

John 1:19 – 50

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~ Our Spiritual Safari continues under the same Guidance we have had since day one when we examined the Guidelines for this tremendous expedition and undertaking. I made it clear at that time I am not your teacher and, while I may lead the way through the Bible, only the Holy Spirit can take the things of Christ and make them real unto you! The Lord Jesus does not need me – or you – for any reason or purpose under the sun, quite frankly. The Word of God has been taught competently for two thousand plus years now without me; and I have no doubt another two thousand could easily be in play with God before the rapture – not to mention the additional time between the rapture and the return of Christ to establish His Kingdom and rule on earth. Each one of us who continue on in the Bible this way are just individual little voices crying in the wilderness, just like John Baptist.

Our first report from John was an Introduction and our second report was a Prologue. If you have not read both of those reports, I highly suggest you go back and do so now. We considered myriad truths as the possibilities of understanding blossomed in the most simplistic of statements. I made a feeble and, perhaps, almost unrecognizable attempt to draw upon the three remarkable statements we have concerning the universe that encompass all of the dimensions concerning our existential being and total realm of comprehension. We considered a statement regarding the Trinity in our last report, from the scientific viewpoint. It's as profound as anything man has or ever will dream up a thousand years from now. The Time, Space and Matter Trinity comprise every thought you make and every breath you take; every thought is formed in a word, so the Word became flesh; and God breathed life into Adam.

Remember, in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. From eternities past, and into implications of eternities to come, that statement of three enjoins everything and everyone. Regarding space, the fact is, we cannot even begin to fathom His ascension

John 1:19 – 50

+ O + O + O +

from Heaven into the earth; and regarding matter – no man hath seen God at any time. However, let's be blunt: Jesus became matter when He became a man and took upon Himself our humanity. What we are considering is the only way we can begin to come to terms with knowing God. We saw the subdivisions of each of these three; that is, of time, space and matter – and our only reasonable conclusions were the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all in all – everything! It all starts there and goes forth from that throne! So simple; so complicated.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the ancient wonder, and He is a wonder in contemporary times. All findings of science considered together are nothing in comparison to the incarnation of God Who became man to reveal Himself to us while redeeming man from sin and unto Himself. Friends, this is simply a remarkable statement. The prologue found in John is nothing short of awe inspiring when understood properly, correctly and completely....

19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

~ John makes no personal background information available. He just begins with a subtle invitation whereby he could make something of Christ. My safari friends – you need to think about this very, very carefully. This is the way Satan is coming at you right now. Satan is going to make you decide if God is primary in your life and occupies first place; or if YOU take the prominent position in your own affairs. Either Christ is increasing, and you are decreasing - or it's the other way around – which is it? These people were cleverly suggesting that John Baptist might be the Messiah. They were indirectly attempting to cause him to make that claim. These people did know about a Messianic Hope if they knew nothing else about Scripture. John makes it very clear that he is not the Messiah....

20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

John 1:19 – 50

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~ I like John's answers that are terse and direct. Notice they become briefer as he is questioned. There's no misunderstanding this man. He said He isn't the Christ, so they just have to keep on hammering him; this crowd never knows when to shut up. This boils down to John giving an emphatic "no!" Of course, that won't quiet them down, either; so, they keep asking John who he is. It's hard to identify a man in a negative saying, "he's not "x," and he's not "y;" they want to know who he IS. Well, as we know, John is the voice of one crying in the wilderness....

22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

~ The Lord Jesus Christ is the Word and John was the voice. Try to understand I am attempting to get a voice onto paper for you to take it back off of again, whoever you are, my beloved readers. So, that is confirmation that I am less than a voice. I like it that way in my ministry. Frankly, I feel like a voice crying in the middle of the ocean. Well, John was happy just being a voice because he had a great message to give: "get ready for the coming of the Lord!" I believe that is what John meant when he said, "... the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." It was "at hand" in the Person of the King, the Lord Jesus.

In this section of Scripture, God says "make straight" – as in, get the crooked things out of your life. My friends, we aren't going very far with God until we get straight the crooked things that are in our lives. Let me spell it out: the things that are wrong, God hates. Once we do confess them and repent, then there is fellowship available to us - but not until. I'm happy being a non-voice because I know the message is greater than me as an individual. Perhaps the best thing about these reports is that a personality isn't really involved. Any man that feels the desire or need to teach on television is narcissistic in my opinion; and I know my opinion isn't popular. I just allow the Holy Spirit to speak through my voice; maybe you

aren't hearing Him? You can accept His teaching, or you can discount it as much as you feel the need to. You might want to be careful, though, because I am declaring the glory of Christ – you can bet your life on that....

24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

~ Every servant must complete every task of his master; and every disciple must do every task except remove the thong out of the teacher's shoe. That was the rule of that day. John says he is a servant – not even claiming discipleship – admitting he is unworthy to even be a servant of God. Well, that's the state and condition John was in....

28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

~ John is constantly tying the One Who came out of eternity and Who was made flesh to a precise geographical location and a chronological point in time. John is gearing God into our calendar and calibrating Christ into our clock down here as we study this Gospel. The Lord Jesus is marked out, and He is identified as our Savior, not just the Messiah. Christ is a complete and Almighty and perpetual Savior. Anyone can come unto the Lord Jesus Christ at any time of the day and at any point in their life. God provided a lamb. Every single one of those slain little lambs throughout Israel's history finds their fulfillment here in the Lord Jesus Who John now singles out....

30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Spirit.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

~ Basically, John Baptist is saying, “.... don’t call me John the Baptist; call the Lord Jesus, Jesus the Baptist!” We have Jesus doing the baptizing now. Only the Lord Jesus can send the Holy Spirit into our hearts to reveal the things of Christ unto us. Water speaks of the baptism on the Day of Pentecost and Baptism by fire speaks to judgment that is to come upon this earth....

35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

~ Verse thirty-six does not add: “....that taketh away the sin of the world” - because that speaks to the world concerning Christ. In the Lamb of God, the Person of Christ is what we are examining. These very subtle and distinct differentiations will mark the difference between you understanding the Bible and not understanding the Bible. So, we see John now is baptizing Jesus....

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

~ Notice this is all geared into a time frame. Well, the invitation today is the same as it was in verse thirty-nine: come and see. Andrew had been a follower of John Baptist. The first thing Andrew did is tell Simon about Jesus. Simon Peter was as weak as water when Jesus said Peter would be called a stone. I think everyone laughed. No one would have dreamed Peter to be the one giving the very first sermon in the early church....

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

~ Well, wise-cracking jokes are always fun, aren't they? Jesus came out of Nazareth, and we see Nathanael laughing at his own joke. Philip isn't laughing when he says to this man, "... come and see." Christ is saying to you, "come and see." The next verse means here is an Israelite in which there is no Jacob! Many people joke around about various things, but they don't mean it, and they don't mean to harm others. It's always good to have a sense of humor. I am, actually, afraid of the man who has no sense of humor....

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

~ **Our Spiritual Safari** expedition through the entire Word of God concludes this report by meeting the first of two doubters we will encounter in the ministry of Jesus. Nathanael is the first, and Thomas will be the second. Nathan made this wise crack, but he confesses immediately that Jesus is the Son of God. In our next report, we are going to see exactly what it means to "see greater things than these." It happens to be one of the greatest of all things we possibly can see! We need to remember this is all tied into Jacob – Israel – and Jacob saw a ladder let down from Heaven. That ladder is going to come down and then we are going to a wedding with Jesus in the next chapter of our Spiritual Safari ~

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