

SEEING the GLORY of JESUS in JOHN

This April, we invite you to join in reading through John's gospel

Our plan? to read a chapter of John a day

–reaching the story of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday!

Our purpose? John suggests it at both ends of the book

<1:14> to help us see Jesus:

*"we have beheld his GLORY,
the glory of the One and Only, full of grace and truth"*

This is like the glorious revelation on Sinai (Ex 34) only better!

<20:31 - compare 1:7> and so to believe and live!

*"These things have been written that you may BELIEVE
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that, by believing, you might have LIFE in his name."*

The book is full of TESTMONIES to help you see & believe
and promises of new LIFE, which it is GOD's purpose to give in Jesus:

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son
that whoever believes in in him ... would have eternal life." (3:16)*

Key features of John that may help your reading

Seven Signs (like God's deeds of old, but making things NEW)

to SHOW us Jesus' GLORY (2:11)

- ♦ Changing water into wine = "the first sign" (2:1-11)
- ♦ Healing the royal official's son in Capernaum (4:46-54)
- ♦ Healing the paralytic at Bethesda (5:1-18)
- ♦ Feeding the 5,000 (6:5-14)
- ♦ Walking on water (6:16-24)
- ♦ Healing the man born blind (9:1-7)
- ♦ Raising Lazarus (11:1-45)

Frame of the "BOOK of Signs" (ch 2-12)

GOD's Testimony & invitations to "Come and see!" Jesus

Baptism ('of the Lamb of God')

First followers invite others (Andrew & Phillip):

"Come and see!"

- ❖ great vision of the Son of Man
[Jewish: 'Jacob's ladder'] (1:50-51)

Gentiles come via Andrew & Philip

"we would see Jesus"

Father's Voice from heaven

- ❖ greater vision of the Son of Man 'lifted up' (12:23, 32)

Seven "I Am's":

- † Bread of Life (6:35, 48)
- † Light of the World and of Life (8:12, 9:5)
- † Gate for the Sheep (10:9)
- † Good Shepherd (10:11)
- † Resurrection & Life (11:25)
- † Way, Truth & Life (14:6)
- † True Vine (15:1, 5)

Note that each includes the theme of "LIFE for those who see and believe"
pointing us to JESUS as the Living One/the great "I AM" (8:58)

and the One who gives new life:

as Bread of Life, Light of the world = Light of life,

Gate to abundant life

Good Shepherd who lays down his life for us

the Resurrection and Life, the Way, Truth and Life

the Vine in whom we must remain to live

Many scenes at the **FEASTS** in Jerusalem

especially the Passover (2:13, 5:1, 6:4, 7:1, 10:22, 13:1)

READING PLAN

A. (ch. 1-6) Prologue: the Word made flesh (1:1-17)

Book of Signs (Part One)

Ch 6 ends with challenge to believe, but many turn back

B. (ch. 7-12) Book of Signs (Part Two)

Ch 12 ends with challenge to believe, but many reject

**note who sees & believes, and who is blind (many surprises!)

Conclusion (12:37-41): *"Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him..."*

C. (ch. 13-17) Final Words to and for his own

JESUS: preparing to leave, return to the Father

- shows his love (washing their feet... laying down his life)
- then gives NEW commandment:
love each other as I have loved you
- provides for his own
- makes a WAY to (and shows us) the Father
- promises Spirit to guide, and show people Jesus
- gives peace amid tribulation, opposition of the world
- prays for his own (ch 17)

D. (ch. 18-21) Final Acts: Suffering & Glory

*"I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself." (12:32)*