

# *The Apostle John*

A Character Study

## A Look at John's Life

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- Son of Zebedee and Salome (Lk. 5:10).
- John's brother was James (Mk. 3:17).
- A disciple of John the Baptist (Jn. 1:35-42).
- Called to be an apostle (Matt. 4:18ff).
- Suffered persecution and imprisonment (Acts 4:3; 5:17-42; Rev. 1:9).
- John was a pillar (Gal. 2:9) and possibly an elder in the church (II Jn. 1; III Jn. 1).

## The disciple whom the Lord Loved (Jn. 13:23; 20:2; 21:7, 20)

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- He affectionately leaned on the breast of Jesus at the supper (Jn. 13:23).
- Witnessed Jesus' transfiguration (Matt. 17:1ff).
- Witnessed Jesus raising Jairus' daughter from the dead (Mk. 5:37ff).
- Requested to pray with Jesus in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:37ff).
- Entrusted to care for Mary (Jn. 19:26).
- Witnessed the Lord's crucifixion (Matt. 26:56).
- First to Jesus' tomb (Jn. 20:1-4).

## “The sons of thunder” (Mk. 3:17)

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- John forbids exorcism (Lk. 9:49)
- Ready to call down fire from heaven (Lk. 9:54).
- Determined to expose Diotrephes (III Jn. 10).
- Convicted of truth (I Jn. 2:26).
- Shared a common love with those who love truth (I Jn. 1:4; II Jn. 4; III Jn. 4).

# Themes in John's Epistles

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- The Deity of Jesus
- Abiding in truth
- Bible Love
- Receiving Eternal life

## What do we gain from a study of the apostle John?

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- Though he suffered persecution and imprisonment he continued to preach.
- Jesus knew of John's love for Him and so he was the "disciple whom the Lord loved."
- Jesus referred to James and John as "sons of thunder" (conviction, zeal, and determination).
- John preached on the reality of Jesus and man's responsibility to abide in truth that heaven may be achieved.