

# JOHN

## John: The Gospel of Gospels

© 2020 Moses C. Onwubiko

Edited Sermon—9/27/20

### John 1:11-13

#### Lesson 9: Rejection & God's Offering of Hope

<sup>11</sup>He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup>But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

#### Let us pray...

Let us be clear about what the Bible says regarding the Word Incarnate. Scripture tells us that God's Son was rejected both universally and nationally, by the world at large and by the nation Israel. But there were some who accepted Him, and many are still accepting Him today. Who are they? Are those believing in Christ operating on a blind faith? These questions and more will be answered in our study.

First, let us consider the foundation of our faith. We'll examine three important truths in this lesson, assurance of faith, prophecies concerning Christ, and universal offering of hope.

Let's begin with the first of the three truths.

#### 1. Assurance of believers' Faith

How can I get to know for sure that the historical Jesus who died on the cross 2,000 years ago was truly God's Son and that my faith in Him will truly save me

from the eternal Lake of fire? After all, I was not there to witness these historical events; I did not witness His incarnation. How can I know these claims are accurate and true?

To answer this important question, we link today's lesson to a portion of our last message, specifically on prophecies regarding positive identification of the incarnate Son of God.

**Turn with me to Gen. 3:15:** the Lord promised a Savior. Jehovah-God was the first evangelist of human history. On the crusade ground were six persons, Jehovah-God the evangelist, God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, Adam and Eve and Satan:

“And I will put enmity Between you [Satan] and the woman [Mary], And between your seed [demon] and her seed [Jesus Christ]; He [Jesus Christ] shall bruise you on the head, And you [Satan] shall bruise him on the heel.”

The phrase “her seed” was a reference to the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, and the ‘**seed**’ specifically refers to Jesus Christ.

Thousands of years later, this promise made in the Garden was narrowed down to Abraham. Turn to **Gen. 22:18:** we read: “In your *seed* all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

How can we be sure that the word *seed* is a reference to Jesus Christ? The answer is in Gal. 3:16. Turn there with me:

“Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as referring to many, but rather to one, ‘And to your *seed*,’ **that is, Christ.**”

In this passage the apostle Paul identified Christ as Abraham's promised seed.

But **the REAL question** still lingers, how can we be so sure that He has come? We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God; we believe that there was a promise made in the Garden; we know that the promise was narrowed to Abraham, but how can we be so sure that the promise seed has come? Until we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the seed has come, our faith in Him is on sinking ground.

This brings us to the second point.

## **2. Reexamination of prophecies concerning the coming of God's Son.**

### **A. Six Prophecies Concerning the Coming of God's Son**

1. He will come from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10; Isa. 11:1-10).
2. He will be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
3. He will experience a virgin birth (Isa. 7:14).
4. The specific time of His birth was prophesied (Dan. 9:25).
5. A forerunner will come before Him (Mal. 3:1).
6. He will perform Messianic miracles (Isa. 35:5, 6).

We agree with Scripture. We know there were prophecies regarding the coming Savior, but the question is, have these prophecies been fulfilled? This question brings us to the next point.

#### B. Fulfillment of prophecies Concerning the Coming of God's Son.

1. Jesus Christ was born from the line of Judah, He's called "the lion of Judah," and son of David (Rev. 5:5; Matt. 1:1; 21:9; Rom. 1:8; 2 Tim. 2:8).
2. He was born in Bethlehem as prophesied (Matt. 2:1).
3. He came through a virgin birth as prophesied (Matt. 1:18-23).
4. His time of birth was according to Daniel's prophecy (Luke 2:25-32).
5. His forerunner came before Him as prophesied (Matt. 3:1-3)
6. He performed Messianic miracles as prophesied (Matt. 11:2-6; John 6:14).

Jesus Christ fulfilled every prophecy regarding the coming Messiah. Therefore, He has come! Christian faith is not a blind faith. It's a faith that rests on fulfilled prophecies! Dr. Luke, a physician, and scientist didn't just accept everything people told him about Jesus Christ, he investigated. Luke 1:1-4

Reading from (BSB):

"Many have undertaken to compose an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by the initial eyewitnesses and servants of the word.... Therefore, having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."

Dr. Luke puts it this way: so that you may know the *certainty* of the things you have heard concerning Jesus Christ, God's Son. It wasn't just hearsay; it's a fact. The apostle's claims were thoroughly investigated.

Israel rejected their Messiah because of their prolonged state of apostasy. They had been away from God for so long—400 years! Their rejection led to the death and resurrection of Jesus which paves the way for salvation and becomes good news for everyone. The good news is found in John 1:12, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name.”

This brings us to the third and final point.

### 3. Universal Offering of Hope

Although, God’s Son was rejected by the world at large, although He was rejected by the nation Israel, God now turns His attention to every individual, regardless of race, who will accept Him for whom He claims to be—God’s Son. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world... This is good news—a message of hope to everyone.

The word ‘**whosoever**’ is a personal matter. Salvation is a personal issue. Whosoever will accept Him, God gives the right, the privilege to be in the family of God. *In the family of God Himself?* God gives you the right to be in a relationship with Him. That’s incredible! That’s the greatest story of all time!

John goes on to tell us in v. 12b, that this amazing right is given only to those who exercise faith in Him alone, “*even* to those who believe in His name.” A name speaks of a person. In the ancient time, a name is the makeup of the individual. The name of Jesus represents His Person. This brings us to v. 13:

“<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

John uses three negatives to describe our spiritual birth:

- It’s not of blood—male and female gametes
- It’s not of the flesh—physical birth (see. John 3:5-6)
- It’s not of the will of the husband—a man deciding to have a child.

Rather, spiritual birth originates from God. It’s God who initiated man’s redemption; it’s God who sent His Son; it’s God who offered Him as a sacrifice; it’s God who judged Him on the cross. It’s God who sent His Holy Spirit to enlighten us regarding Christ’s work on the cross. The apostle Paul highlights the truth in **2 Cor. 4:6**, “For God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light [illumination] of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” This is grace unparalleled!

All that is required in salvation is that by faith alone, we accept Christ's finished work on the cross, His death, His burial, and resurrection. The risen Savior! The living Savior. That's our Savior, the Rock! In Him, and Him alone, our faith rests!!

In 1834 **Edward Mote** wrote "The Solid Rock"<sup>1</sup> a powerful hymn that has been sung for over a century...a song that has blessed many hearts:

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

- 2 When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.
- 3 His oath, His covenant, His blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.
- 4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found;  
In Him, my righteousness, alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.

I find it interesting that this verse is omitted from most hymnals today:

*I trust His righteous character;  
His council, promise, and His power;  
His honor and His Name's sake  
To save me from the burning lake;*

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Robert J. Morgan, *Then Sings My Soul* (Nashville: Tennessee, Thomas Nelson Publishers 2003), p. 110