

CHAPTER I.

*He describeth the person of Christ, in whom we have eternal life by a communion with God, 1-4; to which we must adjoin holiness of life, to testify the truth of that our communion and profession of faith, as also to assure us of the forgiveness of our sins by Christ's death, 5-10.*

**T**HAT<sup>a</sup> which was from the beginning,<sup>b</sup> which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, and our hands upon, and our hands Word of life;

A. M. 1870. A. D. 1870.

A.M. 470. A.D. 19.

heard I declare we unto you, that  
ye also may have fellowship with  
us: and truly our fellowship is with  
the Father, and with his Son Jesus  
Christ. And these things write we un-  
to you, that your joy may be full.

4 And these things write we unto you, <sup>1</sup>that your joy may be full.

5 This then is the meaning  
we have heard of him,<sup>1</sup> and declare  
unto you, that God is light,<sup>2</sup> and in  
him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, and do not

6 If we say  
with him, and "walk  
and "do no

...a verse by verse study

# John's Reason for Writing

- John tells us his 5 reasons for writing:
  - That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us 1:3
  - And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. 1:4
  - these things write I unto you, that ye sin not 2:1
  - These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. 2:26
  - These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 5:13
  - That you learn what Love really is

THE FIRST EPISTLE GENERAL  
OF  
JOHN.

## CHAPTER I.

**CHAPTER I.**

*He describeth the person of Christ, in whom we have eternal life by a communion with God, 1-4; to which we must attain holiness of life, to testify the truth of that our communion and profession of faith, as also to assure us of the forgiveness of our sins by Christ's death, 5-10.*

**T**HAT<sup>a</sup> which was from the beginning,<sup>b</sup> which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have touched upon, and our hands

# Vs 1-21

# R5

4 And these things write we unto you, <sup>1</sup>that your joy may be full.

5 This then is <sup>1</sup>the message which we have heard of him, <sup>1</sup>and declare unto you, <sup>2</sup>that God is light, <sup>2</sup>and in him is no darkness at all.

6 <sup>1</sup>If we say that we have <sup>1</sup>tell with him, and <sup>2</sup>walk in <sup>2</sup>and <sup>2</sup>do n

...a verse by verse study

<sup>1</sup> Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

**1 John 5:1**

- Our principle goal is to love Jesus
- Do you simply hope it's going to happen?
- How do you measure it?
- Do you love Jesus more now than this time last year?
- What can you do to love Jesus more?
- If you don't really love Jesus, do you really know Him?

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

1 John 5:2-3

- These three are intertwined
  - Loving God
  - Keeping His commandments
  - Loving God's children



4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? **1 John 5:4-5**

- Overcoming the world is here linked to keeping His commandments

- If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, you will love God
- If you love God, you will keep His commandments
- If you keep His commandments you will overcome the world
- Faith underpins all of this!

- *“Look at any Greek lexicon you like, and you will find that the word [faith or believe] does not merely mean to believe, but to trust, to confide in, to commit to, entrust with, and so forth; the very marrow of the meaning of faith is confidence in, reliance upon.” (Spurgeon)*

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

1 John 5:6

- *“He who came by water and blood: John makes it clear that the Jesus he speaks of is not the Gnostic, “phantom” Jesus who was so holy that He had nothing to do with this world. The Jesus we must believe on is the Jesus who came by water and blood; the Jesus who was part of a real, material, flesh-and-blood earth”. – David Guzik*



5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:5

- Jesus here spoke to Nicodemus of 2 births
- A natural birth (by water)
- A Spiritual birth (through faith)
- Born one (physical only), die twice (physical and spiritual)
- Born twice (physical and spiritual) , die once (physical only)

- Actually...
- For believers:
  - You are born naturally (1), but dead in trespasses and sin (Eph 2:1) (1)
  - You are then born again Spiritually (John 3:16) (2) to never die spiritually again
  - You may die physically (Heb 9:27) - if you are not Raptured (2)
  - But you will then get to eat of the Tree of Life (Rev 2:7) and physically live eternally (3)
- But for unbelievers:
  - They are born naturally (1), but dead in trespasses and sin (1)
  - They will die physically (2),
  - They will be subject to the '2<sup>nd</sup> Death' (3) when they will be eternally damned

