

~JOHN 3 (1175)

[English equivalent of Jehohanan, meaning, Yehowah Has Shown Favor, Yehowah Has Been Gracious]

- Becomes Christ's Disciple
- Identifying John In His Gospel
- John's Later History
- Personality

- The apostle **John**, son of Zebedee and Salome.
- Moreover, many women were there viewing from a distance, who had accompanied Jesus from Galilee to minister to him. (**Matthew 27:55**)
- Among whom was Mary Magdalene, also Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. (**Matthew 27:56**)
- There were also women viewing from a distance, among them Mary Magdalene as well as Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome. (**Mark 15:40**)
- And brother of the apostle James likely James younger brother, as James is usually named first where both are mentioned.
- The names of the twelve apostles are these. First, Simon, the one called Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James the son of Zebedee and **John** his brother. (**Matthew 10:2**)
- And he formed a group of twelve, whom he also named apostles, that they might continue with him and that he might send them out to preach. (**Mark 3:14**)
- And the group of twelve that he formed were Simon, to whom he also gave the surname Peter. (**Mark 3:16**)
- And James the son of Zebedee and **John** the brother of James, he also gave these the surname Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder. (**Mark 3:17**)
- Simon, whom he also named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and **John**, and Philip and Bartholomew. (**Luke 6:14**)

- When he reached the house he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter and **John** and James and the girl's father and mother. (**Luke 8:51**)
- In actual fact, about eight days after these words, he took Peter and **John** and James along and climbed up into the mountain to pray. (**Luke 9:28**)
- So, when they had entered, they went up into the upper chamber, where they were staying, Peter as well as **John** and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the zealous one, and Judas the son of James. (**Acts of Apostles 1:13**)
- Zebedee married Salome of the house of David, possibly the natural sister of Mary the mother of Jesus.
- Background. **John's** family seems to have been fairly well situated. His father Zebedee employed hired men in his fishing business, in which he was partner with Simon.
- And after going a little farther he saw James the son of Zebedee and **John** his brother, in fact, while they were in their boat mending their nets. (**Mark 1:19**)
- And without delay he called them. In turn they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and went off after him. (**Mark 1:20**)
- For at the catch of fish which they took up astonishment overwhelmed him and all those with him. (**Luke 5:9**)
- And likewise both James and **John**, Zebedee's sons, who were sharers with Simon. But Jesus said to Simon; Stop being afraid. From now on you will be catching men alive. (**Luke 5:10**)
- Zebedee's wife Salome was among the women who accompanied and ministered to Jesus when he was in Galilee.
- Moreover, many women were there viewing from a distance, who had accompanied Jesus from Galilee to minister to him. (**Matthew 27:55**)

- Among whom was Mary Magdalene, also Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. (Matthew 27:56)
- There were also women viewing from a distance, among them Mary Magdalene as well as Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome. (Mark 15:40)
- Who used to accompany him and minister to him when he was in Galilee, and many other women who had come up together with him to Jerusalem. (Mark 15:41)
- And she took part in bringing spices to prepare Jesus body for burial.
- So when the Sabbath had passed, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices in order to come and grease him. (Mark 16:1)
- **John** evidently had a house of his own.
- Therefore Jesus, seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing by, said to his mother; Woman, see! Your son! (John 19:26)
- Next he said to the disciple; See! Your mother! And from that hour on the disciple took her to his own home. (John 19:27)
- Zebedee and Salome were faithful Hebrews, and the evidence indicates that they raised **John** in the teaching of the Scriptures. He is generally understood to be the disciple of John the Baptizer that was with Andrew when **John** announced to them; See, the Lamb of God! His ready acceptance of Jesus as the Christ reveals that he had a knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- Again the next day **John** was standing with two of his disciples. (John 1:35)
- And as he looked at Jesus walking he said; See, the Lamb of God! (John 1:36)
- Andrew the brother of Simon Peter was one of the two that heard what **John** said and followed Jesus. (John 1:40)

- First this one found his own brother, Simon, and said to him; We have found the Messiah, which means, when translated, Christ. (John 1:41)
- He led him to Jesus. When Jesus looked upon him he said; You are Simon the son of John; You will be called Cephas, which is translated Peter. (John 1:42)
- While it is never stated that Zebedee became a disciple of either John the Baptizer or of Christ, it appears that he offered no resistance to his two sons becoming full-time preachers with Jesus.
- When John and Peter were brought before the Jewish rulers, they were viewed as unlettered and ordinary.
- This did not mean, however, that they had no education or were unable to read and write, but meant that they had not received their training at the rabbinic schools. It is stated, rather, that they began to recognize about them that they used to be with Jesus.
- Now when they beheld the outspokenness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were men unlettered and ordinary, they got to wondering. And they began to recognize about them that they used to be with Jesus. (Acts of Apostles 4:13)

