

## JOHN

(from *Written to be Heard*)

### **Message #1: Jesus finished his work on earth before he died** (17.4)

“I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do” (17.4).

This “work” is a seven-fold repetition of miracles, signs pointing to the Father and divine transformation for believers from physical reality to the realm of Spirit:

- (1) water to wine: spirit-explanation, *eternal water for believers*, woman, Nicodemus, 2.1-4.42
  - (2) official’s dying son cured: spirit explanation, believing brings eternal life 4.46-54; 1.12
  - (3) 38-year paralysis overcome: spirit explanation, “The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.” 5.2-47
  - (4a) hungry crowd fed miraculously (delay of spirit-explanation) 6.1-14
  - (5) rough seas, Jesus walks on water, fear: spirit explanation, *I-Am-he* calms sea, fear 6.16-21
  - (4b) hungry crowd fed: spirit explanation, eat & drink me (“my words, flesh useless”) 6.25-65
  - (6) blind man sees: spirit explanation, seeing Son of Man = worship, eternal life 8.59-9.1-43
  - (7) Lazarus raised from death: spirit explanation, Jesus is THE resurrection, life 11.1-53
- “Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die” (v. 26; see 6.50)

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### **Message #2:**

**(a) When “it [his “hour”] is finished,” Jesus “delivers up” his spirit to the Father** (19.30);

**(b) returns in the “little while” promised, (16.16), imparting God’s spirit as promised** 20.22

The pattern of repeated “hour” makes this meaning clear:

- (a) the hour “...**has not yet come**” (2.4, 7.30, 8.20);
- (b) the hour “...**has come**” (12.23, 12.27, 13.1, 17.1);
- (c) the hour “... **is finished**” (19.30).

“Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father” (13.1). “Father, the hour has come,” Jesus will pray; “glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you” (17.1).

### **Message #3: The opening poem says it all: John in a nutshell** (1.1-18)

1. In the beginning was the Word, who was with God and was God (1.1-2)
2. All things came into being through him (life and light) (1.3-5)
3. John came to testify to that light (1.6-9)
4. Though the world existed because of Him, the world rejected him (1.10-11)
5. To all receiving him, believing in his name (1.12a)
6. **Power given [for believers] to become children of God** (1.12b)
- 5\* Those receiving him are born not of flesh but of God’s will (1.13)
- 4\* The Word entered the world, accepted by those who saw His glory (1.14)
- 3\* John testified that Jesus is greater than he is (1.15)
- 2\* Jesus Christ gives the grace and truth for new life (1.16-17)
- 1\* God the only Son, close to the Father’s heart, has made the Father known. (1.18)

**Note how it works:** *the first element is echoed (repeated) in the last; second echoed in second to last, etc.*

#1 “It is finished” when “the Word [who] was with God, and was God” (1.1) departs to God, glorified as...

#1\* ...the “God-the-Only-Son” *lying in the bosom of the Father* “close to the Father’s heart”—having “made the Father known” 1.18).

In its chiasmic pattern, the poem rehearses the entire narrative unity of John, theme by theme. Especially crucial: the key theme is located at the poem’s center-point: “power given [for believers] to become children of God” (1.12b).