

# THE REVELATION OF JESUS, THE NEW MASTER JOHN 03:22–36

## *Introduction*

This passage does one thing — it points to Jesus Christ as the New Master, the One whom God has set before man as the only Master worthy of serving.

- I. The setting for the revelation (vv. 22-26).
- II. Answer 1: Jesus alone was God's appointed Messiah (vv. 27-28).
- III. Answer 2: Jesus alone was the Bridegroom (vv. 29-30).
- IV. Answer 3: Jesus alone was from above, from heaven (v. 31).
- V. Answer 4: Jesus alone was God's Spokesman (vv. 32-34).
- VI. Answer 5: Jesus alone had the Spirit without limit (v. 34).
- VII. Answer 6: Jesus alone determines man's destiny (vv. 35-36).

## **I. *John 03:22–26 The Act of Baptism***

The setting for the revelation. After His interview with Nicodemus, Jesus moved out into the country districts of Judea.

1. Jesus and His disciples were baptising. The words *spent some time* (dietriben) have the idea of spending *much time* in sharing and ministering. Note the statement: He baptised. This is the only place in Scripture where Jesus is said to baptise, though strictly speaking it was His disciples who actually did the baptising (Jn. 4:2). It was His baptising that set the ground for what was now to happen.

2. John and his disciples were also baptising in Aenon, which was near to Salim. Nothing is known about either place beyond what is mentioned here.

People began to flock from John to Jesus. This decline in John's popularity gave the religionists an opportunity to attack John. They attacked him by asking his disciples a crucial question, and in their questioning, they stirred the two basic questions of life.

3. The religionists questioned the cleansing and purifying value of John's baptism. They thought he must be a sham, a false prophet. If John's baptism were really cleansing the people's hearts and giving them a sense of cleanliness, why were the people now flocking to Jesus? If his baptism were really meeting the people's needs, they would continue to come to him for cleansing. Instead, they were deserting him and flocking to Jesus.

This charge, of course, cut John's disciples to the core, so they asked John why all men were now turning to Jesus instead of remaining with him.

Note how the question of purifying strikes at the two basic questions of life.

---

1. There is the question of washing and cleansing. Can the human heart really be cleansed? Can the need of men for cleansing really be met?
2. There is the question of supremacy, of a man's Master in life. Who is man to follow? To whom should men turn for cleansing? To other men such as religious leaders, or to Jesus Christ?

**Thought 1.** Note two tragic facts.

1) Every man seeks the cleansing of his heart from some place. He seeks release from sensing wrong and failure; He seeks some dissolving of guilt. However, few seek cleansing in Christ. They seem to seek cleansing everywhere except in Christ:

=> in religion

=> in attending church enough to salve their conscience and give a feeling of acceptance by God

=> in giving to charity

=> in doing some good deed for others

=> in being loyal to some good man's teaching or leadership

2) Every man follows some master and gives his allegiance to something, whether person or thing (see Mt. 6:24; Lk. 16:13; Rom. 6:16).

**Thought 2.** Note a significant point: only Christ can cleanse and purify a man's heart and give him true cleansing from sin.

## II. *John 03:27–28 Jesus Christ Alone was Messiah*

First, Jesus alone was God's appointed Messiah. John answered the questions by pointing to Jesus Christ. He alone was Messiah, God's appointed One.

1. God is the One who appoints men.

=> He is God, so He has the right to appoint men.

=> He calls men to be His servants.

=> He appoints those men to a particular service and equips those men with gifts.

No man can receive a *true* appointment, a *true* service or a *true* gift unless it is given from heaven, that is, from God Himself. All appointments and gifts that have not come from heaven are *false*.

**James 1:17** *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

**Mat 25:15** *To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.*

**Rom 12:6** *We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.*

*1 Cor 4:7 For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?*

*1 Cor 12:4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

*Job 32:8 But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.*

2. God did not appoint John to be the Messiah but to be the forerunner. John was clear about this. He was not the Messiah; Jesus Christ was. Note several points.