••Becomes Christ's Disciple

- After being introduced to Jesus as the Christ in the fall of 29 C.E, John undoubtedly followed Jesus into Galilee and was an eyewitness to His first miracle at Cana.
- Now on the third day a marriage feast took place in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. (John 2:1)
- Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the marriage feast. (John 2:2)
- When the wine ran short the mother of Jesus said to him; They have no wine. (John 2:3)
- But Jesus said to her; What have I to do with you, woman? My hour has not yet come. (John 2:4)
- His mother said to those ministering; Whatever he tells you, do.

(John 2:5)

- **As it was, there were six stone water jars sitting there as required by the purification rules of the Jews, each able to hold two or three liquid measures. (John 2:6)**
- **Jesus said to them; Fill the water jars with water. And they filled them to the brim. (John 2:7)**
- **And he said to them; Draw some out now and take it to the director of the feast. So they took it. (John 2:8)**
- **When, now, the director of the feast tasted the water that had been turned into wine but did not know what its source was, although those ministering who had drawn out the water knew, the director of the feast called the bridegroom. (John 2:9)**
- **And said to him; Every other man puts out the fine wine first, and when people are intoxicated, the inferior. You have reserved the fine wine until now. (John 2:10)**
- **Jesus performed this in Cana of Galilee as the beginning of his signs, and he made his glory manifest, and his disciples put their faith in him. (John 2:11)**
- **He may have accompanied Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem, and again on his return through Samaria to Galilee, for the vividness of his account seems to stamp it as that of an eyewitness to the events described. However, the record does not so state. (John Chapters 2-5)**
- **Nevertheless, John did not leave his fishing business for some time after becoming acquainted with Jesus. In the following year, as Jesus walked alongside the Sea of Galilee, James and John were in the boat with their father Zebedee repairing their nets.**
- **He called them to the full-time work of being fishers of men, and the account by Luke informs us. So they brought the boats back to land, and abandoned everything and followed him.**
- **Walking alongside the sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, letting down a fishing net into the sea, for they were fishers. (Matthew 4:18)**
- **And he said to them; Come after me, and I will make you fishers**

of men. (**Matthew 4:19**)

- At once abandoning the nets, they followed him. (**Matthew 4:20**)
- Going on also from there he saw two others who were brothers, James the son of Zebedee and **John** his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. (**Matthew 4:21**)
- At once leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. (**Matthew 4:22**)
- And likewise both James and **John**, Zebedee's sons, who were sharers with Simon. But Jesus said to Simon; Stop being afraid. From now on you will be catching men alive. (**Luke 5:10**)
- So they brought the boats back to land, and abandoned everything and followed him. (**Luke 5:11**)
- And after going a little farther he saw James the son of Zebedee and **John** his brother, in fact, while they were in their boat mending their nets. (**Mark 1:19**)
- And without delay he called them. In turn they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and went off after him. (**Mark 1:20**)
- Later they were selected to be apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The names of the twelve apostles are these. First, Simon, the one called Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James the son of Zebedee and **John** his brother. (**Matthew 10:2**)
- Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector, James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus. (**Matthew 10:3**)
- Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed him. (**Matthew 10:4**)
- **John** was one of the three most intimately associated with Jesus. Peter, James, and John were taken to the mountain of transfiguration.
- Six days later Jesus took Peter and James and **John** his brother along and brought them up into a lofty mountain by themselves.

(Matthew 17:1)

- **And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone as the sun, and his outer garments became brilliant as the light. (Matthew 17:2)**
- **Accordingly six days later Jesus took Peter and James and John along, and brought them up into a lofty mountain to themselves alone. And he was transfigured before them. (Mark 9:2)**
- **In actual fact, about eight days after these words, he took Peter and John and James along and climbed up into the mountain to pray. (Luke 9:28)**
- **And as he was praying the appearance of his face became different and his apparel became glitteringly white. (Luke 9:29)**
- **They only of the apostles were allowed to enter the house of Jairus with Jesus.**
- **Now he did not let anyone follow along with him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. (Mark 5:37)**
- **When he reached the house he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter and John and James and the girl's father and mother. (Luke 8:51)**
- **They were privileged to be the ones taken by Jesus farther than the others into the garden of Gethsemane on the night of his betrayal, although at that time even they did not realize the full significance of the occasion, falling asleep three times and being awakened by Jesus.**
- **And taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he started to be grieved and to be sorely troubled. (Matthew 26:37)**
- **And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter; Could you men not so much as watch one hour with me? (Matthew 26:40)**
- **Keep on the watch and pray continually, that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit, of course, is eager, but the flesh is weak. (Matthew 26:41)**
- **Again, for the second time, he went off and prayed, saying; My**