# Born of the Spirit

In Adam all die... 1 Cor 15:22

- The punishment for sin was death (Gen 2:17 / Rom 6:23)
- In the Garden of Eden all humanity died spiritually
- Unless we are 're-born' spiritually by receiving God's Spirit within us, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven, we will remain spiritually dead

In Christ shall all be made alive... 1 Cor 15:22

- God is the 'Father of Spirits' Heb 12:9
- Whatever is born of God does not sin (1 John 3:9 / 1 John 5:18)

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

**1 John 5:6**

- Some believe that water speaks of our own baptism, and blood speaks of receiving communion, and that John writes of how Jesus comes to us in the two Christian sacraments of baptism and communion (Luther and Calvin had this idea). Yet, if this is the case, it doesn't add up with the historical perspective John had when he wrote "came by water and blood." He seems to write of something that happened in the past, not something that is ongoing.

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

1 John 5:6

- Others (such as Augustine) believe the water and blood describes the water and blood which flowed from Jesus' side when He was stabbed with a spear on the cross: *"But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out"* (John 19:34). This was an important event to the Apostle John because immediately after this description of water and blood, he added in his gospel: *"And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe"* (John 19:35). Yet, if this was John's meaning, it is a little unclear how it can be said that Jesus came by water and blood.

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

1 John 5:6

- Still others believe the water spoke of Jesus' first birth, being born of the "waters of the womb," and blood speaks of His death. If this is the case, John would be essentially writing, *"Jesus was born like a man and died like a man. He was completely human, not some super-spiritual being who had no real contact with the material world."* The Gnostics in John's day thought of Jesus as just such a super-spiritual being.



6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

**1 John 5:6**

- Probably the best explanation (though there are good points to some of the other ideas) is the oldest recorded Christian understanding of this passage (first recorded by the ancient Christian Tertullian). Most likely, John means the water of Jesus' baptism, and the blood of His crucifixion.

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

**1 John 5:6**

- When Jesus was baptized, He was not baptized in repentance for His own sin (He had none), but because He wanted to completely identify with sinful humanity. When He came by water, it was His way of saying, “I am one of you.”

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

**1 John 5:6**

- When Jesus died on the cross, He did not die because He had to (death could have no power over Him), but He laid down His life to identify with sinful humanity and to save us from our sin. When He came by... blood it was so that He could stand in our place as a guilty sinner, and to take the punishment our sin deserved.

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

1 John 5:6

- “*Came...*” – past tense (this has happened)
- “*By water...*” = Natural birth (using the same idiom as in John 3)?
- “*and blood...*” = His sacrificial death in our place without which we could never be redeemed
- Water = Natural / Blood = Divine
- Jesus was perfect God and Man in one

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

1 John 5:6

- *“And we know he is, because God said so with a voice from heaven when Jesus was baptized, and again as he was facing death—yes, not only at his baptism but also as he faced death. And the Holy Spirit, forever truthful, says it too”.* – The Living Bible

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

1 John 5:7-8

- *“For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree”* **ESV**
- *“<sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement”.* **NIV**
- *“<sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement”.* **NASB**



7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.<sup>5</sup>

1 John 5:7-8

- *“For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood;*
- *“7 For there the blood;*
- *“7 For there and the blood*

NASB footnote:

A few late mss add...*in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth, the Spirit*

