

# Summary sheet for John 1 vs 19-51 – (part A - vs 19-28)



GOAL of this 1-2-1 study

That we'd want to know more about John's claims that Jesus is the long awaited 'Saviour' sent by God

## Context – how does this passage fit in?

In the first 18 verses John introduced his readers to Jesus Christ – he is the eternal divine Word became flesh. Now, by using snapshots from John the Baptist's ministry and the early days of Jesus' ministry, John gives us a 2<sup>nd</sup> introduction to Jesus Christ. John makes the point in vs 19-51 that Jesus, the man in history, really is the promised Messiah (God's King) who has come to fulfil what God has promised in the OT.

## Impact on us

John wants us to take seriously the huge claims John the Baptist makes about Jesus, and realize just how significant they are, so that we'll want to read on and find out more...

## How John writes to make his point

After his prologue, John gives us a 2<sup>nd</sup> introduction to Jesus. John the Baptist is held up as a key witness to Jesus, someone who is obviously taken very seriously by the religious and social leaders of the day (the priests, Levites and Pharisees all want to find out who he is). The fact that he insists on pointing them to Jesus rather than himself means our expectation of Jesus is even greater.

To underscore his claims in ch 1vs1-18 John now invites us to share in the experience of John the Baptist and the first disciples as they 'come', 'look', 'see' and 'found' the Word who became flesh – God on earth.

### Structure

1vs19-34 **"I have seen!"** – John the Baptist

1vs35-51 **"We have found!"** – The disciples

## John's references to the Old Testament and why they matter – vs 19-28

John peppers this passage with references to Old Testament promises, to drive home the point that Jesus really is the one for whom humanity has been waiting. In 1vs19-28:

- **"Voice crying in the wilderness"** – John the Baptist identifies himself as the person mentioned in Isaiah 40v3 who would herald God's arrival on earth to rescue his people. If the herald has sounded, that means God's arrival is imminent...

## Some questions to consider – vs 19-28

**Considering the text1:** What does the Q&A session in vs 19-28 tell us about who the Jews were expecting?

**Considering the text2:** What does this Q&A session tell us about John the Baptist?

**Considering the text3:** What does John say the Jews should be expecting when they see Jesus? (Read Isaiah 40vs1-11 for more details)

**One to keep chewing on:** If you were hearing John's witness statement for the first time, what impression would you have of Jesus at this point?

What expectations and questions do you now have about Jesus' arrival?