=> John's strong witness about Christ's being the Messiah

=> John's clear understanding of who he himself was and what his specific appointment and ministry were (the forerunner)

=> John's humility

**Thought 1.** Jesus Christ is the Messiah; He alone is the One appointed from heaven. This is the strong declaration of John.

*Mat 16:15-17 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.*

*Mat 26:63-64 But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

*Luke 24:25-26 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"*

*John 4:25-26 The woman said. "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."*

*John 8:28-29 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."*

**Thought 2.** The true servants of God are appointed to their service and ministry by God. This says several things.

- 1) The servant serves God and God alone.
- 2) The servant can trust God to take care of him and his ministry.
- 3) The servant should be humble.

=> He should not envy others, for every servant's ministry is special to God and necessary to His plan of salvation.

=> He should be satisfied in his service and ministry, for he is there by God's appointment.

**John 15:16** *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."*

### III. **John 03:29–30** *Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom*

John declared that Jesus was the Bridegroom. The bridegroom is the One who has the bride (the church, the followers of God). The friend is important, but he is not the bridegroom. John said four things about Jesus as the Bridegroom.

1. The Bridegroom (Christ) is the One for whom the friend waits. It is true that the friend (God's servant) is important, for he takes care of matters for the bridegroom, and he has the privilege of bringing the bride to the bridegroom. But there is only one Bridegroom, and He is the focus of the friend's attention.
2. The Bridegroom's (Christ's) voice is the voice to be heard. His voice is the important voice. His will is the will to be done: serving Him and doing what He says are what is important.
3. The Bridegroom (Christ) is the cause of joy. It is not the friend who brings joy to the bride or to the guests and community; it is the Bridegroom. Everyone's joy is found in seeing the Bridegroom's will done and in seeing Him pleased.
4. The Bridegroom (Christ) is the only object of loyalty. The words "He" and "I" are an *emphatic contrast* (v. 30). That is to say, there is a *compulsion* to lift up the Person and the honour of the Bridegroom. In no sense nor in any place does the servant try to draw attention, praise or honour toward himself.

=> The servant draws back and shrinks from attention, becoming less in the eyes of all. He does nothing for himself but does *all for the Bridegroom*, for His honour and greatness.

=> The servant focuses attention upon the Bridegroom: pushes Him out front, increases His presence and stature before everyone.

**John 5:23** *"That all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him."*

**Rom 14:9** *For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

**Phil 2:5-9** *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became*

*obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.*

**Col 1:18** *And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

**Heb 3:3** *Jesus has been found worthy of greater honour than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honour than the house itself.*

**Rev 5:13** *Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!”*

**Rev 19:7** *Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.*

**Psa 29:2** *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.*

**Psa 34:3** *Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.*

**Psa 107:32** *Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.*

**Isa 25:1** *O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvellous things, things planned long ago.*

**Oba 1:4** *“Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down,” declares the Lord.*

#### **IV. John 03:31 Jesus Alone Was From Above**

Third, Jesus alone was from above, that is, from heaven. Note two things.

1. The meaning of “from above” is significant (see *From Above*, Jn. 3:31).
2. The words “above all” are mentioned twice; they are very important. They mean superior and pre-eminent. Jesus, who came from heaven (out of the dimension of heaven), was the Superior and pre-eminent One. He was above all. The reasons He was “above all” are twofold.
  - a. His origin was “from above.” He was not of the earth, not earthly. Men are. Men are born of the flesh, that is, they are born of a man and woman who live on earth. Therefore, men are of the earth and are earthly. But not Jesus. He was “from heaven” — *out of God Himself*. Therefore, He was superior and pre-eminent.

The flesh is of the earth and is part of the earth; it is made up of the chemicals and substances of the earth. It is physical, material, animal. It is “the earthly house,” the “tabernacle,” the “tent,” which houses the human soul and spirit (2 Cor. 5:1). It is neither spirit nor spiritual; therefore, it cannot live beyond the strength of the chemicals and substances that form its flesh. It cannot live beyond its *natural life*.

Jesus Christ became flesh to counteract the natural body of the flesh. He became flesh in order to become “a life-giving spirit,” the Saviour who could quicken and make alive all those who would trust Him (1 Cor. 15:45).

