

January 16–22

John 1

We Have Found the Messiah



The Light of Christ

John 1:1-3

What do we learn about Christ in verse 3?

Spencer W. Kimball

"The worlds were created, organized, and made to function by Jesus Christ our Lord, all this at the instance of and under the direction of his Father Elohim, our Heavenly Father. Abraham knew, as we know, that the works of God in all creations were infinite, purposeful, efficient, limitless." (CR, April 1960)

The Light of Christ

John 1:4-5,9-14

What is given to everyone who “cometh into the world”?

What must someone do to comprehend and be enlightened by the light of Christ?

Richard G. Scott

"The ability to have an unsettled conscience is a gift of God to help you succeed in this mortal life. It results principally from the influence of the Light of Christ on your mind and heart. The Light of Christ is that divine power or influence that emanates from God through Jesus Christ. It gives light and life to all things. It prompts all rational individuals throughout the earth to distinguish truth from error, right from wrong. It activates your conscience. Its influence can be weakened through transgression and addiction and restored through proper repentance. The Light of Christ is not a person. It is a power and influence that comes from God and when followed can lead a person to qualify for the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Ghost." (CR, Oct. 2004)

D&C 84:46

And the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit

Enzio Busche

"When the Spirit of the Lord is withdrawn even in part, we feel it, though we may know little or nothing about the gospel of Jesus Christ or the plan of salvation.

When any child of God breaks any of the laws of God, which are the laws of righteousness, the Spirit of Christ, which, according to the scriptures, gives 'light to every man' will be withdrawn to some degree. Shadows of darkness will fall upon the soul, and, in this state, an awareness of what is happening to us is essential."

(CR, April 1989)

Mormon 5

16 For behold, the Spirit of the Lord hath already ceased to strive with their fathers; and they are without Christ and God in the world; and they are driven about as chaff before the wind.

18 ...or as an vessel is tossed about upon the waves, without sail or anchor, or without anything wherewith to steer her; and even as she is, so are they.

John the Baptist

John 1:6-8,19-21

JST John 1:21-22

21 And he confessed, and denied not that he was Elias; but confessed, saying; I am not the Christ.

22 And they asked him, saying; How then art thou Elias? And he said, I am not that Elias who was to restore all things. And they asked him, saying, Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

Joseph Smith

"[John the Baptist] came crying through the wilderness, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' And they were informed, if they could receive it, it was the spirit of Elias; and John was very particular to tell the people, he was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light...."

"The spirit of Elias is to prepare the way for a greater revelation of God, which is the Priesthood of Elias, or the Priesthood that Aaron was ordained unto. And when God sends a man into the world to prepare for a greater work, holding the keys of the power of Elias, it was called the doctrine of Elias, even from the early ages of the world." (TPJS, pg. 335)

John The Baptist

John 1:24-27

James E. Talmage

"This was the way by which the Baptist declared his inferiority to the Mightier One, who was to succeed and supersede him; and a more effective illustration would be difficult to frame. To loosen the shoe latchet or sandal thong, or to carry the shoes of another, 'was a menial office betokening great inferiority on the part of the person performing it.' (Smith's Dict. of the Bible.) A passage in the Talmud (Tract. Kidduschin xxii: 2) requires a disciple to do for his teacher whatever a servant might be required to do for his master, except the loosing of his sandal thong. Some teachers urged that a disciple should carry his humility even to the extreme of carrying his master's shoes. The humility of the Baptist, in view of the widespread interest his call aroused, is impressive." (Jesus the Christ, pg.128)

John Bears Witness of Christ

John 1:29-34

What did John tell his disciples about Jesus?

What sign did John see that made it clear the Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost?

Jeffrey R. Holland

"Looking up from water's edge, past the eager crowds seeking baptism at his hand, John, called the Baptist, saw in the distance his cousin, Jesus of Nazareth, striding resolutely toward him to make a request for that same ordinance. Reverently, but audible enough for those nearby to hear, John uttered the admiration that still moves us two millennia later: 'Behold the Lamb of God.'

It is instructive that this long-prophesied forerunner to Jesus... chose the earliest and perhaps most commonly recognized image in the religious tradition of his people. He used the figure of a sacrificial lamb offered in atonement for the sins and sorrows of a fallen world and all the fallen people in it." (CR, April 2019)

JST John 1:30,32

30 And John bare record of him unto the people, saying, This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man who is preferred before me; for he was before me, and I knew him and that he should be made manifest to Israel; therefore, am I come baptizing with water.

32 And I knew him; for he who sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending and remaining on him, the same is he who baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Lawrence E. Corbridge

"John the Baptist said that while he baptized with water, Jesus baptized 'with the Holy Ghost.'

