

John 1:15 -27

15. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is **PREFERRED before me.**'"

- **Colossians 1:15-18** "He is the _____ of the invisible God, the _____ over all creation. For by _____ all things were _____ that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were _____ through Him and _____ Him. And He is _____ all things, and in Him all things consist (hold together). And He is the _____ of the body, the church, who is the beginning (origin, source), the _____ from the _____, that in all things He may have the preeminence (first place)."

Definition: "He is PREFERRED before me" - Literal meaning is "He ranks higher than I." Jesus is to have the **PREEMINENCE** (having paramount or HIGHEST rank, dignity and importance) ABOVE ANYONE and EVERYTHING. He is NOT just a good man or another prophet.

- **Read John 8:51-59** (Verses 53-54) "Are You _____ than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. _____ do You make Yourself out to _____? Jesus answered, 'If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who _____ Me, of whom you say that He is your God.'" (Verse 58) "Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**'"

Definition: "BEFORE Abraham was, I AM" - "I AM" was the name of God given to those under the Old Covenant (Old Testament). It simply means He has no beginning or end, but has ALWAYS EXISTED. When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush (Exodus 3:14) He said, "Tell them '**I AM**' has sent you." When the Jews heard Jesus use this term for Himself, THEY KNEW EXACTLY WHAT HE MEANT BY IT, and they picked up stones to stone Him to death, because He was saying He was God! In trying to translate into English, this name is sometimes referred to as "Jehovah" or "Yahweh." We don't really know how it was spoken by the Hebrews, because they thought God's name was too holy to speak or write, but **IT IS NOT NECESSARY for us to know it.** The **name that is GIVEN TO US** is the **NAME OF JESUS** (see Acts 4:12), and Jesus revealed God to us in the New Covenant (New Testament) as "**the Father.**"

16-17. And of His FULNESS we have all received, and grace for grace. For the LAW was given through Moses, but GRACE and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- **Colossians 1:19** "For it pleased the _____ that In Him (Jesus) all the _____ should dwell."
- **Read Galatians 3:16-25** (Verse 19) "What _____ then does the _____ serve? It was added because of transgressions (sins), till (until) the Seed (Christ - see verse 16) should _____ to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator." (Verse 21) "Is the _____ then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a _____ given which could have given _____, truly righteousness would have been by the law."

Definition: "GRACE for GRACE" - This is an expression used to show the GREATNESS and ABUNDANCE of God's grace.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by _____ you have been saved through _____, and that not of _____, it is the _____ of God; not of _____ lest anyone should boast."
- **Romans 5:15** "But the FREE GIFT is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much _____ the _____ of God and the gift by the _____ of the one Man, _____, abounded to many."

Definition: "Of HIS FULNESS" - We now have the COMPLETE and FULL REVELATION OF GOD, and who He is. All through the Old Testament, they only had a GRADUAL REVELATION of God, but it has now come to a climax and completion of the revelation IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.

- **Colossians 2:9** "For In Him (Jesus Christ) dwells _____ the _____ of the _____ bodily, and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."
- **Ephesians 3:17-19** "That _____ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to _____ with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be _____ with all the _____ of God."

18. No one has SEEN GOD at any time. The only begotten Son, **who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.**

- **John 17:6** "I have manifested (declared, REVEALED) Your _____ to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word."

Definition: "IN THE BOSOM of the Father" - This is an expression of the closeness and intimacy that Jesus has ALWAYS HAD with the Father. This verse also says Jesus IS (present tense) "In the bosom of" the Father, which indicates the OMNIPRESENCE OF JESUS as GOD THE SON. He could be here on earth in a physical body, and STILL BE PRESENT WITH THE FATHER in heaven at the same time.

- **John 5:17-23** "But Jesus answered them, 'My _____ has been working until now, and I have been working.' Therefore the Jews sought all the more to _____ Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that _____ was His _____, making Himself _____ with God. Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the _____ can do nothing of Himself, but what He _____ the _____ do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and _____ Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.'" (Verse 23) "That all should _____ the _____ just as they _____ the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who _____ Him."

