



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 1:6-7 & 19-28
From Sermon 2.5.23

Read *John 1:6-7 & 19-28*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: As we move through the opening chapter of the Gospel, much groundwork is being placed. The Gospel doesn't build toward a radical finale. Instead, it states, from the outset: the case that Jesus is God and the promised Messiah. If anyone was/is going to doubt the testimony of John the Apostle, he's got a docket of expert eyewitnesses to the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth.

1. As the Apostle John (author) has concluded his opening statements, the first witness for the defense is called to the stand. Who is it? John the Baptist. Baptist is not his denomination. It's his ministry.

[2 Notes: 1) It's now challenging to keep the two Johns (the Apostle and the Baptist) apart and distinguished. The Gospel itself never mentions John the Apostle. In study, we must. Use caution. 2) Baptism did not originate with John the Baptist. It was a common custom of the day for converts to Judaism.]

2. Any standard trial follows a procedure for witnesses. Fill in each step. Then, identify where John the Baptist's account fits.

- Establish their Identity—verse 6 = a man, sent by God, whose name was John.
- Verify their Credentials—verse 23 = Isaiah prophecy of the voice preceding the coming of Christ.
- Hear Their Testimony—also verse 23 and Isaiah 40—He's preparing for Yahweh/God = Jesus
- Cross-Examine the Witness—verse 25. By what authority do you baptize?

3. Ironically, who is called to verify John the Baptist's credibility and credentials? Jesus!

3a. Why is this ironic? Because John is testifying to Jesus' identity and credentials.

3b. What three main evidences does Jesus provide concerning John?

Luke 7:25-28—John is the greatest person ever born (obviously, not counting Jesus)

Matthew 11:13—John is the last of the Old Testament prophets. Same class as Isaiah, Moses, Jeremiah,...

Matthew 17:12-12—John came in the power and office of Elijah

4. Not in our key passage, but who else testifies to John's credentials in the Bible? Various answers. Isaiah, Malachi, the angel Gabriel, his parents, the other three Gospel writers.

5. John is not Elijah reincarnated. He comes in an Elijah role. However, what were some of the similarities between the two, mentioned on Sunday? Both connected to the Wilderness, fiery preaching of Repentance/turning back, & Judgment. See (1 Kings 18:36-37), Issues with a king, both pass on their leadership office and ministry to another...

6. Read the *Luke 3:10-15* account. Note the audience—crowd, tax collectors, soldiers. Note the Message—baptism, repentance, the needed grace of forgiveness.