- b. A man can only speak of the earth and of earthly things. He comes *only* out of the earth; therefore, he can know *only* earthly things. When he speaks of heavenly things, he only shares his *ideas* and *speculations*, for he has never been to heaven. Therefore, the only conceivable way for man to know anything about heaven is for Someone from heaven to come and tell him. (see *Jesus the Way; Jesus the Truth; and Jesus the Life*, Jn. 14:6.)

### JOHN 03:31 JESUS CHRIST — “FROM ABOVE”

*“The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all.” John 3:31*

Jesus came *out of* (ek) the spiritual world into the physical world, out of the heavenly dimension of being into the earthly dimension of being. Jesus came out of...

- the incorruptible and imperishable world into the corruptible and perishable world.
- the glorious world into the dishonourable world.
- the powerful world into the weak world.
- the spiritual world into the natural world. (See 1 Cor. 15:42-44.)

**John 3:13** *“No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — the Son of Man.”*

**John 6:33, 38** *“For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” “For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”*

**John 6:41-42** *At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”*

**John 6:50-51** *But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*

**John 6:58** *This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.”*



**John 6:62** *“What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!”*

**John 8:23** *But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”*

**John 8:42** *Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.”*

**John 13:3** *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.*

**John 17:5** *“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”*

**John 16:30** *“Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”*

**1 Cor 15:47** *The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. □*

#### JOHN 14: 06 JESUS THE WAY

*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” **John 14:06***

There is a difference between pointing the way to a particular place and taking someone by the hand to lead him there. The person who guides someone to his destination literally becomes the way himself. Jesus Christ not only points out how to walk through life and how to reach God, He personally shows the person the way. Therefore, He Himself is the Way. Note the repetition of the word “way” (v. 4, 5, 6).

**Heb 10:19-20** *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body. □*

#### JOHN 14:06 JESUS THE TRUTH

*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” **John 14:06***

There is a difference between telling someone about the truth and living the truth before them. The one who lives the truth literally becomes the truth.

1. Jesus Christ is the *Embodiment* of truth (Jn. 14:6). He is the picture of truth. God not only talks to man about Himself, God shows man what He is like in the person of Jesus Christ. Man can look at Jesus Christ and see a perfect picture of the truth of God.

**John 10:30** *“I and the Father are one.”*

**John 10:37-38** *“Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”*

**John 14:10** *“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”*

**John 17:11** *I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one.*

2. Jesus Christ is the *Communicator* of truth. He Himself — His Person and His Life — makes things perfectly clear. He reveals the ultimate source and meaning and end of all things. He reveals the truth of man himself and of the world surrounding man. He shows man the right way to the truth, and He enables man to choose the right way to the truth.

**John 3:11** *“I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.”*

**John 3:23** *Now John also was baptising at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptised.*

**John 3:34** *For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.*

**John 5:24** *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*

**John 6:63** *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”*

**John 6:68** *Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”*

**John 8:14** *Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.”*

**John 14:24** *“He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.”*

**John 17:8** *“For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.”*



**John 17:14** *“I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.”*

**John 18:37** *“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”*

**Rev 1:5** *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.*

3. Jesus Christ is the *Liberator* of truth (Jn. 8:32; 15:3). He sets men free from the great gulf (estrangement) which exists between man and God, between man and his world, and between man and man. He sets man free from the frustrations which he constantly experiences. He frees man from the fears and weaknesses and defects that plague him. Jesus Christ is the only lasting Liberator on earth. (See *Truth*, Jn. 8:32).

**John 8:32** *“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

**John 15:3** *“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.”* □

## JOHN 14:06 JESUS THE LIFE

*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* **John 14:06**

There is a difference between telling someone about life and actually living life. The one who lives is the one who possesses life, and the more perfectly one lives, the more life one possesses. Jesus Christ lived perfectly; therefore, He possesses life perfectly. He is the Life: the very embodiment, energy, force, and source of life itself.

**John 1:4** *In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

**John 10:10** *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

**John 11:25** *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.*

**Rom 5:21** *So that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**2 Tim 1:10** *But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.* □

## V. *John 03:32–34 Jesus Christ, God's Only Spokesman*

Fourth, Jesus alone was God's Spokesman. Jesus was "from above," *out of the dimension of heaven*; therefore, He had seen and heard the truth of heaven.

