

John's Flash Bang

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Larry: Office Closed. Night of Hope. Married Couples.
- B. Slide5 Sun Night of Prayer: tonight 6:30-7:30.
- C. Slide6 Freedom Gala this Sat: Awareness & fund raiser for Destiny Rescue. They just celebrated the rescue of its 3,000th *trafficking survivor* from the sex trade.
 1. Become a part of *the freedom story* for 100's of children around the world.

II. Slide7,8 Intro: John's Flash Bang

- A. A Flash Bang or Stun Grenade momentarily activates *all photoreceptor cells in the eye* blinding it for approximately 5 seconds. Afterwards, the victim sees an *after-image* that impairs his or her *aim*. The loud blast temporarily deafens the victim and also disturbs the fluid in the ear, causing loss of balance.
 1. John starts his gospel with *a flash bang*. See John and the apostles *tripped, staggered & were blinded* multiple times for over 3 years, figuring out *Jesus was the Messiah*.
 2. John doesn't want *you & I* to go through that. So John blasts into the room of our minds, *fast, sudden & w/o warning* w/a spiritual *stun grenade* that briefly *shocks, astonishes, dazes* us right from the beginning...Slide9...that **JESUS IS GOD!**

III. Slide10 Book Intro:

- A. The Gospel of John. My 4th time through John (and NT).
- B. The Authorship of John. This is the *Apostle John, the disciple whom Jesus loved* (5 x's) [Jn.21:20 *Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper*].
 1. So this is a close account, not someone writing a 100 years later trying to figure it out. No, this was *an intimate friend* writing his *Divinely Inspired Witness*.
- C. Why did John write a 4th gospel? (last written, known as 4th) [all seem to be b4 *Jer's dest* AD70]
 1. Slide11 Matthew wrote to the Jews. Portrays Jesus as *Messiah*. *Tells us what Jesus said*
 2. Mark wrote to the Romans. Portrays Jesus as *Servant*. *Tells us what Jesus did*.

3. **Luke** wrote to **the Greeks**. Portrays Jesus as **The Man**. *Tells us what Jesus felt.*

4. **John** wrote to **the world**. Portrays Jesus as **Divine**. *Tells us who Jesus was.*

D. John writes **topically** not chronologically.

1. We also get **6 miracles** we didn't know about. **The upper room teachings** (ch14-17). **And**, we learn **over 90% of John** is **unique** to his gospel.

E. **Slide12 Key verse:** Jn.20:30,31 *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **believing** you may have life in His name.*

1. **Slide13 Deity** - **Jesus is the Christ** (to make His deity **crystal clear**).

a) **Coin:** 2 sides of a coin are both valid. So Jesus has 2 natures, both valid.

b) Even ends with **Thomas' testimony** of Jesus, *my Lord & my God.*

2. **Slide14 Belief** - *that believing you might have life in His name* [**Believe** is key word. **98 x's**]

IV. **Slide15 JESUS PREINCARNATE (1-5)**

A. **Genesis** starts with *In the beginning*, God speaking **creation** into existence. **John** starts with *In the beginning*, God speaking **salvation** into existence.

B. **Jesus' Relationship to THE FATHER** (1,2)

C. **Slide16a He is Eternal** (He always existed) *3 genealogy's?*

1. **Mt.1** gives us Jesus' genealogy through **Joseph**, going back to **Abraham**, to show the **Jews**, His **legal** rt to the throne.

2. **Lk.3** gives us Jesus' genealogy through **Mary**, going back to **Adam**, to show the **Gentiles**, His **natural/genetic** rt to the throne.

3. **John's intro** gives us Jesus' genealogy through **eternity**, going back to **His Father**, to show the **World**, His **sovereign** rt to the throne.

D. **Slide16b Jesus the Word** is Preexistent.

1. **Jesus was with God**. **Jesus** is distinct from God the Father (Jesus was *with God*), and yet they have an intimate relationship with each other.

2. **Jesus was God.** They also share the same **character, quality and essence** of God (Jesus **was God**). **So, a distinction between and yet a unity in** all other regards.

E. **Slide17a** He's introduced as **The Word** (*logos*) - He's one w/the very **being & mind** of God

1. He is the *expression & intelligence & will & power* of God.
2. The fact that He is **the Word of God** shows us that He wants to **communicate** with people.
3. **Slide17b** A **word** is composed of **letters**, & Christ is the **alpha & omega** (& includes every letter in-between) who **spells out God's love to us...in word's we can understand**
4. God had been revealed in part **through nature & history**, **but now** is known **through His Son**.
 - a) **When an OT Prophet said, thus saith the Lord**, their words were accepted as God's words, because they spoke as **representatives of God**.
 - b) **In the East**, representatives who carry messages from the King are **honored** with the **honor** due a king. **The kings words must be respected and obeyed**. Any remark against his utterances would be regarded as an offense against his own person.

F. **Slide18a Jesus' Relationship to THE WORLD** (3-5)

G. **He is Sole Creator** (nothing exists that He didn't make)

H. Creation is the universal proof of the reality of God. It clearly testifies that an awesome Creator must exist.

1. John comes out of the shoot with the fact that the **origin** of our world is **creation**.

2. **The world was made through Him** (10) [*i.e.* not just blind chance]

I. **He is Light & Life** (His life gives light to everyone; the darkness can't extinguish it)

1. 1st creative act by God (Gen.1) was producing **light**, for **life** comes from **light**.

