

SALVATION IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
 Keys for unlocking the message today
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 (5)

Welcome

1. After Anselm
2. Reading John 3:9-18
3. Healing, service, love
4. Passover and new creation
5. **Holy Spirit**
6. And today?

Welcome

- The Holy Spirit in the Gospel of John.
- The Spirit and the seven “weeks”
- An intense teaching
- 7 Key Takeaways
- And so...

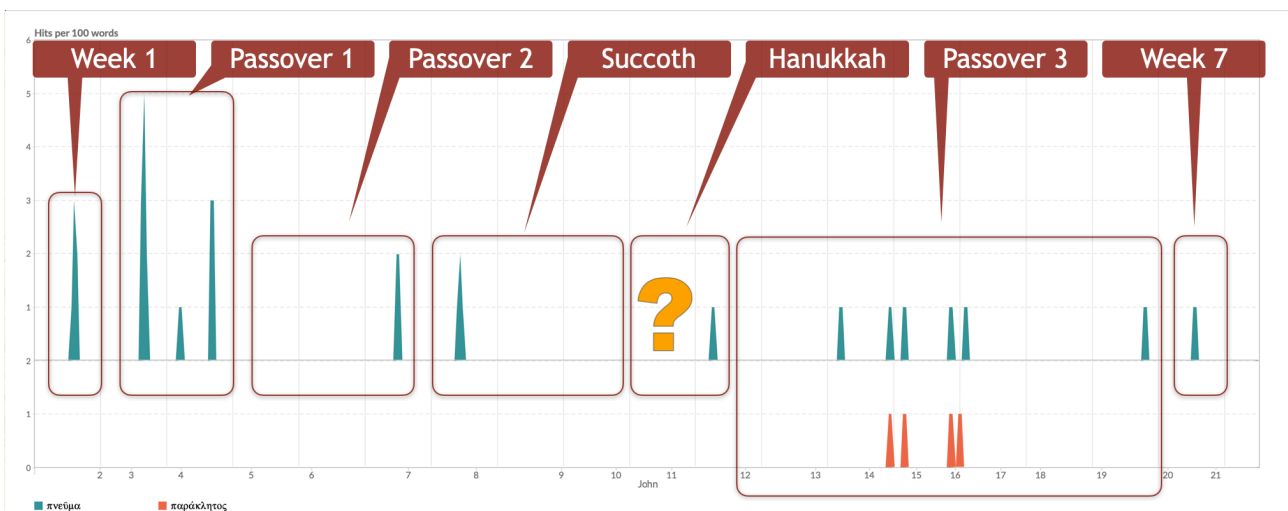
The Spirit in the Gospel of John

- Spirit (*pneuma*) x24
- John 1:32-33; 3:5-6, 8, 34; 4:23-24; 6:63; 7:39; 11:33; 13:21; 14:17, 26; 15:26; 16:13; 19:30; 20:22
- Advocate (*paraklētos*) x4
- John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7

The Seven Gospel Weeks

- 1:1-51 Week 1 (Days 4+3)
- 2:1-4:54 Week 2 (Passover 1)
- 5:1-6:71 Week 3 (Passover 2)
- 7:1-9:41 Week 4 (Succoth)
- 10:1-11:54 Week 5 (Hanukkah)
- 11:55-19:42 Week 6 (Passover 3)
- 20:1-31 Week 7 (Days 1 and 8)

Spirit and Paraclete



Weeks 1 and 7

John 1:32 And John testified, “I saw the **Spirit** descending from heaven like a **dove**, and it remained on him. **33** I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the **Spirit** descend and remain is the one who baptises with the **Holy Spirit**.’

John 19:30 When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he

- Jesus **has** the Spirit
- Jesus **releases** the Spirit
- Jesus **bestows** the Spirit

Passover 1

Born again

John 3:1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.”

3 Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being **born from above** (*anōthen*).” **4** Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no

Baptism

John 3:22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and **baptised**. **23** John also was **baptising** at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being **baptised** **24** —John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison.

John 4:1 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and **baptising** more disciples than John” **2** —although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who **baptised**— **3** he left Judea

Water

John 2:6 Now standing there were six stone **water** jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. **7** Jesus said to them, “Fill the

bowed his head and handed over the **Spirit**. (NRSV adjusted)

John 20:22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the **Holy Spirit**. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

one can enter the kingdom of God without **being born of water and Spirit** (*pneuma*).

6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the **Spirit** (*pneuma*) is **spirit** (*pneuma*). **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be **born from above** (*anōthen*).’

John 3:8 The **wind** (*pneuma*) blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is **born of the Spirit** (*pneuma*).”

and started back to Galilee. **4** But he had to go through Samaria. **5** So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **6** Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

John 4:23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in **spirit** and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. **24** God is **spirit**, and those who worship him must worship in **spirit** and truth.”

jars with **water**.” And they filled them up to the brim.