"Nothing in this life is of greater worth than the supernal gift of the Holy Ghost. It is the source of joy, peace, knowledge, strength, love, and every other good thing. With the Atonement, it is the power by which we may be changed and made strong where we are weak.... It is the power by which the Lord makes Himself manifest unto those who believe in Him. Every good thing depends on getting and keeping the power of the Holy Ghost in our lives. Everything depends on that." (CR, Oct. 2008)

Disciples of John

John 3:28,30

28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

30 He must increase, but I must decrease

Disciples of John

John 1:35-42

Do we know who the unnamed disciples was?

Why did Andrew and John start following Jesus?

What was Jesus' invitation to Andrew and John when they asked "what seek ye"?

What did Andrew come to know after spending a day with Jesus?

James E. Talmage

Two of the Baptist's followers, specifically called disciples, were with him when for the second time he expressly designated Jesus as the Lamb of God. These were Andrew and John; the latter came to be known in after years as the author of the fourth Gospel. The first is mentioned by name, while the narrator suppresses his own name as that of the second disciple. Andrew and John were so impressed by the Baptist's testimony that they immediately followed Jesus (Jesus the Christ, pg. 140)

David B. Haight

“I’ve often reflected upon the experience of when John and Andrew, these two young men, were introduced to the Savior by John the Baptist and they followed the Savior and stayed with Him that day, as it is recorded by John. They were in His presence. They would have shaken hands with Him. They would have known the inflection in His voice. They would have heard Him testify who He is, that He came to do the will of the Father. They would have been in that holy presence. After having that experience, Andrew had to share it with somebody, so he found his brother Simon and took him to Jesus.... The holiness and personal influence of the Savior made an ordinary Simon into an extraordinary Apostle.” (CR, Oct. 1996)

Jeffrey R. Holland,

“You will recall that when Andrew and another disciple, probably John, first heard Christ speak, they were so moved and attracted to Jesus that they followed Him as He left the crowd. Sensing that He was being pursued, Christ turned and asked the two men, ‘What seek ye?’... They answered, ‘Where dwellest thou?’ or ‘Where do you live?’ Christ said simply, ‘Come and see.’ Just a short time later He formally called Peter and other new Apostles with the same spirit of invitation. To them He said, ‘Come, follow me.’

“It seems that the essence of our mortal journey and the answers to the most significant questions in life are distilled down to these two very brief elements in the opening scenes of the Savior’s earthly ministry. One element is the question put to every one of us on this earth: ‘What seek ye? What do you want?’ The second is His response to our answer, whatever that answer is. Whoever we are and whatever we reply, His response is always the same: ‘Come,’ He says lovingly. ‘Come, follow me.’” (CR, Oct. 1997)

David O. McKay

"Accepting the invitation of Jesus to go with Him to the place where He stayed, these two men remained with Him, listening to His words all the rest of the day. When they left, they believed that Jesus was the King of Israel, the Savior of the world. Thus they became, in that day the first two, beside John the Baptist, to believe in Jesus.

"Whenever we have anything which is really good, we always desire to share it with one we love. It was so with these two brothers. They no sooner felt the divine influence that radiated from the Savior than they were filled with a desire to bring those whom they loved under that same influence. Andrew went out to find his brother Simon, and John to find his brother James." (Ancient Apostles, pg. 13)

Disciples of John

John 1:43-51

What was Philip's invitation to Nathanael who questioned whether any good could come from Nazareth?

George Albert Smith

“Philip, one of the disciples of the Savior, recommended to Nathanael who was visiting with him. Philip said, The Lord has come.’ ...

“Nathanael had been taught to believe that no good could come from Nazareth, and yet he was the man whom the Savior later referred to as an Israelite without guile, a good man, but deceived because of the stories that he had heard.

“But when he once learned, when he had accepted the invitation of the disciples to ‘Come and see,’ he came to see.

“We have had great joy under the influence of His Spirit. We would like everybody to enjoy that blessing, and so when they have asked, ‘What kind of people are these here?’ our answer has been, ‘Come and see.’” (CR, Oct. 1949)

George Albert Smith

“If people disagree with us, if our Father's other children do not believe the gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in this latter day to the Prophet Joseph Smith, that ought not to incur our displeasure. It ought to enlist our sympathy, because if we know, as Philip knew when he testified of the man who came from Nazareth, we could invite our friends to come and see. If we are just as sure as that, we will let our light so shine that others, seeing our good works, will be constrained to glorify our Father in heaven.” (CR, Oct. 1949)

Next Week:

January 23–29

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”

