

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

12-24-2023 // WEEK 51 NOTES

John 1-15

The gospel of John is different from Matthew, Mark, and Luke. It's almost as if John had read them and thought they'd missed some of Jesus's important stories, plus teachings about his divinity.

It was Billy Graham's favorite book in the Bible. It was also my dad's. I love it as well.

Chapter 1

John 1 has what is commonly called the prologue. John gives amazing insights that **Jesus is the Word of God and the Word became flesh** (the Incarnation). It has some interesting coordination with **Genesis 1** and the creation narrative. This chapter also has in depth info about **Jesus's call to his disciples**.

Chapter 2

Here is the story of **Jesus's first miracle** at a wedding feast and his unwillingness to state publicly that he is the Messiah.

Chapter 3

John 3 is the in-depth teaching to Nicodemus, a seeking Pharisee, about the need to be born again and what the kingdom of God really means.

Chapter 4

This chapter is primarily the story of the **woman at the well** and how Jesus touches her and she becomes a rabid evangelist for him. It is a great message for all of us as well. **His love can transform all sinners!**

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Chapters 5-13

John 5-13 are different stories of Jesus, again, most of them not found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. They hold some of Jesus's richest teachings about himself.

Note particularly that in these chapters, Jesus gives the **unique "I Am" statements**. They are claims to divinity. They also give insights into his work and nature (I am the bread of life...I am the light of the world...I am the good shepherd...I am the resurrection and the life...I am the way, the truth, and the life...I am the vine—these last two are in **chapters 14 and 15**). **John 13** begins **Jesus's last supper** where he washes his disciples feet.

Chapters 14-15

Here begins what is commonly called "**The Upper Room Discourse**." Jesus is now alone with his disciples during the last supper. In these two chapters (and **chapters 16 and 17** to come), Jesus shares his heart. He gives **intimate teachings regarding what it means to follow him faithfully**. There's a future place in heaven prepared just for us (**chapter 14**). Who the Holy Spirit is and what he can accomplish in us when his power indwells us (**chapter 14**). And what it means to abide in him (**chapter 15**).

Our year in the Bible is almost complete. What a journey it has been!

David