**The Gospel of John:**

**Jesus—Greater than All Else**

*John 3:31-36*

**John 3:31-36**—“*He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.****32****What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.****33****He who has received His testimony has set his seal to this, that God is true.****34****For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.****35****The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.****36****He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*

**Context**

In this section of scripture there is a transition occurring between the old covenant to the new covenant. There is some overlap between JTB and Jesus and their disciples in terms of calling people to repentance and purification (baptism). After JTB reminds his disciples that He is not the Christ and tells them that Christ must increase and he must decrease, he gives a host of reasons why Christ is superior to all else—including himself.

**John 3:30**—*He must increase, but I must decrease.*

1. **Truths on the Supremacy of Christ**
2. **Christ comes from above**

**John 3:31**—“*He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.*

1. Jesus comes down from Heaven **from above**—is the same Greek word translated “born again” in 3:3, 7. There are many passages regarding the One who “descended from heaven” (3:13, cf. 6:33, 38, 50-51, 58; 8:23, 13:3; 16:28; 17:8, 1 Cor. 15:47; Eph 4:10)
2. John is of the earth

**Earth**—not referring to moral issues, but simply human limitations

1. **Christ has seen and heard directly  
     
   John 3:32**—*What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.*   
   **John 3:11**—*Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.*
2. Jesus speaks of things from His Father

**John 8:26**—*I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.”*

**John 15:15**—*No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

1. They do not believe

**John 1:9-11**—*There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.****10****He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.****11****He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.*

**1 Corinthians 2:14**—*But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*

**Ephesians 2:1**—*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins*

**2 Corinthians 4:4**—*In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

1. **God has set His seal to Christ’s authority**

**John 3:33**—*He who has received His testimony has set his seal to this, that God is true.*

1. There are those who do believe  
     
   **set His seal**—In ancient times, important documents were sealed with a signet ring (Genesis 41:42; Esther 3:10; Daniel 6:17). It is a sign of complete acceptance and approval.[[1]](#footnote-1)
2. God has authenticated His Son and is true

**John 17:17**—*Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

**Romans 3:4**—*May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, “That You may be justified in Your words, And prevail when You are judged.”*

**Titus 1:2**—in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago

**Matthew 17:5**— *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”*

**John 14:6**—*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*

1. To reject that testimony results in death

**1 John 5:10**—*The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.*

**John 8:24**—*Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”*

1. **God gives the Spirit without measure to Christ**

**John 3:34**— *For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure*

1. *Jesus is He whom God has sent (3:17; 4:34; 5:24, 30, 36-38; 6:29, 38, 44 et al.)*

**Matthew 10:40**—“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

**Mark 9:37**—“Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me.”

**Luke 4:18**—“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.  
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set free those who are oppressed,

1. Jesus has the fullness of the Spirit upon Him

**John 1:32-33**—John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. **33**I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’

**Isaiah 11:2**— The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him,  
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The spirit of counsel and strength,  
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

**Isaiah 42:1**—“Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold;  
My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights.  
I have put My Spirit upon Him;  
He will bring forth justice to the nations.

**Colossians 2:9**—For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form

1. **God has given all things into Christ’s hand**

**John 3:35**—*The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.*

1. God loves the Son  
     
   **John 5:20**—*For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.*

**John 17:23**—*I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.*

**Matthew 3:17**—*and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”*

1. God has put all things under His authority  
     
   **Matthew 11:27**—*All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

**Matthew 28:18**—*And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

**1 Corinthians 15:27**—*For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.*

**Ephesians 1:22**—*And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church*

**Philippians 2:9-11**—*For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,****10****so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,****11****and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

1. The MacArthur Commentary, John MacArthur, John 1-11, p. 131. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)