

# JOHN

(from *Written to be Heard*)

## **Message #1 Finishing #1: Before dying, Jesus finished his work of miracle-signs.**

- “I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do” (17.4). This work, the seven miracle-signs that “glorified” the Son’s Father, have been carefully crafted:
- (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 [and] live.” 5.2-47
    - (4a) hungry crowd fed miraculously (delay of spirit-explanation) 6.1-14
    - (4b) hungry crowd fed: spirit explanation, eat & drink me (“my words, flesh useless”) 6.25-65
  - (5) rough seas, Jesus walks on water, fear: spirit explanation, *I-Am-he* calms sea, fear 6.16-21
  - (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)

## **Message #2: Finishing #2: Later Jesus uses “finished” for another and momentous finishing, the hour of his death.**

“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).

- This hour “...has not yet come” (2.4, 7.30, 8.20);
- This hour “...has come” (12.23, 12.27, 13.1, 17.1);
- This hour “... is finished” (19.30).

## **When “it is finished,” Jesus “delivers up” (*paradidoæmi*) his spirit—to the Father (19.30).**

Now it is time for the Son to be glorified by the Father, whereas earlier the Son, through the “work” of miracle-signs, had glorified the Father: referring to his coming hour of departure to the Father, Jesus has prayed, “glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you” (17.1).

## **Message #3:**

**The Word/Son returns in the “little while” promised, appearing in his resurrection body passing through walls, imparting God’s spirit as promised (16.16, 20.22)**

## **Message #4: The opening poem is John’s message 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)

This prefatory poem rehearses the entire narrative unity of John, theme by theme. Especially crucial are the frame lines (1 and 1\*) leading to the “bull’s-eye” center-point: the key theme is located at the poem’s center-point, #6: “power given [for believers] to become children of God.”

## **Message #5: Twin metaphors for believing:**

- **Eat & drink me: *abide-in me* (6.56);**
- **Live as branches taking their life through living in the Vine: *abide-in me* (15.4-7)**