Father, if it is not possible for this to pass away except I drink it, let your will take place. (**Matthew 26:42**)

- And he came again and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. (**Matthew 26:43**)
- So leaving them, he again went off and prayed for the third time, saying once more the same word. (**Matthew 26:44**)
- Then he came to the disciples and said to them; At such a time as this you are sleeping and taking your rest! Look! The hour has drawn near for the Son of man to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. (**Matthew 26:45**)
- And he took Peter and James and **John** along with him, and he started to be stunned and to be sorely troubled. (**Mark 14:33**)
- And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter; Simon, are you sleeping? Did you not have strength to keep on the watch one hour? (**Mark 14:37**)
- Men, keep on the watch and praying, in order, that you do not come into temptation. The spirit, of course, is eager, but the flesh is weak. (**Mark 14:38**)
- And he went away again and prayed, saying the same word. (**Mark 14:39**)
- And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were weighed down, and so they did not know what to answer him. (**Mark 14:40**)
- And he came the third time and said to them; At such a time as this you are sleeping and taking your rest! It is enough! The hour has come! Look! The Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. (**Mark 14:41**)
- **John** occupied the position next to Jesus at his last Passover and the institution of the Lord's Evening Meal.
- There was reclining in front of Jesus bosom one of his disciples, and Jesus loved him. (**John 13:23**)

- He was the disciple who, at Jesus death, received the signal honor of being entrusted with the care of Jesus mother.
- Therefore that disciple whom Jesus used to love said to Peter; It is the Lord! Hence Simon Peter, upon hearing that it was the Lord, girded about himself his top garment, for he was naked, and plunged into the sea. ([John 21:7](#))
- Upon turning about Peter saw the disciple whom Jesus used to love following, the one who at the evening meal had also leaned back upon his breast and said; Lord, who is the one betraying you? ([John 21:20](#))
- Therefore Jesus, seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing by, said to his mother; Woman, see! Your son! ([John 19:26](#))
- Next he said to the disciple; See! Your mother! And from that hour on the disciple took her to his own home. ([John 19:27](#))

• Identifying John In His Gospel

- In **John's** Gospel he never refers to himself by his name John. He is spoken of either as one of the sons of Zebedee or as the disciple whom Jesus used to love. When he speaks of John the Baptizer, unlike the other Gospel writers he calls the Baptizer only John.
- This would be more natural for one of the same name to do, since no one would misunderstand about whom he was speaking. Others would have to use a surname or title or other descriptive terms to distinguish whom they meant, as **John** himself does when speaking of one of the Mary's.
- Now there was a certain man sick, Lazarus of Bethany, of the village of Mary and of Martha her sister. ([John 11:1](#))
- It was, in fact, the Mary that greased the Lord with perfumed oil and wiped his feet dry with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ([John 11:2](#))
- By the torture stake of Jesus, however, there were standing his mother and the sister of his mother, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ([John 19:25](#))

- On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the memorial tomb early, while there was still darkness, and she beheld the stone already taken away from the memorial tomb. (John 20:1)
- Viewing John's writing in this light, it becomes evident that he himself was the unnamed companion of Andrew to whom John the Baptizer introduced Jesus Christ.
- Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples. (John 1:35)
- And as he looked at Jesus walking he said; See, the Lamb of God! (John 1:36)
- And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. (John 1:37)
- Then Jesus turned and, getting a view of them following, he said to them; What are you looking for? They said to him; Rabbi. Which means, when translated, Teacher. Where are you staying? (John 1:38)
- He said to them; Come, and you will see. Accordingly they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, it was about the tenth hour. (John 1:39)
- Andrew the brother of Simon Peter was one of the two that heard what John said and followed Jesus. (John 1:40)
- After Jesus resurrection John passed Peter by as they ran to the tomb to investigate the report that Jesus had risen.
- Therefore she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, for whom Jesus had affection, and she said to them; They have taken away the Lord out of the memorial tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him. (John 20:2)
- Then Peter and the other disciple went out and started for the memorial tomb. (John 20:3)
- Yes, the two together began to run, but the other disciple ran ahead of Peter with greater speed and reached the memorial tomb first. (John 20:4)

