

The Last Gospel

The gospel of John is unique among the four gospels. Matthew starts with a genealogy, Mark and Luke with the ministry of John the Baptist. But John, who writes some 60 years after the birth of the New Testament church, starts with something totally different ...

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

In his gospel, John is on a mission to prove that Jesus Christ is exactly who He said He was – the True and Only God in a body of flesh.

Much Old Testament poetic literature was written in what might be called CODED form; this made it easier to memorize. In Psalm 119, each of the 22 sections is labeled by one letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and each of the 8 verses in that section starts with that letter. In Lamentations, each of the chapters is a poem with a similar "acrostic" pattern. In the book of Esther, which had to pass through the hands of the Persian censor, the name of God did not appear once – until the Jewish Rabbis looked at the "hidden code" of the Hebrew language and found the name YHWH buried in five different places (1:20, 5:4, 5:13, 7:5, 7:7).

To put it bluntly, the Jewish scholars missed absolutely nothing – not even the finest detail – in regard to the Holy Scriptures. It is absolutely astonishing that they could know so much about God's divine arrangement and completely miss God's divine atonement! One of the "details" that the Jews were absolutely fanatical about was the name of God. God had revealed this name to Moses at Mount Horeb when he called him to be Israel's deliverer from Egypt.

I AM THAT I AM or I AM – This was the original form spoken to Moses by God Himself, carrying within it the concepts of being the Eternal and Self-Existent One, a being who is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient. ("I AM ... everything you need!")

YHWH or YAHWEH – This name comes from four consonants (YOD, HEH, VAV, HEH) in Hebrew, and is called the TETRAGRAMMATON. Because ancient Hebrew was written only in consonants, those who read it aloud had to supply the vowel sounds. To actually translate this name into English, we would say, "The Eternal." And in the English language, we would use the consonants **JHVH** or pronounce **JEHOVAH**.

Leviticus 24:16 And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.

The Jews, after returning from the Babylonian captivity (450 BC) began to reverence the name "Yahweh" so greatly that they outlawed the very use of it, first for the common people, later for the priests. Finally, only the high priest was allowed to say it, and then only on the Day of Atonement. When Simon, who was the last high priest permitted to use it, died in 270 BC, a total prohibition against saying the name came into force among the Jews. "Adonai" became the substitute word.

ADONAI or ADON – This was a Hebrew word meaning "Lord," used as a substitute for YHWH. When it was read, the Jewish congregation would reply "HA SHEM" or "THE NAME." This eventually became the only way the Jews would refer to the proper name of God.

BY THE TIME OF JESUS' EARTHLY MINISTRY, THE JEWS HAD NOT HEARD THE PROPER NAME (YHWH) OF THE GOD THEY WERE SERVING FOR OVER 300 YEARS!

That is why John's gospel is so striking! He is the only gospel writer who intentionally records the "I Am" statements of Jesus – it is invisible in English versions of the Scriptures, but obvious in the ancient languages – "Ego Eimi." Suddenly, a carpenter from Nazareth is casually using the proper name of God – the name they have not been allowed to say for over 300 years – to describe Himself! **But Jesus had a right to use God's name because HE WAS GOD!** The Jewish religious leaders were outraged – they understood who Jesus was claiming to be, even if some modern theologians do not!

The Hebrew "code" which is obscured in English was painfully obvious to the Jewish religious leaders every time Jesus spoke! The phrase "I Am" (Greek: "Ego Eimi"), appearing to us as just another pronoun and verb, identified Him to them as YAHWEH!

John 4:24-26 (TO THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, **I** that speak unto thee **am** (he). **(I AM)**

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, **I am** the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life..

John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 11:25 (TO MARTHA AT LAZARUS' TOMB) Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 14:6 (TO THOMAS) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 13:13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

John 8:24 (TO THE PHARISEES) I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am (he), ye shall die in your sins. **John 8:28** Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am (he), and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. **John 8:58-59** Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Matthew 14:27 (TO THE DISCIPLES, WALKING TO THEM ON THE WATER) But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. **(TAKE COURAGE, I AM)**

John 18:5-6 (TO THE SOLDIERS ARRESTING HIM) They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am (he). And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am (he), they went backward, and fell to the ground.

Mark 14:62 (TO THE HIGH PRIEST AT HIS TRIAL) And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Jesus has enraged the Sanhedrin repeatedly by using the unutterable name of God, but this time He has done it in a court of law. They rush their prisoner to Pilate and demand that He be crucified. Even though Pilate is seemingly impressed with Jesus, they force him to carry out the execution through political pressure. Pilate is powerless to save the Nazarene, even though he wants to.

John 19:19-22 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

In an unusual move, Pilate himself writes an inscription and has it placed on the cross of Jesus. In three languages (Hebrew, Greek and Latin) it says: "**Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.**" Just another epitaph to the Greeks and Romans. But as "many of the Jews" begin to gather and read the inscription over this Galileean, the Chief Priests suddenly see that they have a problem.

They rush to Pilate insisting, "Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews." Pilate's firm answer is, "What I have written I have written." Literally, he says, "What I have written, I will not change one bit!" What was the problem that so upset these scholars of the Law?

Written over Jesus' head in Hebrew was, "**Yeshua HaNazarei v-Melech HaYehudim.**" But to the Jewish leaders, the "Bible Code Experts," all they could see was the pattern of a condemning acrostic, as the first letter of each word (YOD, HEH, VAV, HEH) unerringly spelled out "**YHVH**" for all to see! **It was not a carpenter's blood that was being shed that day, but Yahweh's blood!**

| HaYehudim | v Melech | HaNazarei | Yeshua |
|-------------|----------|------------|----------|
| הַיְהוּדִים | וּמֶלֶךְ | הַנַּזְרֵי | יֵשׁוּעַ |
| ה | ו | ה | י |
| H | W | H | Y |

Even after their enemy was dead, the Chief Priests were still nervous! They came to Pilate demanding Roman guards to secure the tomb until after the third day (Matthew 27:62-66). Pilate told them to use their own guards, and once again made a puzzling remark – "Go your way, make it as sure as you can." He is literally laughing at their efforts now – "Do your best to keep Him in the grave, but if THAT MAN said He's going to rise from the dead, He's going to rise from the dead!

I am firmly convinced that Jesus was who He said He was – Almighty God! Others call for us to lay down our distinctive "Oneness, Jesus Name" message, but the early church had power precisely because they were so sold out to this awesome revelation!

Colossians 3:17 An whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

John's gospel culminates with the inspired revelation of doubting Thomas in chapter 20 – when Thomas realized the significance of a mortal wound in the body of a living man, he immediately put a title of respect (KYRIOS – “SIR, MASTER”) together with the absolute title of Deity (THEOS – “SUPREME DIVINITY”), exclaiming, "My Lord and my God!" in John 20:28. The New Testament Apostolics never used "KYRIOS" after this to address anyone except Jesus.

John 20:28-29 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

John 20:30-31 And many other **signs** truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have **life** through his name.

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

John's gospel was the last gospel written – to the CHURCH. It is the gospel of the ONENESS REVELATION, which is the most powerful revelation in Scripture. And it is THE revelation of the endtimes!

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

Zechariah 14:7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.

Zechariah 14:9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.