

John 1b

John 1:15-

15 Though Jesus was born six months after John, John declares that He (the Word made flesh) was before him. In Hebrew tradition the elder was held in greater respect. Jesus was in the beginning!

16 'full of grace' verse 14 – We have received the overflowing of that abundant grace. Romans 8:9; 1Corinthians 1:5 We have received so much that we take it for granted.

17 Moses was the mediator of the Law. Jesus is the mediator of grace and truth. Hebrews 8:8-12

18 The monogenes – the only child of God. No man can see God, but Christ was with God before He became man. Matthew 11:27

19 – 20 The religious scouts asked if John the Baptist was claiming to be the Messiah – the anointed One. He clearly told them that the Christ would come after him. Mark 1:7,8

21 How about Elijah? Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:10-12 Are that Prophet? Deuteronomy 18:15-18

22-23 John the Baptist says he is the one predicted by Isaiah 40:3-5. See the prophecy about John in Luke 1:76-79

24 –25 Baptism was a symbolic act of a radical conversion. The Jews baptized Gentile converts to Judaism. Greek cults had mock burials of their initiates. What authority did John have to demand that Jews needed such a radical change?

26 –28 John doesn't directly answer the question. He says that he is only using water. (The Greek can be translated 'with' or 'in' water) There is One in their midst that they do not recognize. Unworthy to untie His sandals means to be His most humble servant. Other passages go on to say, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire! Matthew 3:11 The Bethany beyond Jordan was over in another governor's territory. Remains of a baptism area have been found that may have been built up over the area where John baptized.

29 John had the confirmation in His spirit that Jesus was the One. Genesis 22:7,8 Abraham had foretold that God would provide a lamb. Isaiah 53:7

30-34 John says that this is the One he has been telling them about. His confirmation was the vision of the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. John clearly says he would not have known it was Him except that this sign was fulfilled.

35 – 37 John again calls Jesus the Lamb of God. Two of John's disciples leave to follow Jesus.

38 –39 Jesus asks them what they want. They refer to Him as teacher. He invites them to where He is staying. Some scholars believe Jesus may have had relatives in another community of Davidic descendents, Kochaba. It was in that area and kept the records of the Davidic lineage.

40 - 42 Andrew was one of the disciples that left John to follow Jesus. He went to get his brother and told him that they had found the Messiah. These boys were from the Northern shores of Galilee. One of the cities of that region was the birthplace of the Zealot movement. They were looking for a militant Messiah. There had already been many crucified at crossroads in that region because of their resistance to Rome.

Jesus changed Andrew's brother's name from Cephas (Aramaic for rock) to Peter (Greek for rock). Perhaps this was a foreshadowing of the fact that he would have the revelation to take the message to the Gentiles.

43 – 45 Jesus called Philip and Philip called Nathaniel.

46 Nathaniel was skeptical that Nazareth could produce the Messiah. Shouldn't He come from the prophesied place of His birth, the city of David – Bethlehem? Or at least Jerusalem?

47 – 49 Jesus gave Nathaniel a sign. Perhaps he had been in prayer to God under his fig tree when Nathaniel called him. Jesus showed him that He was omniscient.

50 – 51 Is that all it takes to convince you? I'm the Ladder of Genesis 28. I'm the intersection of heaven and earth.