- **And, stooping forward, he beheld the bandages lying, yet he did not go in. (John 20:5)**
- **Then Simon Peter also came following him, and he entered into the memorial tomb. And he viewed the bandages lying. (John 20:6)**
- **Also the cloth that had been upon his head not lying with the bandages but separately rolled up in one place. (John 20:7)**
- **At that time, therefore, the other disciple who had reached the memorial tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed. (John 20:8)**
- **He was privileged to see the resurrected Jesus that same evening.**
- **Therefore, when it was late on that day, the first of the week, and, although the doors were locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them; May you have peace. (John 20:19)**
- **While they were speaking of these things he himself stood in their midst and said to them; May you have peace. (Luke 24:36)**
- **And again the following week.**
- **Well, eight days later his disciples were again indoors, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and he stood in their midst and said; May you have peace. (John 20:26)**
- **He was one of the seven who went back to fishing and to whom Jesus appeared.**
- **After these things Jesus manifested himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias, but he made the manifestation in this way. (John 21:1)**
- **There were in company Simon Peter and Thomas, who was called The Twin, and Nathanael from Cana of Galilee and the sons of Zebedee and two others of his disciples. (John 21:2)**

- **Simon Peter said to them; I am going fishing. They said to him; We also are coming with you. Out they went and got aboard the boat, but during that night they caught nothing. (John 21:3)**
- **However, just as it was getting to be morning, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not, of course, discern that it was Jesus. (John 21:4)**
- **Then Jesus said to them; Young children, you do not have anything to eat, do you? They answered. No! To him. (John 21:5)**
- **He said to them; Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. Then they cast it, but they were no longer able to draw it in because of the multitude of the fishes. (John 21:6)**
- **Therefore that disciple whom Jesus used to love said to Peter; It is the Lord! Hence Simon Peter, upon hearing that it was the Lord, girded about himself his top garment, for he was naked, and plunged into the sea. (John 21:7)**
- **But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not a long way from land, only about three hundred feet away, dragging the net of fishes. (John 21:8)**
- **However, when they disembarked onto land they beheld lying there a charcoal fire and fish lying upon it and bread. (John 21:9)**
- **Jesus said to them; Bring some of the fish you just now caught. (John 21:10)**
- **Simon Peter, therefore, went on board and drew the net to land full of big fishes, one hundred and fifty-three of them. But although there were so many the net did not burst. (John 21:11)**
- **Jesus said to them; Come, take your breakfast. Not one of the disciples had the courage to inquire of him; Who are you? because they knew it was the Lord. (John 21:12)**
- **Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. (John 21:13)**
- **This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples**

after his being raised up from the dead. (**John 21:14**)

- **John** was also present at the mountain in Galilee after Jesus rose from the dead, and he personally heard the command; Make disciples of people of all the nations.
- However, the eleven disciples went into Galilee to the mountain where Jesus had arranged for them. (**Matthew 28:16**)
- And when they saw him they did obeisance, but some doubted. (**Matthew 28:17**)
- And Jesus approached and spoke to them, saying; All authority has been given me in heaven and on the earth. (**Matthew 28:18**)
- Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 28:19**)
- Teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things. (**Matthew 28:20**)

· John's Later History

- After Jesus ascension **John** was in Jerusalem at the assembling of about 120 disciples when Matthias was chosen by lot and reckoned along with the 11 other apostles.
- Then they returned to Jerusalem from a mountain called the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, being a Sabbath day's journey away. (**Acts of Apostles 1:12**)
- So, when they had entered, they went up into the upper chamber, where they were staying, Peter as well as **John** and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the zealous one, and Judas the son of James. (**Acts of Apostles 1:13**)
- With one accord all these were persisting in prayer, together with some women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brothers. (**Acts of Apostles 1:14**)
- Now during these days Peter rose up in the midst of the brothers

and said, the crowd of persons was all together about one hundred and twenty. ([Acts of Apostles 1:15](#))