1. Jesus testified, revealed, and proclaimed what He had seen and heard. He was the Spokesman of God who revealed heaven and the truth of it. He is the only One who can share heaven with men.
2. Most men reject His testimony. Note the words "*no one*" — this simply means the vast, vast majority of men (see v. 33 where some do accept His words). So many men reject the Lord's words that it can be said that "*no one*" accepts His message.
3. Some men do accept and seal the Lord's testimony (See *God has Sent*, Jn. 3:33).
4. The proof that Jesus was God's Spokesman is clearly stated without any equivocation.

⇒ Jesus was sent from God. He was the *Apostle of God* (See *Seal, Certify*, Jn. 3:34).

⇒ Therefore, He spoke the Words of God. Whatever He said was the Word of God. How can we be sure? Because God sent Him and gave Spirit *without measure or limit* to Him.

- a. He was the Apostle of God.

**John 6:38** "*For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.*"

**John 7:29** "*But I know him because I am from him and he sent me.*"

**John 8:42** Jesus said to them, "*If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.*"

**John 10:36** "*What about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?"*

**John 17:21** "*That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*"

- b. He is the Spokesman of God.

**John 3:34** *For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.*

**John 6:63** "*The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*"

**John 6:68** Simon Peter answered him, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*"

**John 7:46** "*No one ever spoke the way this man does,*" the guards declared.

**John 8:51** "*I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.*"

**John 12:48** “There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.”

**John 14:24** “He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.”

**John 17:8** “For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.”

**Mark 13:31** “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

**Luke 4:22** All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

**Luke 4:32** They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.

### JOHN 03:33 SEAL, CERTIFY

A man’s seal or certification was affixed to a document to show he agreed with it. He reckoned it as legal, binding, valid, authentic. A seal guaranteed that the record was true and genuine. When a man receives the testimony of Jesus, he shows that God is true. Conversely, the only way a man can show that God is true is to accept the testimony of Jesus (see Jn. 6:27). □

### JOHN 03:34 JESUS CHRIST, ORIGIN — “GOD HAS SENT”

Jesus is the Apostle of God. He is God’s Ambassador, God’s perfect Spokesman. It should be noted that God poured out His Spirit *without measure* or *limit* upon Jesus - the only apostle upon whom this was ever done. (See Jn. 4:34; 5:23-24, 30, 36-37; 6:38-40, 44, 57; 7:16, 18; 8:16, 42; 9:4; 10:36; 11:42; 12:44-45, 49; 14:24; 15:21; 16:5; 17:3, 18, 21, 23, 25; 20:21.) □

## VI. **John 03:34 Jesus Christ Alone has the Fullness of Spirit**

Fifth, Jesus alone had the full measure of the Spirit. There was no limit to the Spirit’s...

- presence
- fullness
- call
- appointment
- equipping
- work
- blessings

The Spirit was of the same Being with Jesus, in perfect harmony, communion, and fellowship with Jesus. He was given to Jesus in a way far different from that was given to other men. There was no limit to His presence with Jesus. Jesus had the perfect and full extend of the Spirit. The purpose for the full extend was clearly stated by Jesus.

**Luke 4:18-19** “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

*Acts 10:38* How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

## **VII. John 03:35–36 The Decision Maker of Man's Destiny**

Sixth, Jesus alone determines man's destiny.

1. There has never been a more tender statement than "the Father loves the Son." God loves His Son beyond anything that could ever be understood. How much does God love Him? So much that He has given all things into the hands of His Son: all power, all authority, all rule, all reign, all supremacy, all dominion, all honour, all glory, all praise, all worship, all service. As clearly and as simply as can be said, all things have been given to God's only Son. There is nothing existing that has not been given to Him.

*1 Pet 3:22* Who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand — with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

2. There are four primary reasons why God loves His Son so much.

⇒ Jesus is God's *only* Son, the Son in His very own side. He alone has seen God. No man has seen God at any time: however, Jesus Christ claimed...

