

A Model for Understanding the Gospel of John

Proposal: John's Gospel is deliberately arranged to present Jesus Christ according to the Creation sequence; to expound the nature and importance of the Spiritual Creation

Day 1 (Jn 1-3:21) Jesus presented as the Light of the World. Light shown to represent understanding, gospel focuses on who can 'see' the revelation and those who are blind to it, groping in darkness.

Day 2 (*Jn* 3:22-5) Jesus presented as the life-giving 'Waters Above.' Those who encounter him are raised up to life: centurion's servant, impotent man at Bethesda

Day 3 (Jn 6) Jesus presented as the Bread of Life. Those who follow him are nourished by a meal of bread and fish.

Day 4 - partners Day 1 (*Jn 7-12*) Jesus presented as the 'Light to Rule.' Return of the metaphor of Jesus as the light of the world, now refined into a governing role. Return of the metaphor of those who can see and those who are blind, coupled to responsibility and judgment.

Day 5 - partners Day 2 (Jn 13-19) Jesus presented in the deadly 'Waters Beneath.' Leviathan rises from those waters, all betray Christ: the Seed of the Woman is killed.

Day 6 - partners Day 3 (*Jn 20-21*) Jesus presented as the Ruling Man of the New Creation. Titles "Rabbi" and "Son of God" from Days 1-4 are upgraded to "Rabboni" and "God" after resurrection. Those who remain with him are nourished with a meal of bread and fish.

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