- Men, brothers, it was necessary for the scripture to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by David's mouth about Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ([Acts of Apostles 1:16](#))
- Because he had been numbered among us and he obtained a share in this ministry. ([Acts of Apostles 1:17](#))
- This very man, therefore, purchased a field with the wages for unrighteousness, and pitching head foremost he noisily burst in his midst and all his intestines were poured out. ([Acts of Apostles 1:18](#))
- It also became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that that field was called in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood. ([Acts of Apostles 1:19](#))
- For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his lodging place become desolate, and let there be no dweller in it, and, His office of oversight let someone else take. ([Acts of Apostles 1:20](#))
- It is therefore necessary that of the men that assembled with us during all the time in which the Lord Jesus went in and out among us. ([Acts of Apostles 1:21](#))
- Starting with his baptism by **John** and until the day he was received up from us, one of these men should become a witness with us of his resurrection. ([Acts of Apostles 1:22](#))
- So they put up two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ([Acts of Apostles 1:23](#))
- And they prayed and said; You, O Yehowah, who know the hearts of all, designate which one of these two men you have chosen. ([Acts of Apostles 1:24](#))
- To take the place of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas deviated to go to his own place. ([Acts of Apostles 1:25](#))
- So they cast lots over them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was reckoned along with the eleven apostles. ([Acts of](#)

Apostles 1:26)

- **He was present at the outpouring of the spirit on the day of Pentecost and saw 3,000 added to the congregation on that day.**
- **Now while the day of the festival of Pentecost was in progress they were all together at the same place. (Acts of Apostles 2:1)**
- **And suddenly there occurred from heaven a noise just like that of a rushing stiff breeze, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. (Acts of Apostles 2:2)**
- **And tongues as if of fire became visible to them and were distributed about, and one sat upon each one of them. (Acts of Apostles 2:3)**
- **And they all became filled with Holy Spirit and started to speak with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance. (Acts of Apostles 2:4)**
- **As it was, there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, reverent men, from every nation of those under heaven. (Acts of Apostles 2:5)**
- **So, when this sound occurred, the multitude came together and were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. (Acts of Apostles 2:6)**
- **Indeed, they were astonished and began to wonder and say; See here, all these who are speaking are Galileans, are they not? (Acts of Apostles 2:7)**
- **And yet how is it we are hearing, each one of us, his own language in which we were born? (Acts of Apostles 2:8)**
- **Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and the inhabitants of Mesopotamia, and Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the district of Asia. (Acts of Apostles 2:9)**
- **And Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya, which is toward Cyrene, and sojourners from Rome, both Jews and proselytes. (Acts of Apostles 2:10)**
- **Cretans and Arabians, we hear them speaking in our tongues about the magnificent things of God. (Acts of Apostles 2:11)**

- Yes, they were all astonished and were in perplexity, saying one to another; What does this thing purport to be? (**Acts of Apostles 2:12**)
- However, different ones mocked at them and began to say; They are full of sweet wine. (**Acts of Apostles 2:13**)
- Therefore those who embraced his word heartily were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added. (**Acts of Apostles 2:41**)
- He, along with Peter, stated before the Jewish rulers the principle followed by the congregation of God's people;
- But in reply Peter and **John** said to them; Whether it is righteous in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves. (**Acts of Apostles 4:19**)
- But as for us, we cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard. (**Acts of Apostles 4:20**)
- Again, he joined the other apostles in telling the Sanhedrin;
- So they brought them and stood them in the Sanhedrin hall. And the High Priest questioned them (**Acts of Apostles 5:27**)
- And said; We positively ordered you not to keep teaching upon the basis of this name, and yet, look! You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring the blood of this man upon us. (**Acts of Apostles 5:28**)
- In answer Peter and the other apostles said; **We must obey God as ruler rather than men.** (**Acts of Apostles 5:29**)
- The God of our forefathers raised up Jesus, whom you slew, hanging him upon a stake. (**Acts of Apostles 5:30**)
- God exalted this one as Chief Agent and Savior to his right hand, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. (**Acts of Apostles 5:31**)
- And we are witnesses of these matters, and so is the Holy Spirit, which God has given to those obeying him as ruler. (**Acts of**

Apostles 5:32)

