

## Message 1

### THE GOSPEL OF JOHN—A BOOK OF LIFE AND BUILDING

#### I. The Bible Presents Two Main Matters—Christ and the Church (Life and Building)

- A. The Initiation of the Divine Revelation in Genesis 1-2—The Tree of Life, the River, the Precious Materials and Eve, Adam's wife
- B. The Consummation of the Divine Revelation in Revelation 21-22—The Tree of Life, the River of Water of Life, The City-New Jerusalem, The Bride, the Wife of the Lamb

#### II. The Gospel of John a Book of Life and Building Bridging the Two Ends of the Bible

##### A. Christ is our Life—God Himself dispensed and wrought into our being

**John 1:1, 4** <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**John 10:10b** ...I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

**John 11:25a** Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life...

**John 14:6a** Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life...

**John 6:48, 51a** <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>51a</sup> I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever;

**John 4:14** But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water gushing up into eternal life.

##### B. The Church is God's Building—The Enlargement of God to Express God in a Corporate Way

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

**John 1:42, 51** <sup>42</sup> He led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter). <sup>51</sup>And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

**John 2:19** Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

**20** Then the Jews said, This temple was built in forty-six years, and You will raise it up in three days?

**21** But He spoke of the temple of His body.

**John 14:2** In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

#### III. John Chapter One Spans Time From Eternity Past to Eternity Future

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 1:51** And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

**Isaiah 66:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Thus says Jehovah, Heaven is my throne, And the earth the footstool for My feet. Where then is the house that you will build for Me, And where is the place of My rest? <sup>2</sup> For all these things My hand has made, And so all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. But to this kind of man will I look, to him who is poor And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

**Ephesians 2:22** In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

**1 Peter 2:5a** You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house...

**Revelation 21:2-3** <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

#### **IV. God Accomplishing His Purpose through Five Events on the Bridge of Time in John 1**

##### **A. Creation—To Produce a Receptacle to Receive God as Life—John 1:3**

**John 1:3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not one thing came into being which has come into being.

**John 1:4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**Zechariah 12:1** The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. Thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him.

**Romans 10:10, 12** <sup>10</sup> For with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth there is confession unto salvation. <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is *Lord* of all *and* rich to all who call upon Him.

**John 1:12a** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God,

##### **B. Incarnation—God Entering into His Creation to “Tabernacle” as God’s Dwelling Place—John 1:1, 14**

**John 1:1, 14** <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality

##### **C. Redemption—To Remove Our Sins—John 1:29**

**John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world

##### **D. The Anointing—The Spirit Imparting Life, Regenerating, Transforming, and Uniting—John 1:32**

**John 1:32** And John testified, saying, I beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He abode upon Him.

**1 Corinthians 15:45b** ...the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

**Ephesians 4:1-3** <sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup>With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love, <sup>3</sup> Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

##### **E. The Building—For the House of God**

**John 1:42**, He led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter).

**John 1:51** And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

**Matthew 18:20** For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.