

JOHN, THE GOSPEL OF BELIEF

John 1.19-51: *First Witnesses*

A **The ministry of John (1.19-34)**

John 1:19 This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" **20** And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." **21** They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." **22** Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" **23** He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

John 1:24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. **25** They asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" **26** John answered them saying, "I baptize ¹in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. **27** "It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." **28** These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **30** "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' **31** "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." **32** John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. **33** "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' **34** "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

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B **The first disciples (1.35-51)**

John 1:35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, **36** and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" **37** The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. **38** And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" **39** He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. **40** One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. **41** He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). **42** He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

John 1:43 The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." **44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." **46** Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." **47** Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" **48** Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." **49** Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." **50** Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these." **51** And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."