- that He was "the one and only Son of God" (Jn. 3:16).
- that He had come from "the Father's side" (from the deepest part, the most intimate place, the most honourable fellowship) (Jn. 1:18).
- that He had come to reveal and to proclaim the Father (Jn. 14:6).

⇒ Jesus is God's one and only Son, the Son who willingly partook of flesh and came into the world to save men, thereby fulfilling the will of God perfectly. Christ became flesh. The Incarnation did take place. The Son of God was actually made flesh. He came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:14).

⇒ Jesus gave Himself as an offering and a *sacrifice to God Himself*. (Eph. 5:2.)

⇒ Jesus willingly learned perfect obedience by the things which He suffered. Jesus secured eternal righteousness for man....

- by becoming the Servant of all men
- by dying as God willed
- by paying the supreme price in obeying God (to die)
- by His readiness to die in obedience to God's will so that God could save man

3. The man who believes in the Son has eternal life (see *Life in Christ*, Jn. 1:4; *Life in Christ*, Jn. 10:10; *Eternal Life*, Jn. 17:2-3). God will receive and honour anyone who receives and honours His Son whom He loves so much. It does not matter who the person is or what the person has done. If the person believes in God's only Son, God gives eternal life to him.

4. The man who does not believe the Son faces two things.
  - a. He will not see life. He perishes (see *Perish*, Jn. 3:16).
  - b. The wrath of God abides on him (see *Wrath*, Jn. 3:36). ■

### JOHN 03:36 REJECTION — BELIEVE NOT (HO APEITHON)

Believe not is to obey not. If a person does not obey, he does not really believe. Conversely, if a person really believes, he obeys. (See *Saving Faith*, Jn. 2:24; *Faith and Obedience*, Heb. 5:9.) □

### JOHN 03:36 WRATH (ORGE)

Anger, temper, indignation. It is not an uncontrolled, unthinking, violent reaction. It is deep, permanent, settled, thoughtful, controlled anger and temper.

There is another Greek word which also means wrath (thumos), and it is also used of God's wrath. Thumos is anger that arises more quickly, blazes forth, and just as quickly cools down. It is an anger that is more turbulent, more sudden, but the agitation lasts for only a short period of time. This simply means that God does not dodge His responsibility to execute justice and to punish injustice and sin (see Rom. 1:22). His wrath is His...

- anger against sin
- reaction against unrighteousness
- opposition to the injustices of men
- punishment of evil and wicked men

The wrath or anger of God is aroused for four reasons.

1. Men do not believe in the Son of God. They allow their hearts to become hardened, stubborn, and unrepentant (Rom. 2:5). They spurn and wound God's love — rejecting, abusing, cursing and denying His Son, the one dearest to His heart (Jn. 3:36; 2 Th. 1:7-9. Jn. 3:18-20; 3:35-36.)
2. Men reject God's mercy, which is ever attempting to reach out and save them (Rom. 2:3-6).
3. Men transgress God's law (Rom. 1:18f; Col. 3:6).
4. Men sin and come short of God's will, violating His holiness (Eph. 5:6).

God's wrath is real and active. God is holy, righteous, and pure as well as loving, gracious, and merciful. He executes justice as well as love. He shows wrath and anger as well as compassion. His wrath is both present and future.

1. God's wrath is present and active in this life. It remains on men now. His wrath is manifested against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men (Rom. 1:18) such as...
  - sexual impurity (Rom. 1:24)
  - shameful lusts (Rom. 1:26)
  - depraved minds (Rom. 1:28)
2. God's wrath is future and it is to be actively executed in the next life (see *Hell Fire*, Mt. 5:22; *Hell, Torment*, Lk. 16:24; *Death*, Heb. 9:27). God will punish sin by giving men up...
  - to eternal fire (Mt. 25:41; 25:46)
  - to hell (Mt. 5:22)
  - to the darkness (Mt. 8:12)
  - to weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mt. 8:12)
  - to the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:15)
3. God's wrath will be especially manifested and active in the last days (see Rev. 6:16; 11:8; 14:10; 16:19; 19:15). □