John 2:9 When the person in charge tasted the **water** that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the **water** knew), that person called the bridegroom

John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of **water** and Spirit.

John 3:23 John also was baptising at Aenon near Salim because **water** was abundant there, and people kept coming and were being baptised.

John 4:7 A Samaritan woman came to draw **water**, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”

John 4:10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have

given you living **water**.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living **water**?”

John 4:13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this **water** will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the **water** that I will give them will never be thirsty. The **water** that I will give will become in them a spring of **water** gushing up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this **water**, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw **water**.”

John 4:28 Then the woman left her **water** jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,

John 4:46 Then he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had changed the **water** into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum.

- Born “from above”
- Born “from water”
- Born “from the Spirit”
- The foundational gift of baptism

Passover 2

John 6:63 It is the **spirit** that gives life; the flesh is useless. The **words** that I have spoken to you are **spirit** and life.

Earlier

John 5:47 But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe my words?” (NRSVue adjusted)

Echoing

Mark 14:37 Jesus came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? **38** Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the **spirit** indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

John 6:66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. **67** So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” **68** Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? **You have the words of eternal life.** **69** We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” **70** Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.” **71** **He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.**

- The “words” of Jesus in this Gospel: John 3:34; 5:47; 6:63, 68; 8:20, 47; 10:21; 12:47-48; 14:10; 15:7; 17:8.
- The words of Jesus convey both life and Spirit.
- The baptised disciple lives by Jesus’ word(s).

Succoth

John 7:37 On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is **thirsty** come to me, **38** and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of his **heart** shall flow rivers of **living water**.’”

39 Now he said this about the **Spirit**, which believers in him were to **receive**; for as yet there was no **Spirit**, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- Succoth – commemorating the time in the desert.
- NB Water from the rock (Exodus 17 and Numbers 20)
- NB The pool of Siloam (John 9)
- NB Giant candelabra in the Temple
- NB “I am the light of the world” (x2; Isaiah)

- Jesus fulfils the symbolism of Succoth, as well.
- “His heart” i.e. the heart of Jesus, first of all.
- He is the source of “living water”.
- Comment on the Spirit is arresting.
- Glorification and the gift of the Spirit (= John 19:30 and 20:22-23, above).
- Unmissable links back to John 2-4.

Hanukkah

- Feast of Dedication (Jewish tradition)
- Feast of Lights (Josephus)
- Feast of Renewals (Greek OT and NT)

Sources: 1, 2 and 4 Maccabees.

1 Macc 4:59 Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.

- Antiochus IV Epiphanes = Antiochus IV, the appearance of God
- So Antiochus carried off eighteen hundred talents from the temple, and hurried away to Antioch, thinking in his arrogance that he could **sail on the land and walk on the sea**, because his mind was elated. (2 Maccabees 5:21)
- And when he could not endure his own stench, he uttered these words, “It is right to be subject to God; **mortals should not think that they are equal to God.**” (2 Maccabees 9:12)
- **Only God has the power to give life and to judge** (2 Maccabees 7:9, 11, 14, 22-23, 35-36)

John 10:40 He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been **baptising** earlier, and he remained there. **41** Many came to him, and they were saying, “John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.” **42** And many believed in him there.

and he spent some time there with them and **baptised**.

John 4:23 But the **hour** is coming and is now here when the **true worshippers** will **worship** the Father in **spirit** and **truth**, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. **24** God is **spirit**, and those who **worship** him must **worship** in **spirit** and **truth**.”

John 3:22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the region of Judea,

- In the Gospel of John, Jesus is being rejected because he resembles Antiochus (!).
- Jesus does the “works” of God, i.e. giving life and judging
- **Therefore**, Jesus may be identified with God

An intense teaching

- Jesus has the Spirit.
- The dying Jesus releases the Spirit.
- The risen Jesus bestows the Spirit.
- Believers are born “from above”.
- Born “from water”.
- Born “from the Spirit”.
- The words of Jesus convey both life and Spirit.
- The baptised disciple lives by Jesus’ word(s).
- Jesus, through the Spirit, is the source of “living water”.
- In Jesus, we worship the Father in Spirit and in truth.
- We “remember” all that Jesus said and did through the Holy Spirit (= teach, remind, testify, guide, declare).
- The leading into all truth is the task of the Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit “enacts” salvation in the hearts and lives of believers.

7 Key Takeaways

John 1:32 And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. **33** I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit.’”

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scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” **39** Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

John 19:30 When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and handed over the Spirit.

John 20:22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

And so...

John’s gospel offers

- 3 events of salvation: Healing, service, love.
- 2 lenses: Passover and New Creation
- 1 enactment: The Holy Spirit

The creator God has healed humanity of death
by sending his Son
in an act of love and service,
setting us free from the power of death and sin.
God’s loving therapy is a new Passover and a new creation.
The Holy Spirit enacts God’s saving actions in our lives.