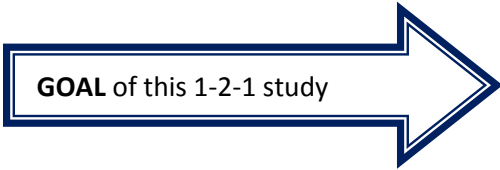


Summary sheet for John 1 vs 19-51 – (part B - vs 29-51)



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

Impact on us

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

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 2nd 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.

How John writes to make his point

After his prologue, John gives us a second introduction to Jesus. He does this by taking us through the 'first week' of Jesus' ministry – notice the repetition of the 'the next day', etc. In order to show that the claims he made about Jesus in vs 1-18 really did happen historically, 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 the Messiah!"** – John the Baptist
1vs35-51 **"We have found the Messiah!"** – The disciples

John's references to the Old Testament and why they matter – vs 29-51

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 1vs29-51:

- **"The Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world"** John the Baptist points to Jesus as the fulfilment of the Passover lamb who averts God's punishment by being killed instead of God's people in Exodus 12.

- **"He baptises with the Holy Spirit"** – John the Baptist declares that the Spirit will remain on Jesus permanently and Jesus will give the Spirit promised in Ezekiel 36vs25-28 who enables people to love and obey God.

- **"Christ/Messiah/Son of God"** – OT titles for the ruler and king who God promised would rule perfectly forever.

- **"The Prophet"** – God told Moses – one of the greatest prophets (along with Elijah, also mentioned) that he would raise up another similar prophet who would be the true teacher of Israel.

- **"Angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man"** – Jesus talks of himself as the ultimate gateway to God – referring to Jacob's dream in Genesis 28v12.

Some questions to consider – vs 29-51

Opener: What people, if you met them, might mean that your life wouldn't be the same again?

Considering the text1: As John the Baptist deliberately focuses the spotlight on Jesus in vs 29-34, what claims does he make about Jesus?

Considering the text2: In vs 29-34 John is referring to Exodus 12 and Ezekiel 36vs25-28, saying that Jesus is now here to fulfil them. How do these passages deepen our understanding of the claims John is making?

Considering the text3: How would you describe what the 2 disciples discovered when they met Jesus in vs 35-42?

Considering the text4: How does our author John develop his portrait of Jesus through the encounter with Nathanael in vs 43-51?

One to consider: Our author has packed this passage with references to the Old Testament. What's our overall impression of who Jesus is? What expectations and questions are we left with by this passage?