- **After Stephens death at the hands of enraged Jews, great persecution arose against the congregation in Jerusalem, and the disciples were scattered.**
- **But **John**, with the other apostles, remained in Jerusalem. When the preaching of Philip the evangelizer moved many in Samaria to accept the word of God, the older men dispatched Peter and John to assist these new disciples to receive the Holy Spirit.**
- **Saul, for his part, was approving of the murder of him. On that day great persecution arose against the congregation that was in Jerusalem, all except the apostles were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria. (**Acts of Apostles 8:1**)**
- **But reverent men carried Stephen to the burial, and they made a great lamentation over him. (**Acts of Apostles 8:2**)**
- **Saul, though, began to deal outrageously with the congregation. Invading one house after another and, dragging out both men and women, he would turn them over to prison. (**Acts of Apostles 8:3**)**
- **However, those who had been scattered went through the land declaring the Good News of the word. (**Acts of Apostles 8:4**)**
- **Philip, for one, went down to the city of Samaria and began to preach the Christ to them. (**Acts of Apostles 8:5**)**
- **When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they dispatched Peter and **John** to them. (**Acts of Apostles 8:14**)**
- **And these went down and prayed for them to get Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 8:15**)**
- **For it had not yet fallen upon any one of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 8:16**)**
- **Then they went laying their hands upon them, and they began to receive Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 8:17**)**

- Paul later said that **John** was one of those in Jerusalem who seemed to be pillars of the congregation. John, as a member of the older men, gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of sharing together as they were sent on their mission to preach to the nations or Gentiles.
- Yes, when they came to know the undeserved kindness that was given me, James and Cephas and **John**, the ones who seemed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of sharing together, that we should go to the nations, but they to those who are circumcised. (**Galatians 2:9**)
- In about **49 C.E.**, **John** was present at the conference of the older men on the issue of circumcision for Gentile converts.
- Yet, some of those of the sect of the Pharisees that had believed rose up from their seats and said; It is necessary to circumcise them and charge them to observe the Law of Moses. (**Acts of Apostles 15:5**)
- And the apostles and the older men gathered together to see about this affair. (**Acts of Apostles 15:6**)
- For the Holy Spirit and we ourselves have favored adding no further burden to you, except these necessary things. (**Acts of Apostles 15:28**)
- To keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication. If you carefully keep yourselves from these things, you will prosper. Good health to you! (**Acts of Apostles 15:29**)
- While Jesus Christ was still on earth he had indicated that **John** would survive the other apostles.
- Upon turning about Peter saw the disciple whom Jesus used to love following, the one who at the evening meal had also leaned back upon his breast and said; Lord, who is the one betraying you? (**John 21:20**)
- Accordingly, when he caught sight of him, Peter said to Jesus; Lord, what will this man do? (**John 21:21**)
- Jesus said to him; If it is my will for him to remain until I come, of what concern is that to you? You continue following me.

(John 21:22)

- And **John** did serve Yehowah faithfully for some 70 years. Toward the end of his life he was exiled on the isle of Patmos, where he came to be for speaking about God and bearing witness to Jesus.
- I **John**, your brother and a sharer with you in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in company with Jesus, came to be in the isle that is called Patmos for speaking about God and bearing witness to Jesus. (**Revelation 1:9**)
- This proves that he was energetically active in preaching the Good News, even at a very old age in about **96 C.E.**
- While on Patmos, **John** was favored with the marvelous vision of Revelation, which he faithfully wrote down.
- A revelation by Jesus Christ, which God gave him, to show his slaves the things that must shortly take place. And he sent forth his angel and presented it in signs through him to his slave **John**. (**Revelation 1:1**)
- Who bore witness to the word God gave and to the witness Jesus Christ gave, even to all the things he saw. (**Revelation 1:2**)
- It is generally believed that he was exiled by Emperor Domitian and was released by Domitian's successor, Emperor Nerva, **96-98 C.E.**; According to tradition, he went to Ephesus, where he wrote his Gospel and his three letters entitled the First, Second, and Third of **John**, about **98 C.E.** Traditionally, it is believed that he died at Ephesus in about **100 C.E.** during the reign of Emperor Trajan.

.. Personality

- Scholars have generally concluded that **John** was a non-active person, sentimental, and introspective. As one commentator puts it: **John, with his contemplative, stately, ideal mind, went angel-like through life.** [Lange's Commentary on the Holy Scriptures, translated and edited by P. Schaff, 1976, Vol. 9, p. 6]
- They base their evaluation of **John's** personality on the fact that **John** speaks so much about love, and because he does not appear so prominently in the Acts of Apostles as do Peter and Paul. Also, they note that he seems to have let Peter take the lead in speaking when they were together.