J. **Jesus was uncreated**. **All things were made through Him/Jesus**. Creation back in Genesis came through *the Divine Word* when Yahweh spoke forth the universe into existence.

1. **Physical matter** did not give rise to **life**. **Life** gave rise to **matter**. **Once** there was only **life** and no **matter**. **Then** that personal **life** created **matter**, and there was both **life** and **matter**.

2. Slide18b Let me hit the pause button. Be *worshipful* as you read this book.

a) Think of Jesus as creator. Think of the Potter forming the clay... *only it's much more than that*. See, He **made** the **clay**, He **made** the **water**. [*He formed me! yes, but He made you & sustains you also*]

K. Jesus is the **Life** giver. *In Him was life*. The Word is the source of **life**, both **physical** through the creation of all things, **and spiritual** looking ahead (6:35 *I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst*).

1. Throughout his gospel John will view **life** mainly as: *new life, spiritual life, saving life, the gift of eternal life*.

L. Jesus is the **Light** giver. **Light**. Speaking to the initial act of *creation*, **also** a metaphor for *salvation* and *spiritual awakening*.

M. Slide19 Note: This is what it means to be **God**. *Where did God come from mommy?*

1. God didn't come from anywhere, He was always there. He never had a beginning. He was there before anything else was there. He made everything else. There wasn't anything before God. (John Piper, Jn.1)

2. God is life. He is alive. He is a living person. Not a human person. But a divine person. Alive, doing something like thinking and feeling for all of eternity. As far back as you can go in eternity, *forever and ever and ever and ever*, there is one changeless reality - **life**. Divine, personal life. **Ultimate** reality, **absolute** reality, **original** reality is alive. *In Him was life*.

V. Slide20,21 **JESUS INCARNATE (6-13)**

A. **JOHN** (6-8)

B. **Bear witness** - *This gospel is a record of testimony, & shows that faith is belief founded upon evidence*. (Erdman)

1. Slide22a What the **moon** is to the **sun**, **so John** is to **Jesus**.

2. The **moon** being *the lesser light* that reflects the **sunlight**.

- C. John the author/apostle gives *eye witness* in vs.14, *and we beheld His glory*.
- D. Slide22b,c (7) *Believe* - John's Gospel never uses the *noun* *faith*, always the *verb* *believe*.
1. This stylistic difference makes John's presentation of salvation much more *concrete & immediate*. An *active, relational* reality *more than* a static concept.
 2. *Faith* is a *verb* in John's Gospel: *something to act upon and live out, not just to behold*.
- E. Slide23 (10,11) 2 of the saddest verses in the bible.
1. Slide24 In Wales there is a village, *Beddgelert*, the name of which means "**The grave of Gelert**". There is a famous legend about this Gelert, which was a *dog*, the hound of *Llewellyn the Great*. One day, on returning to his castle, Llewellyn found *his child* lying dead, & the hound Gelert *laying beside it*. Llewellyn at once plunged his sword in to the poor animal, only to discover too late a huge *wolf* had attacked the child, & the faithful hound had *slain it*. In his blind rage, Llewellyn had killed a *faithful friend*.
 - a) In a far more terrible sense, that is what *all Christ-rejectors* are doing today.
- F. (12) *But* the Gospel of John isn't only about the *tragedy* of *unbelief*, it is also the great drama of the unfolding of *faith*.
1. Jesus' presentation of *salvation* is interesting. He *narrates* salvation into being through leisurely conversation, intimate personal relationships, compassionate responses, passionate prayer, and putting it all together, in a *sacrificial death*. *You don't casually walk away from words like that*. [adapted from Eugene Peterson, intro of John in MSG]
- G. *Received* - if the doctors said, *this flu vaccine works for everyone*. We would know he means *everyone who takes it*. So in vs.9, *the true light enlightens everyone*, that is *everyone* who *receives it*.
- H. Slide25 (13) *This new birth is:*
1. *Not of Blood* – not by heredity or inheritance. [*also*, not over & over again (think Nic)]
 2. *Not of the will of the flesh* – not by natural instinct.
 3. *Nor of the will of man* – not by human volition.

4. Slide26 But of God – by the *direct, supernatural exercise* of divine power.

- I. Slide27 End: In the early 1800's, **President Andrew Jackson** issued a **full pardon** to **George Wilson**, a man sentenced to be hanged. Wilson refused it. **But could he legally refuse the President's pardon?** Supreme Court Justice John Marshall declared, "*The value of the pardon depends upon its **acceptance**. If it is **refused**, it is **no pardon**. George Wilson must hang.*" And Wilson was hanged.
 1. To pardon **your sin**, *Christ shed His blood on the cross*. The price was paid. **But** each individual must first **receive** this **forgiveness**.
 2. Everything hangs on this **other birth**, this 2nd birth, being born again, being *born of God*. Without this...we are *spiritually **dead** and **spiritually blind***.
 - a) **The remedy?**...sending Jesus into the world as the **light of life** to *lay down His life* for **yours**.