISHING TEAM

The ESV publishing team has included more than a hundred people. The fourteen-member Translation Oversight Committee benefited from the work of fifty biblical experts serving as Translation Review Scholars and from the comments of the more than fifty members of the Advisory Council. This international team from many denominations shares a common commitment to the truth of God’s Word and to historic Christian orthodoxy.

### TO GOD’S HONOR AND PRAISE

We know that no Bible translation is perfect; but we also know that God uses imperfect and inadequate things to his honor and praise. So to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to his people—we offer what we have done, with our prayers that it may prove useful, with gratitude for much help given, and with ongoing wonder that our God should ever have entrusted to us so momentous a task.

To God alone be the glory!  
The Translation Oversight Committee

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

JOHN



PROLOGUE:  
THE INCARNATE WORD

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the

*The Gospel according to John*

world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

## THE SIGNS OF THE MESSIAH

**A**nd this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of

whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he

walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him,

“We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus

also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” This, the first of

his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I



will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the

kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly

things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it



## WHAT NOW ?

You have just read an ancient account of what happened when God himself came to earth and took on flesh as a real human being like you and me. But is the Gospel of John only a matter of historical interest or passing spiritual inspiration?

Not at all. If you have never entrusted yourself to Jesus Christ, this is your opportunity to do so. Do not delay. You have just read of Jesus as the light of the world, the shepherd of his sheep, the way and the truth, the resurrection and the life—he is himself the very meaning and purpose of your life. He came to welcome lost sinners into his endless grace. He died on the cross and rose again so that all we need to do to be swept up into his unspeakable love and light is to acknowledge our sinfulness and entrust ourselves to him.

If you have never opened your heart to Christ, consider what you have read in these pages. If you long to know him more deeply, ask the Father to show you who his Son is and how the Son can be yours. Trust him.

Let him walk you into a newness of life such as you never knew was possible.

For more information or other help, please visit  
[crossway.org/WhoIsJesus](http://crossway.org/WhoIsJesus).

## INDEX OF CHAPTERS

Chapter 1. . . . .	page 1
Chapter 2. . . . .	6
Chapter 3. . . . .	9
Chapter 4. . . . .	13
Chapter 5. . . . .	19
Chapter 6. . . . .	24
Chapter 7. . . . .	32
Chapter 8. . . . .	37
Chapter 9. . . . .	44
Chapter 10 . . . . .	48
Chapter 11 . . . . .	53
Chapter 12 . . . . .	59
Chapter 13 . . . . .	65
Chapter 14 . . . . .	70
Chapter 15 . . . . .	73
Chapter 16 . . . . .	76
Chapter 17 . . . . .	81
Chapter 18 . . . . .	84
Chapter 19 . . . . .	89
Chapter 20 . . . . .	95
Chapter 21 . . . . .	99

Below are three suggested reading plans for the Gospel of John: a 3-day reading plan, a 7-day reading plan, and a 21-day reading plan. These will take the reader through the entire Gospel of John in a given period of time with evenly distributed amounts of reading material for each day.

### 3-DAY READING PLAN

Day 1 . . . Prologue and Signs of the Messiah . . . . .	pages 1-65
Day 2 . . . Farewell Discourse . . . . .	65-84
Day 3 . . . Passion Narrative and Resurrection Appearances . . .	84-103

### 7-DAY READING PLAN

Day 1 . . . . .	pages 1-13
Day 2 . . . . .	13-32
Day 3 . . . . .	32-48
Day 4 . . . . .	48-65
Day 5 . . . . .	65-76
Day 6 . . . . .	76-89
Day 7 . . . . .	89-103

## 21-DAY READING PLAN

Day 1.....	pages 1-6
Day 2.....	6-9
Day 3.....	9-13
Day 4.....	13-19
Day 5.....	19-24
Day 6.....	24-32
Day 7.....	32-37
Day 8.....	37-44
Day 9.....	44-48
Day 10.....	48-53
Day 11.....	53-59
Day 12.....	59-65
Day 13.....	65-70
Day 14.....	70-73
Day 15.....	73-76
Day 16.....	76-81
Day 17.....	81-84
Day 18.....	84-89
Day 19.....	89-95
Day 20.....	95-99
Day 21.....	99-103