- It is true that when Peter and **John** were together, Peter was always foremost as the spokesman. But the accounts do not say that John was **silent**. Rather, when before the rulers and older men both Peter and **John** spoke without fear.
- Now when they beheld the outspokenness of Peter and **John**, and perceived that they were men unlettered and ordinary, they got to wondering. And they began to recognize about them that they used to be with Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 4:13**)
- But in reply Peter and **John** said to them; Whether it is righteous in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves. (**Acts of Apostles 4:19**)
- Likewise, **John** spoke boldly, as did the other apostles before the Sanhedrin, although Peter is specifically mentioned by name.
- In answer Peter and the other apostles said; We must obey God as ruler rather than men. (**Acts of Apostles 5:29**)
- And as to being the active, energetic type, did he not anxiously outrun Peter in reaching Jesus tomb.
- Therefore she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, for whom Jesus had affection, and she said to them; They have taken away the Lord out of the memorial tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him. (**John 20:2**)
- Then Peter and the other disciple went out and started for the memorial tomb. (**John 20:3**)
- Yes, the two together began to run, but the other disciple ran ahead of Peter with greater speed and reached the memorial tomb first. (**John 20:4**)
- And, stooping forward, he beheld the bandages lying, yet he did not go in. (**John 20:5**)
- Then Simon Peter also came following him, and he entered into the memorial tomb. And he viewed the bandages lying. (**John 20:6**)
- Also the cloth that had been upon his head not lying with the

bandages but separately rolled up in one place. (**John 20:7**)

- At that time, therefore, the other disciple who had reached the memorial tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed. (**John 20:8**)
- Early in their ministry as apostles, Jesus gave the surname Boanerges, meaning, **Sons of Thunder**, to **John** and his brother James.
- And James the son of Zebedee and **John** the brother of James he also gave these the surname Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder. (**Mark 3:17**)
- This title certainly does not denote any soft sentimentality or lack of vigor but, rather, dynamism of personality. When a Samaritan village refused to receive Jesus, these, **Sons of Thunder**, were ready to call down fire from heaven to annihilate its inhabitants.
- Previously, **John** had tried to prevent a man from expelling demons in Jesus name. Jesus gave reproof and correction in each case.
- In response **John** said; Instructor, we saw a certain man expelling demons by the use of your name and we tried to prevent him, because he is not following with us. (**Luke 9:49**)
- But Jesus said to him; Do not you men try to prevent him, for he that is not against you is for you. (**Luke 9:50**)
- As the days were now coming to the full for him to be taken up, he firmly set his face to go to Jerusalem. (**Luke 9:51**)
- So he sent forth messengers in advance of him. And they went their way and entered into a village of Samaritans, to make preparation for him. (**Luke 9:52**)
- But they did not receive him, because his face was set for going to Jerusalem. (**Luke 9:53**)
- When the disciples James and **John** saw this they said; Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and annihilate them? (**Luke 9:54**)
- But he turned and rebuked them. (**Luke 9:55**)

- They went to a different village. (**Luke 9:5**)
- The two brothers on those occasions showed misunderstanding and, to a great extent, lacked the balance and the loving, merciful spirit that they later developed.
- Nevertheless, on these two occasions the brothers manifested a spirit of loyalty and a decisive, vigorous personality that, channeled in the right direction, made them strong, energetic, faithful witnesses. James died a martyr's death at the hands of Herod Agrippa I.
- About that particular time Herod the king applied his hands to mistreating some of those of the congregation. (**Acts of Apostles 12:1**)
- He did away with James the brother of **John** by the sword. (**Acts of Apostles 12:2**)
- And **John** endured as a pillar in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in company with Jesus as the last living apostle.
- I **John**, your brother and a sharer with you in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in company with Jesus, came to be in the isle that is called Patmos for speaking about God and bearing witness to Jesus. (**Revelation 1:9**)
- When James and **John** apparently got their mother to request that they sit next to Christ in his Kingdom, they demonstrated an ambitious spirit that made the other apostles indignant.
- But it afforded Jesus a fine opportunity to explain that the one great among them would be the one who served the others. Then he pointed out that even He came to minister and to give his life a ransom for many.
- Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached him with her sons, doing obeisance and asking for something from him. (**Matthew 20:20**)
- He said to her; What do you want? She said to him; Give the word that these my two sons may sit down, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom. (**Matthew 20:21**)
- Jesus said in answer; You men do not know what you are asking

for. Can you drink the cup that I am about to drink? They said to him; We can. (**Matthew 20:22**)