Definition: "No one has SEEN GOD" - No one has ever actually seen **God in His divine ESSENCE** or FACE TO FACE. In the Old Testament, a few people "saw God," but it was either a VISION of God on His throne (see Ezekiel 1:1 & 1:26-28, Isaiah 6:1-6, Daniel 7:9-14), or they saw a PORTION of God's glory as Moses did (see Exodus 33:17-23), or they saw the pre-incarnate Jesus, as did Abraham, who saw the Lord in appearance as a man (see Genesis 18:1-22. The other "two men" were angels - see Gen. 19:1). We, as sinful beings, cannot stand in God's presence, we would be

burned up in an instant by His glory. Only by **BEING BORN of the SPIRIT** are we **re-created into a being** who will be able to be in God's very PRESENCE for all eternity.

Definition: "the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON" - Jesus is the only begotten Son, or UNIQUE, one-of-a-kind Son of God, in that He is the EXACT IMAGE of God, and that He existed in this SON RELATIONSHIP with the Father for all eternity. No one else can become a son of God in the same sense as Jesus (JESUS IS GOD in the FLESH), but we can become sons and daughters of God, and be born into His family BY FAITH in Jesus Christ (John 1:12).

19-20. Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?", he confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, **"I am not the Christ."** And they asked him, "What then? **Are you Elijah?**" He said, "I am not" **"Are you the Prophet?"** And he answered, "NO."

Definition: "Are you Elijah? Are you the Prophet?" - The Pharisees and Jewish leaders thought that these were two separate people who would come announcing the coming of the Messiah. Actually, "the Prophet" in Deuteronomy is the Messiah Himself (see Matthew 17:5).

- **Deuteronomy 18:15 & 18-19** "The Lord your God will _____ up for you a _____ like me from your midst, from your brethren (the Jewish people). Him you shall hear (listen to)." "I will raise up for them a _____ like you from among their _____, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He _____ in My _____, I will require it of him."

***The Father said this about Jesus:

- **Matthew 17:5** "While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a _____ came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved _____, in whom I am well pleased. _____ Him!'"
- **Malachi 4:5-6** "Behold, I will send you _____ the prophet before the great and dreadful _____ of the _____. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers...."

***The angel prophesied regarding John the Baptist before he was born:

- **Luke 1:16-17** "And he will _____ many of the children of Israel to the _____ their God. He will also go before Him in the _____ and _____ of _____, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make _____ a people _____ for the _____."

22-23. Then they said to him, **"Who are you,** that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said, **"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: make straight the way of the Lord,** as the prophet Isaiah said."

- **Read Isaiah 40:3-5** (Verse 3) "The _____ of one crying in the wilderness: _____ the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a _____ for our God."
- **Malachi 3:1** "Behold, I send My _____, and he will _____ the way before Me. And the _____, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is _____, " says the Lord of hosts."

24-25. Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. And they asked him, saying, "**Why then do you baptize** if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

- **Luke 3:3** "And he went into all the region around the Jordan [River], preaching a _____ of _____ for the remission of _____."

Definition: "Why then do you BAPTIZE?" - John's baptism was a baptism of REPENTANCE ONLY, **preparing the way for Christ** (the Messiah). It is NOT the same as Christian baptism which we do now. In the following section in Acts, Apollos and the disciples in Ephesus were NOT YET SAVED, as they had **ONLY received the baptism of John**, and had not yet heard the gospel and believed in Jesus.

- **Read Acts 18:25-28, 19:1-5** (Verses 19:3-4) "And he said to them, 'Into what then were you _____?' So they said, 'Into _____ baptism.' Then Paul said, 'John indeed _____ with a baptism of _____,' saying to the people that they should _____ on _____ who would come after him, that is, on _____."

26-27. John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."

- **Read Matthew 3:1-6** (Verses 5-6) "Then [the people of] Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to _____ and were _____ by him in the Jordan, _____ their _____."

Definition: "whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose" - John here shows his HUMILITY. To unloose someone's sandals was the job of a SERVANT. John makes NO CLAIM to being the Messiah, but just says he is **the humble FORERUNNER of Him.**

Definition: "There stands One AMONG YOU" - The timing of John's gospel is different from Matthew, Mark or Luke. John begins with the ministry of Jesus AFTER He had already returned from His forty days in the wilderness. He says that Jesus is STANDING AMONG THEM, and they DO NOT KNOW HIM, because **Jesus had not yet started His preaching and ministry.** Not only does John leave out the birth of Jesus from his gospel account, but he leaves out Jesus' own baptism by John the Baptist (see Luke 3:21-22), and Jesus' time of testing by Satan (see Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13).