

Life of the Messiah in The Gospel of John

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These statements are considered to be a way for Jesus to reveal his divinity, power, and identity to his audience. The Jews of Jesus' time understood "I am" to be the name of God. Jesus also alludes to the Old Testament passage Exodus 3:14, where God says, "I AM WHO I AM," in John 8:58

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Introduction

The gospel of John is the last of the four gospels. It is also unique from the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. John's gospel is different in style, its focus is primary on Jesus' divine nature, extended theological discourses, and a unique selection of stories not found again in the other Gospels, portraying Jesus more as the "Word" and emphasizing the importance of recognizing his eternal existence with God the Father rather than focusing on earthly details like the Synoptics do. Another thing about John's gospel is that today most modern Jewish communities have made the gospel of John a taboo among its people, stating that John's gospel is offensive, insensitive, and above all is antisemitic. [*See Handout-Antisemitism & the Gospel of John]

They believe that John's gospel only promotes hatred and or antisemitism towards the Jewish community.

But the underlining factors here are that most non-believing Jewish people feel the gospels are a book of heresies and the rejection of Jesus Messiahship is justified. However, when we journey and dive deep into the life of the Jewish Messiah in John's gospel we are going to see how vital and important the proof are that Jesus is the promised Messiah of Israel. We will also correct the misunderstandings and errancy of Jewish belief and unveil many biblical truths in John's gospel that validate again that Jesus is not only the true Jewish Messiah, but is the Son of God and the Great "I AM". The gospel of John is not antisemitic but is very Jewish and explains the differences of placing true faith in God through Messiah verses the misguided religion and practices of his time.

Purpose & reason why John's Gospel is written

In [John.20:30-31] NOTE:

[John 20:30-31]

30So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31**but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in His name.

Date & place of Gospel

Johns Gospel was written in Ephesus Asia minor while John was advanced in age. Scholars suggest and are not 100% accurate on the date of Johns gospel, but it is suspected it was written right between or about 85 to 99AD. Or a few years after 99AD.

Background on Apostle John

- **Who was the Apostle?**
- Proper Hebrew name was Yohanan which means-
- He was the son of-
- John the Apostle was born into a family –
- He was also the younger brother of-

According to church tradition, James and Johns mother Salome was the sister of Mary, Jesus' mother, making Salome Jesus' aunt, and her sons John the Apostle and James were Jesus' cousins. Jesus also referred to John and James as the pair of B'nei Re'gesh or from the Greek "Boanerges" properly translated back to the Aramaic Hebrew meaning: Sons of emotion, thunder, tumult or Sons of anger and agitation. And by this meaning and reason it's not hard to imagine or doubt that they were likely named this because like brothers they were always passionate, emotional, and argued a lot.

- John is also known for being one of the-
- Finally, John is known in his gospel as the one-

- **Johns Authorship** John the Apostle wrote five books of the New Testament which are:

1. Gospel of John -

2. 1st John-

2nd John-

3rd John -

3. The Book of Revelation-

Things that John Cared about in his Gospel

- He Proclaimed that God the Father sent Jesus because he loved the world.
- He Demonstrated that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.
- He Made clear that Jesus fulfilled the old and brought the new.
- He Celebrated that Jesus provided a way.

- He Delighted that the way was open to all.
- He Rejoiced that those who believe enter life now.
- He Explained that just as the Father sent Jesus, Jesus sent out his followers.

The Preexistence of the Messiah

John.1:1-5

We now open the first chapter of Johns gospel with the concept and explanation of who Jesus the Messiah is. In [John.1:1-5] it says:

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. 5. And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.

Identity and preexistence of the Messiah

NOTE:

Starting with [**Verse1**]

Starting with the Hebrew meaning of who and what the word of God is.

NOTE: The Aramaic Hebrew tells us that the Word is called –

NOTE:

[*See Handout the What and who the Memra is]

Who and what is the Memra

Now there are five details that will show us clearly who and what the Memra of God is. In fact in the targums in every place where the sentence appears to say “and the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah or Ezekiel this is a manifestation and revelation of the Memra. In other words every time the word of God was sent to the prophet it was the spiritual manifestation of the Messiah bringing the prophet the word or revelation from God. Now Let’s take a look on who and what the Memra is and how it shows it that Jesus is this person called the memra or the word of God. Starting with:

1. The Memra is the same as God but distinct from God:

NOTE:

2. The Memra is the Agent of Creation:

NOTE:

in [Col.1:16] which says;

16For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

3. The Memra is the Agent of Salvation:

NOTE:

4. The Memra is the manifestation of God's presence:

A.

[Col 2:9] which says; For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form.

B.

NOTE:

And further John says in [1:10]

10He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him
--

Jesus, Gods Memra is the source of life, and He is the source of light for all men because He is the creator of all men. Even though when he appeared men did not recognize Gods Memra before them because they did not know him. Finally, the rabbis tell us that the fifth thing about Gods memra or word is that the memra is;

5.The Agent of Gods Revelation:

NOTE:

As Jesus declared in [John14:9] which says:

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

And in [John 1:18]

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is at the Father’s side, has made Him known.

The book of Hebrews also states clearly that God has personally revealed himself through his Son the Memra [word] in [Heb.1:1-3] it says;

1God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world. 3And He is the radiance [*shekinah*] of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

NOTE:

Jesus has eternal origins and has always existed before anything ever was made as we see this final proof told by the prophet [Micha.5:2]which says;

2“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”

NOTE: