

Ten Terms or Phrases That Tell Who Jesus Is
John 1:1-51

Introduction

We will pause from our series on Christian Evidences to lay a foundation for an upcoming lesson on the Implications of the Resurrection of Christ. This lesson will focus on ten terms or phrases found in the Gospel of John chapter one. These terms or phrases tell us most of what we need to know about Jesus. These will become claims made by Jesus that will need to be proved. Let's consider these ten very unique identifying terms of identity for Jesus.

- I. Jesus is the Word. – 1:1-2
 - A. This term comes from the word *logos* in the Greek.
 1. This is a very ancient word in the Greek.
 2. A Greek friend of mine explained that this term is a reference to deity.
 3. *Logos* was the “cause” of all things having its beginning.
 - B. John affirms that Jesus is *Logos*, the *Cause* for the beginning of all things. “All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made.”
 - C. The Word (Jesus) is God the Creator. – Colossians 1:15-16 and Hebrews 1:8-12
- II. Jesus is the true Light. – 1:7
 - A. In the beginning, the first thing that entered the creation was light. – Genesis 1:3.
 - B. Light has always been associated with God. – 1 John 1:5
 - C. Jesus came announcing about himself, “I am the Light of the world.” – John 8:12
 1. The Light came into the world to expose what was in the darkness. – John 3:16-21
 2. Those who love the truth love and walk in the Light – 1 John 1:7.
 - D. In Christ, we become lights in the world. – Ephesians 5:8, Matthew 5:14-16
- III. The only begotten Son – 1:14-18 (Note: The oldest manuscripts say, “only begotten God.” Read John 1:18 in the NASB.)
 - A. John introduces us to the uniqueness of the incarnate Word.
 - B. The phrase “only begotten” is best translated “one and only.” This refers to the uniqueness of Jesus compared to the rest of us.
 1. He has no human father.
 2. He one of a kind. There is no one else like him.
 - C. This means that Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. – Revelation 1:8, 11.
- IV. The LORD – 1:23
 - A. This is a quote showing the fulfillment of Isaiah 40:3.

- B. The “LORD” here is the covenant name of God, Yahweh, also known as Jehovah.
Other supporting verses: Exodus 3:14-15 and John 8:58; Isaiah 45:22-25 and Philipians 2:9-11. Also Read Jeremiah 23:5-6
 - C. John identifies Jesus as Yahweh of the Old Testament and John the Baptizer as his prophet and harbinger.
- V. Lamb of God – 1:29
- A. Jesus is the Lamb predicted by Abraham. – Genesis 22:8.
 - B. Jesus is our Passover lamb. We are saved by his blood. – 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19.
 - C. John sees a vision of Jesus as a Lamb slain – Revelation 5:6,12
- VI. The Son of God – 1:34
- A. This is not referring to his physical birth (as some mistakenly believe).
 - B. This is his divine title that speaks of his equality with the Father. Read John 10:30-33.
- VII. Rabbi / Teacher – 1:38-39
- A. The Pharisees were the only ones who used the term “rabbi” – Matthew 23:6-8
 - B. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as a teacher who had come from God. – John 3:2
- VIII. Messiah – 1:41
- A. Messiah and Christ mean “Anointed One, or “Chosen One.” Read Psalm 2:1,2
 - B. This is also a title used interchangeably with the title “Son of God.” – Matthew 16:16
 - C. Dozens of Old Testament passages speak of the Anointed One who would deliver his people. – Example: Isaiah 61:1
 - D. The Jews people were waiting for their Deliverer, the Messiah.
- IX. King of Israel – 1:49
- A. The Son of God, the Messiah, was expected to be the King of Israel.
 - B. The King of Israel is the same as the “Son of David.” – Isaiah 9:6,7 and John 18:33-37
 - C. Jesus is enthroned on the throne of David, the throne of the Lord, today as King of kings. – 1 Timothy 6:15
- X. The Son of Man – 1:51
- A. This is the title that speaks of his physical birth, his human relationship to King David.
 - B. The Word who with God and was God became human. – John 1:14
 - C. Jesus, who is equal to the Father and is himself God, emptied himself to become a bondservant (slave) and became obedient even to the point of death. – Philipians 2:5-11
 - D. Only as the Son of Man could Jesus be the Lamb of God and the Savior we needed.

Conclusion

This is a remarkable text of scripture. It is unique in its many terms given to Jesus. In one chapter we are introduced to almost every term of identification for us to know who Jesus is.