- He said to them; You will indeed drink my cup, but this sitting down at my right hand and at my left is not mine to give, but it belongs to those for whom it has been prepared by my Father. (**Matthew 20:23**)
- When the ten others heard of this, they became indignant at the two brothers. (**Matthew 20:24**)
- But Jesus, calling them to him, said; You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them and the great men wield authority over them. (**Matthew 20:25**)
- This is not the way among you. Whoever wants to become great among you, must be your minister. (**Matthew 20:26**)
- And whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. (**Matthew 20:27**)
- Just as the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many. (**Matthew 20:28**)
- And James and **John**, the two sons of Zebedee, stepped up to him and said to him; Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever it is we ask you for. (**Mark 10:35**)
- He said to them; What do you want me to do for you? (**Mark 10:36**)
- They said to him; Grant us to sit down, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory. (**Mark 10:37**)
- But Jesus said to them; You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup which I am drinking, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am being baptized? (**Mark 10:38**)
- They said to him; We are able. At that Jesus said to them; The cup I am drinking you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am being baptized you will be baptized. (**Mark 10:39**)

- However, this sitting down at my right or at my left is not mine to give, but it belongs to those for whom it has been prepared. (Mark 10:40)
- Well, when the ten others heard about it, they started to be indignant at James and John. (Mark 10:41)
- But Jesus, after calling them to him, said to them; You know that those who appear to be ruling the nations lord it over them and their great ones wield authority over them. (Mark 10:42)
- This is not the way among you. Whoever wants to become great among you must be your minister. (Mark 10:43)
- And whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of all. (Mark 10:44)
- For even the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many. (Mark 10:45)
- However selfish their desire was, the incident reveals their faith in the reality of the Kingdom.
- Certainly if John's personality had been as it is painted by religious commentators weak, impractical, lacking in energy, introverted, Jesus Christ would not likely have used him to write the stirring, powerful book of Revelation, in which Christ repeatedly encourages Christians to be conquerors of the world, tells of the Good News to be preached worldwide, and issues forth the thunderous judgments of God.
- It is true that John speaks about love more than the other Gospel writers. This does not give evidence of any soft sentimentality. Conversely, love is a strong quality. The entire Law and the Prophets were based on love.
- Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? (Matthew 22:36)
- He said to him; You must love Yehowah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind. (Matthew 22:37)

- This is the greatest and first commandment. (**Matthew 22:38**)
- The second, like it, is this; You must love your neighbor as yourself. (**Matthew 22:39**)
- On these two commandments the whole Law hangs, and the Prophets. (**Matthew 22:40**)
- Love never fails.
- Love never fails. But whether there are gifts of prophesying, they will be done away with, whether there are tongues, they will cease, whether there is knowledge, it will be done away with. (**1 Corinthians 13:8**)
- Love is a perfect bond of union.
- But, besides all these things, clothe yourselves with love, for it is a perfect bond of union. (**Colossians 3:14**)
- Love, of the kind that **John** advocates, sticks to principle and is capable of strong reproof, correction, and discipline, as well as kindness and mercy.
- Wherever he appears in the three synoptic Gospel accounts, as well as in all of his own writings, **John** always manifests the same strong love and loyalty toward Jesus Christ and his Father Yehowah.
- Loyalty and hatred of that which is bad are manifest in his noting of bad motives or traits in the actions of others. He alone tells us that it was Judas who grumbled at Mary's use of expensive ointment to anoint Jesus feet and that the reason for Judas complaint was that he carried the money box and was a thief.
- But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, who was about to betray him, said. (**John 12:4**)
- Why was it this perfumed oil was not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor people? (**John 12:5**)
- He said this, though, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief and had the money box and used to carry off the monies put in it. (**John 12:6**)

- He points out that Nicodemus came to Jesus under cover of night.
- This one came to him in the night and said to him; Rabbi, we know that you as a teacher have come from God, for no one can perform these signs that you perform unless God is with him. (John 3:2)
- He notes the serious flaw in Joseph of Arimathea, that he was a disciple of Jesus but a secret one out of his fear of the Jews.
- Now after these things Joseph from Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus but a secret one out of his fear of the Jews, requested Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. Therefore he came and took his body away. (John 19:38)
- **John** could not countenance the fact that anyone could profess to be a disciple of his Master and yet be ashamed of it.
- **John** had developed the fruits of the spirit to a far greater degree when he wrote his Gospel and letters than when he was a young man newly associated with Jesus.
- He was certainly not displaying the trait that was manifest when he had asked for a special seat in the Kingdom. And in his writings we can find expression of his maturity and good counsel to help us to imitate his faithful, loyal, energetic course.