

*"He came to his own..." (1:11a)*

- "His own" highlights the unique relationship one would expect Jesus had with the Jews. Yet, the very people who should have gladly received Him continually rejected him.

*"... and his own people did not receive him." (1:11b)*

ESV **Isa. 53:1** Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

The true light received

*"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name..." (1:12a)*

- Yet again, John's purpose shines through (John 20:30–31). Who is the Word? He is Jesus in the flesh, and He came to be received.

*"... he gave the right to become children of God..." (1:12b)*

*"... who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, not of the will of man, but of God..." (1:13a)*

- Using three negative terms, John reminds his readers that spiritual life does not come from any human merit or privilege. It depends fully on what Jesus has accomplished.

**Jesus came to be received, so what does that mean?**

**Have you received Jesus?**

**What does it mean to be a child of God? How does that impact your day-to-day life?**

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**Who is the Son of God?**

The Incarnation According to John  
No. 2 | He is the Prophesied Messiah

**John 1:6–13**

## Review

John's Gospel begins with a theological prologue highlighting the Person of Jesus Christ (1:1–18). It summarizes how the Son of God took on humanity, becoming the Jesus of history, to uniquely and perfectly reveal God's glory and grace.

## Who is the Son of God?

### He is the Prophesied Messiah

**No. 2**

ESV **John 1:6–13** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <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.

### How does John explain the identity of the Son of God?

#### He is the true light, as attested by John the Baptist (1:6–8)

Who is John the Baptist?

Why is John the Baptist mentioned here?

John the Baptist provides a historical setting from which Jesus's earthly ministry begins. The Word's first public "appearance" came through the testimony of a man who was sent by God to "prepare the way of the Lord."

ESV **Isa. 40:3** A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

(Cf. Matt. 3:3; Mark 1:2–3; Luke 3:4–6; John 1:23)

God sent John the Baptist to bear witness about the light

*“There was a man sent from God whose name was John.” (1:6)*

The Old Testament regularly refers to God sending prophets: (See 2 Chron. 24:19; 25:15; Jer. 7:25; 25:4, etc.)

Jesus and the Jews believed John the Baptist was a prophet of God

ESV **Luke 7:26** What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup> This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.” <sup>28</sup> I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John...

(See also Matt. 21:26; cf. John 1:33; 3:28)

God sent John the Baptist to accomplish His purpose:

*“... that all might believe through him.” (1:7b)*

ESV **John 20:30–31** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Purpose is different than results (cf. 1:10–11)

*“He was not that light, but came to bear witness about the light.” (1:8)*

Why is this significant?

It prevents possible confusion or misunderstanding  
(Cf. Luke 3:15; John 1:19; Acts 19:1–7)

John the Baptist not only serves as a witness to the Word, but also as a contrast:

(According to John 1:1–8)

<u>The Word (Jesus)</u>	<u>John the Baptist</u>
- Eternal	- Had a beginning
- Creator	- Created
- God	- A man
- The true light	- Witness to the light

A later summary of John’s ministry...

ESV **John 10:40** [Jesus] went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. <sup>41</sup> And many came to him. And they said, “John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.” <sup>42</sup> And many believed in him there.

### He is the true light: received and rejected (1:9–13)

*“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.” (1:9)*

- “True” refers to that which is real, or genuine, and is regularly used that way throughout John’s Gospel (4:23; 6:32; 15:1; 7:28)
- The true light “... shines on every man, and divides the race: those who hate the light respond as the world does (1:10): they flee. But some receive this revelation (1:12–13), and thereby testify that their deeds have been done through God” (Carson, 124)
- The light “coming into the world” refers to the incarnation, which is what the rest of John’s Gospel is all about

The true light rejected

- “World” is repeated 3x in v. 10, highlighting solemn irony

*“He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him” (1:10)*

- “Did not know” refers to more than just an intellectual reaction, but a willful rejection and refusal to believe