

# John's Clearest Declaration About Jesus' Deity

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To those who insist that Jesus became the Son of God when He was born of the virgin Mary, the apostle John disagrees. John doesn't begin his gospel with the birth of Jesus as Matthew and Luke did. John mentions nothing about the virgin birth, Mary and Joseph's trek to Bethlehem to be registered, the manger scene, the shepherd's visit to the newborn Savior, or anything else surrounding the nativity story. Instead, John goes all the way back to the distant eternity, beginning his gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1.) For John, the truth is that Jesus didn't become the Son of God by being born of the virgin Mary. He has always been the eternal, pre-existent Son of God.

He merely took on a human body in Mary's womb as John noted, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14.) He did so that we might behold God in the flesh. Matthew traced Jesus' ancestry back to Abraham and Luke traced it back to Adam. But John bypassed all of that and traced it back to God the Father in eternity past. Further, John showed how Christ predated time and creation and was the Creator with the Father, "He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:2-3.) The apostle Paul agreed with this assertion in Colossians 1:14-19.

That John paid close attention to Jesus goes without saying. Remember at the last supper how John laid his head on Jesus' breast. He literally heard the heartbeat of God. Later, after Jesus had risen from the dead, John heard about the empty tomb and came running. We read, "Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead." (John 20:8-9.) Nothing is said of Peter's reaction and we know Thomas required proof that Jesus had risen from the dead. But John had not seen the Lord yet, only an empty tomb but he still believed. He paid attention to what Jesus had said though he didn't always understand what he was hearing at the time.

That's why he could relate conversations in detail as he did with Nicodemus (3), the Samaritan woman (4), Martha (11), Mary Magdalene (20), and Peter (21.) He heard the various metaphors Jesus used like the bread of life, living waters, light of the world, the door, the good shepherd, the true vine, etc. Jesus was all of these things and John went on to explain them to us. But the greatest revelation John gives us is the concept of Jesus' oneness with God. Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." (John 8:58.) Thus, Jesus stated that He was self-existent and had the name God gave Himself in Exodus 3:14. In addition, we read, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." (John 5:16.) God had been working up to that point, now Jesus was continuing that work. Or, "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30.) These kinds of statements are all over John's gospel. See the prayer of Jesus in John 17 and note the number of times Jesus's oneness with God is mentioned. There can be no question that John aims to show Jesus is God. Through all the language, images, miracles and so forth that Jesus did, the Son of God is presented in a unique relationship with the Father.