



**JESUS IS THE LIFE**



**ARE WE READY FOR LIFE WITH JESUS?**



**JESUS**

**I AM THE WAY**

**I AM THE TRUTH**

**I AM THE LIFE**

## PART ONE: JESUS IS THE LIFE.

### 1. **BREAKING NEWS:** The Word is a Person.

- (John 1:1–2 ESV) In the beginning **was** the Word, and the Word **was** with God, and the Word **was** God. 2 **He was in the beginning with God.**

**A. REVIEW:** The Word was in the beginning because the Word was always existing; the Word was with God in the closest possible relationship; the Word was God.

**B.** In verse two the Word is identified as “he.”

**TRANSITION:** By the use of “he” (*Gk. οὗτος-houtos*) the Word is now identified, not merely as an impersonal entity (i.e. the philosophical logos with a distinct and independent existence), **but as a person who was existing with God in the beginning.**

### 2. All things were made through this Person, hold together in him and through him we exist.

- (John 1:3 ESV) **All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.**

**A.** All things were made through him and nothing was made that was made without him.

**B.** All things are held together by the word of his power.

- (Colossians 1:16–17 ESV) **For by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things were created through him and for him**. 17 And he is before all things, **and in him all things hold together**.
- (Hebrews 1:2–3a ESV) But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, **through whom also he created the world**. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, **and he upholds the universe by the word of his power**.
- (Romans 11:36 ESV) **For from him and through him and to him are all things**. To him be glory forever. Amen.

**C.** Through him are all things and through him we exist.

- (1 Corinthians 8:6 ESV) Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, **and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist**.

### 3. In this preexistent Person who is God was life ... and the life in him was the light of men.

- (John 1:4 ESV) **In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

**Life ...** ζωή [zōē] ... life (literally or figuratively); the state of one who is animate—alive or having life.

**Life source ...** the inherent capacity for producing (and maintaining) living beings.

**Light ...** φῶς [phos] ... light; anything emitting light; any object that serves as a source of illumination.

**A.** In him (the Word) was/is the totality—the whole, the sum—of all life both material and spiritual.

- (Psalm 36:9 ESV) **For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.**

**B.** The life in him is the sole source of illumination for the light that overcomes the darkness and reveals the way for us to escape the darkness.

- (1 Peter 2:9 ESV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, **that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

- (Colossians 1:13 ESV) **He has delivered us from the domain of darkness** and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

**C.** The light testifies to the powerful, absolute, undivided, exclusive, unique nature of the life.

**D.** There is **no other light** that is light (*as in not darkness*) than that which is emitted from the life.

**E.** Jesus proclaimed himself to be the life.

- (John 14:6 ESV) Jesus said to him, “I am **the way**, and **the truth**, and **the life**. **No one comes to the Father except through me.**”

### 4. His life emits the only light that shines in and overcomes the darkness.

- (John 1:5 ESV) **The light shines in the darkness**, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**A.** There is no other light shining in the darkness because all other lights are darkness.

**B.** It is the Spirit who prepares a person’s spiritual eye to receive the light that issues from the life.

**C.** The true light then overcomes the darkness so that the person may believe and receive the life.

- (Acts 26:18 ESV) **To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light** and **from the**

power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

**D. A bad eye receives light transmitted from sources other than the life.**

- (Matthew 6:22–23 ESV) The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!
  - i. If a person has a bad eye and receives light transmitted from other sources, then the light in that person is darkness.
  - ii. There is no greater darkness than this.

**E. EXAMPLE: The people of this world love the darkness and hate the light because they accept light that emits from sources other than the life.**

- (John 3:19–20 ESV) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

**F. It is only God's tender mercy that he shines his light on those who sit in darkness to guide our feet into the way of peace. [Zechariah's Prophecy regarding his son John the Baptist ...]**

- (Luke 1:77–79 ESV) ... to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**PART TWO: JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS SENT BY GOD TO PREPARE THE WORLD FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE LIGHT OF LIFE BECAUSE SAVING LIGHT IS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF FALLEN HUMANS.**

**1. John was sent by God to give witness to the light that shines in darkness to prepare people's hearts and minds to receive that light.**

- (John 1:6–8 ESV) There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light,

that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

**2. John was specially prepared for the work.**

**A. His birth was a miracle—his parents were very old and his mother was barren.**

- (Luke 1:7 ESV) But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.
- (Luke 1:11–14 ESV) And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

**B. He was a great man who was named by God and was filled with the Holy Spirit even before he was born.**

- (Luke 1:15 ESV) For he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.
- (Matthew 11:11a ESV) Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.

**C. His ministry was prophesied by Isaiah.**

- (Isaiah 40:3 ESV) A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

**3. John was a powerful, well-known prophet of God who rivaled the power of the religious elite.**

**A. He was challenged by the priests and Levites regarding his identity — Who are you?**

- (John 1:19–23 ESV) And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 So they said to him, "Who are you?" We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 He said, “**I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness**, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet **Isaiah** said.”

**B. Anticipating their most urgent question he told them he was not the Christ**

**C. Neither was he Elijah or the Prophet (Moses).**

**4. John’s purpose and authority were also challenged by the Pharisees — WHY ARE YOU BAPTIZING?**

- (John 1:24–27 ESV) (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, “Then **why are you baptizing**, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26 John answered them, “**I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know**, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

**A. John did not directly answer the question but directed their attention to Christ.**

**B. The purpose of John’s baptisms was preparation, not salvation.**

- (Isaiah 40:3–5 ESV) A voice cries: “In the wilderness **prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God**. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 **And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed**, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

**C. His first step of preparation was to call them to humility in repenting of their sins.**

- (Mark 1:1–4 ESV) The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, **who will prepare your way**, 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: **‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’**” 4 **John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**
- (Luke 3:2–4 ESV) During the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of

Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, **proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins**. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: **‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.**

- (Acts 13:24 ESV) Before his coming, John had **proclaimed a baptism of repentance** to all the people of Israel.

**D. They did not know and would not know the Christ without this preparation.**

**PART THREE: HERE COMES THE TRUE LIGHT.**

**1. There was only one light which came into the world to give light to everyone.**

- (John 1:9–10 ESV) **The true light**, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 **He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.**

**2. The Word who is the light came to his own people but they did not receive him.**

- (John 1:11 ESV) He came to his own, and **his own people did not receive him.**

**3. But to all who did receive light from his life and believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God who were born of the will of God.**

- (John 1:12–13 ESV) **But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**