<sup>7</sup> For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

<sup>8</sup> And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

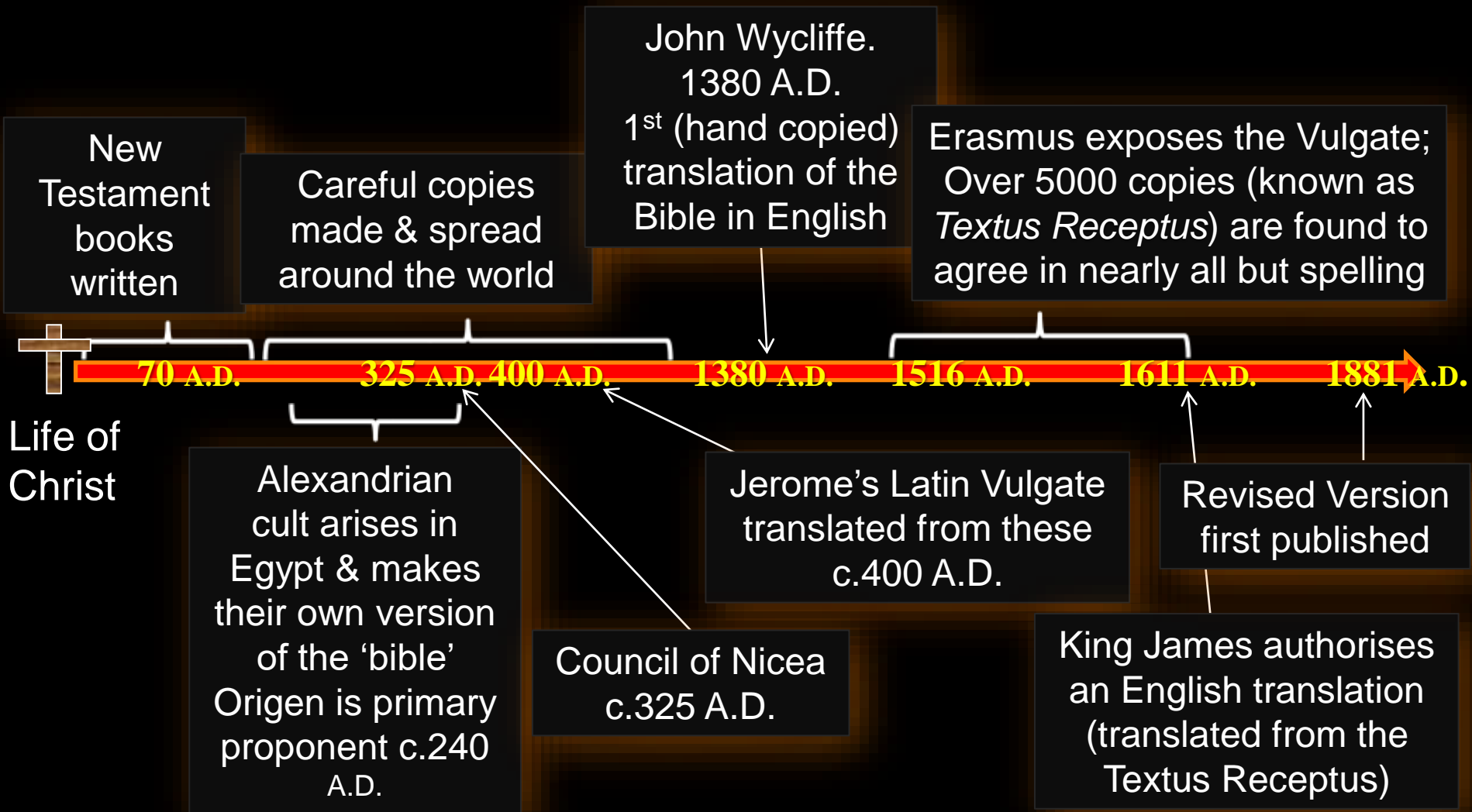
**1 John 5:7-8**

- *“For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood: and these three agree”* **ESV**

<sup>a</sup>7, 8 Late manuscripts of the Vulgate testify in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.  
<sup>8</sup> And there are three that testify on earth: the (not found in any Greek manuscript before the sixteenth century)

- *“<sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement”.* **NASB**

# The History of the Bible



# The History of the Bible

**Codex Vaticanus** appears for the first time in the Vatican Library Catalogue

Simonides commissioned to produce an 'authentic' hand-written copy of the Bible for Tsar of Russia

Tischendorf invited to the Vatican to see Pope Gregory XVI

Tischendorf 'discovers' the **Codex Sinaiticus** at Mt Sinai

*"The Vatican had tried unsuccessfully for 300 years to overthrow the Reformation Bible"*  
– Bill Cooper

1475 1830 1843 1844 1857 1859 1881 A.D.

