

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Law. – Psalm 119:18

Through the Bible in a year reading guide – Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church

October – Week 42

Completed

15 - John	4-5	☐
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We read God's Word:

To know Him better

To love Him more

To walk in His ways

To be conformed to the image of His Son

This week's reading: gives John's reason for writing (20:31): to believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing, you will have life through His name. **John** continues to provide evidence for the deity of Jesus: in Ex. 3:14 Moses asked God's Name and was told "I AM WHO I AM", and to say, "I AM sent me to you". John lists seven famous I AM statements of Jesus, The: Bread of Life (6:35); Light of the World (8:12); Door (10:7); Good Shepherd (10:11); Resurrection and the Life (11:25); Way, Truth, and Life (14:6); and True Vine (15:1). (More are listed in "Insights"!)

Also, 7:37-41 says Jesus did many signs but they didn't believe in Him, so John quotes two passages from Isaiah (53:1 and 6:10), and says that Isaiah "saw His glory and spoke of Him". Who did Isaiah see in 6:1-3 when the Seraphim were calling out, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is Yahweh of Hosts"? It was Jesus (7:41)! Jesus is Yahweh! **There** are contradictory statements (7:19-20) coming from different groups: the visitors to Jerusalem (for the Feast of Booths) who were not aware of the plot to kill Jesus, but in 7:25-26, the people of Jerusalem knew about the plot. Some didn't know from where the Christ would come (7:27), but others knew (7:42). **Jesus** often referred to Himself as "the Son of Man"; 12:31-34 reveals they understood this is a Messianic title taken from Dan. 7:14, and they understood "lifted up" was an Aramaic expression for execution (see "Week 26 Insights") in contrast to knowing Messiah will reign forever. (Jesus used the same word when talking to Nicodemus in 3:14.) This being "lifted up" became the point where Jesus would draw all to Himself. **We** must obey Jesus: the words spoken by Jesus will be used to judge all rejecting Him and His words (12:48). Obedience shows our love for Him (14:21,24). **The** faith that saves is the faith that remains ("abide" in John 15 means "remain"). **Jesus** said the Holy Spirit will remind them of what He said (14:26), so we can have confidence that the New Testament is accurate. **The** disciples received the Holy Spirit in John 20:22. The Holy Spirit came upon them with power to be witnesses (Acts 2), and filled again in Acts 4:31 to speak God's word with boldness!

Insights from the Original Biblical Languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic):

Jesus refers to Himself as the "I AM" in striking ways, saying things like, "unless you believe that 'I AM', you will die in your sins." 8:24). These can be obscured in English by the addition of "*He*" in italics. See 4:26; 6:20; 8:18,24,58; 13:19; and 18:5-8. **Greek** can make a "contrary to fact" conditional statement ("Second Class Condition") which has a built in "flip-side". An example is in Jesus' statement (4:10) about "living water"; grammatically, the flip-side is, "but you do not know the gift of God or who is speaking to you, so you have not asked Him, and He has not given you the living water." **The** two most common Greek words for "no" or "not" (οὐ - rhymes with "you", and μή - pronounced "may") can be used to indicate if a "yes" or "no" answer is expected. (Mentioned briefly in Week 28 for 1 Cor. 12:29-30). Another example is (4:29) where most English translations have, "Could this be the Christ?", but it should be understood as expecting "no"; "this is not the Christ, is it?". It isn't that she did not believe Jesus is the Messiah, but she used a good strategy because of her reputation: "you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband" (note: Jesus doesn't accept "common-law marriages"). If she had said, "I've seen the Messiah!", she may have been ridiculed. But by asking, expecting "no", they responded by going out to see Jesus for themselves, to know that, "this One is indeed the Savior of the world" (v.42). When both οὐ and μή are used together, they make the strongest possible negative statement available in Koine Greek, to be understood as, "no possible way". Examples: "no possible way he will thirst - to forever" (4:14); "no possible way he should die - to forever" (11:26).

How has God revealed Himself in this week's reading? What has He shown me this week?

John begins (1:1) and ends calling Jesus "God" - He received and blessed Thomas' worship as "Lord and God" (20:28). Seeing Jesus is seeing the Father (14:9). The Father was greater (14:28) because the Son became a man.