*"We have at last hit upon a better plan even than this, which is to set aside this textus receptus altogether, and to construct a fresh text, derived immediately from the most ancient and authoritative sources"*  
– Tischendorf

Simonides visits Mt Sinai and recognises 'Sinaiticus' as his work! He tries to expose this 'fraud' but is silenced

The Roman Catholic church hails the discovery of Sinaiticus as the oldest manuscript!

**Codex Vaticanus** officially published

Revised Version first published

# The Oldest Manuscripts?

- The footnotes of most modern translations state that particular verses are '*not found in the oldest & most reliable mss.*'
- By this they mean Vaticanus and Sinaiticus
- We now know that both of these are 'modern' forgeries – and translated from the Vulgate
- The Vulgate itself was translated from the Alexandrian mss.
- Almost all modern versions of the Bible now come from this source.

# The Source of our Bibles

Original Text

Alexandrian  
Corruption

Carefully preserved  
copies (c.5000)

Vulgate  
(Poor translation into Latin)

Vaticanus &  
Sinaiticus forgeries

Erasmus compiled  
the Textus Receptus

Westcott & Hort's  
revision

Reformation Bibles

NIV / ESV / NASB

KJV



<sup>7</sup> For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

<sup>8</sup> And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

**1 John 5:7-8**

- *“For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood: and these three agree”* **ESV**

<sup>a7, 8</sup> Late manuscripts of the Vulgate testify in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.  
<sup>8</sup> And there are three that testify on earth: the ~~(not found in any Greek manuscript before the sixteenth century)~~

- *“<sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement”.* **NASB**

# 1 John 5:7-8 (the Johanan Comer)

- *Not found in any Greek manuscript before the 16th C?*
- It appears in the writing of Theophilus of Antioch 180 A.D.
- It is quoted by Cyprian, at Carthage, in 250AD
- It is part of the text for Latin manuscript 'R' c. 300 A.D.
- It's quoted by two Spanish bishops in 385 AD, (Prisillian and Adatious Clarus).
- It is quoted by many African bishops in the fourth century (430 to 480 AD) in arguments against Arianism.
- It's quoted by Casiadorus a church leader in Italy in 480 AD
- There is a Greek grammatical structural problem if you remove it.
- It is used satirically by Lucian of Samasata c.116 A.D. (46y)

# Why does it matter?

- Attorney Irwin H. Linton said the following:
- *“The infallibility of the record upon which rest the eternal essentials of our faith – the deity of Christ, His voluntary, atoning death, bodily resurrection and impending return in power and glory – are all rendered uncertain in a mind in which the accuracy of the Bible record is in doubt.”*

# Why does it matter?

- “A lady phoned me in a concerned frame of mind following an encounter with Jehovah’s Witnesses. The conversation had turned to the Trinity and she had confidently turned to 1 John 5:7-8 to ‘prove’ that it was in the Bible. She was shocked to be informed by her callers that the verses she quoted didn’t belong in the Bible, they are a later addition. The call to me was to confirm the facts.
- A good, modern, study Bible - I have the NIV open before me - will tell you that the deliciously tempting clause, *“testify in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth: the”*, is not found in any manuscript or translation before the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.
- When I told her she replied in consternation, “But I’ve been using those verses for thirty years!””

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

**1 John 5:6**

<sup>10</sup> He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

<sup>11</sup> And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

**1 John 5:10-11**



12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

**1 John 5:12-13**

- This should answer the question: 'Can I lose my Salvation?'
- John says we can know we have eternal life
  - It's a done deal, complete, secured, irrevocable.

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

**1 John 5:14-15**

- Because we are His, because we are eternally saved and part of His family...
- Ask, seek. Knock!

16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

1 John 5:16

- Lying to the Holy Spirit? - see Acts 5:1-11
  - Even in this instance there is no suggestion that Salvation is forfeited
  - Scripture speaks about losing your reward, but not your Salvation
- Nadab & Abihu – Lev 10
- Achan – Joshua 7
  - In both cases God intervened and brought judgment because there had been a direct violation of His Word

17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

**1 John 5:17-18**

- If you love God you will keep His commandments
- You will 'walk in the way'

19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

1 John 5:19

- Satan is the god of this world – 2 Cor 4:4

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

**1 John 5:19**

- You are already living your eternal life!





calvary  
chapel  
portsmouth

[www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk)