

Review of Last Week

The Head and the Tail of John's Narrative

The Head: The Prologue (John 1:1-18)

Jesus as the One-and-Only life-giving (1:12) Son-of-God (1:18)/Creator (1:1ff)
to those who believe in Him (1:12f)—who (in turn) become sons of God (1:12f)

The Tail: The Purpose-Statement and Epilogue (John 20:30-21:25)

John's Purpose Statement: John 20:30-31

Intended Readers:

These are written

that you (_____) may believe (20:31a) and

that you (_____) may have life in His Name (20:31b).

Seven Signs in the Book's First Half and One Supreme Sign in the Second

1. Water to Wine (John 2:1-11)

2. Healing the Royal (Herodian) Official's Son from Afar (4:46-54)

3. Healing the Man who Was Lame for 38 Years (5:1-15)

4. Feeding 5000 Men Plus Women and Children (6:1-14)

5. Teleporting the Boat after Walking on the Sea of Galilee (6:15-21)

6. Healing the Man Born Blind (9:1-12)

7. Raising Lazarus (11:1-44)

8. The-Cross-Plus-Resurrection (2:18-21; chapters 19–20)

Explanation of John 2:18-21: One sign; two parts.

John 19–20: The Cross followed by the Resurrection

These [Eight Signs] Are Written

and

so
so

 you may believe . . .
by believing, you may have life in His Name.

The initial purpose of the book is to bring readers to believe

The ultimate purpose is that readers would have life (everlasting life) in Jesus' Name.

In the *Majority Text* of John, the word believe (*pisteuō*) is used 100 times.

(Nestle-Aland has it 98 times, substituting words for know the other two times).

Remember that John 4:10 characterizes everlasting life as God's (irrevocable) gift. Everlasting life is received as a gift, not dependent upon works or a holy lifestyle, etc.

What Does It Mean to Believe that Jesus Is the Christ, the Son of God?

John's meaning is not merely having an orthodox Christology.

John 11:25-27 Defines the meaning that Jesus and John attach to this content of faith

Background to John 11:

Jesus was in Bēthania, where John initially baptized (John 10:40; cf. 1:28).

The location was not Bethabara (MajT and Nestle-Aland agree)

It was not a town called Bēthania (Bethany) beyond the Jordan

It was the region of Batanea (called Bashan in OT times).

Aramaic often changed Š (ܫ) to T (ܛ) as in t^oqēl (Dan 5:28)

It took 3+ days to walk from Batanea to Bethany

(In John 1–2, it would be a one-day walk to Cana)

Courier came (day 1), likely reaching Bethany on day 5.

Jesus left on day 3, reaching Bethany on day 7.

Jesus reached Bethany 4 days after Lazarus died, the courier reached Bethany 2 days after Lazarus died.

Therefore, John 11:21 is not complaint.

John 11:21f vocalize Martha's existing faith.

John 11:25-27

I am the Resurrection

He who believes in Me,
even if he dies, will live.

and (I am) the Life.

And everyone **who lives** and believes in Me **will in no way die unto eternity.**



Do you believe this?

The word for this is *touto*, which is neuter. Grammatical units, such as what Jesus said in John 11:25-26 is treated as neuter. We could paraphrase this: Do you believe *all of* this?

Analysis:

The left side defines what He means by saying: I am the Resurrection.

What kind of death is meant by the underlined words: he dies? (on the left)?

What kind of life is meant by the underlined will live(on the left)?

What do we call it when someone who died physically lives again physically?

The right side defines what He means by saying: (I am) the Life.

What kind of death is meant by the bold will in no way die? (on the right)?

What kind of life is meant by the bold **who lives** (on the right)?

What do we call the kind of life that prevents one from dying unto eternity?

Martha's Initial Answer:

Her first words were: Yes, Lord.

Given this answer: What would Martha say that Jesus had promised her?

Martha's Follow-Up Answer:

She said, I have believed (perfect tense)

In other words, she had already believed this. She still believed it.

What is it that Martha said that she had already believed?

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the One coming into the world.

Her follow-up answer means: The reason I believe that You are the Guarantor of Resurrection and the Grantor of everlasting life is because You are the Christ, the Son of God.

What is her logic?

It is similar to Paul's logic in Acts 26:1-8

It is similar to the logic of Hebrews 11 (noting 11:13 and 11:39)

The parallelism between John 11:27 and John 20:31.

Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God is linked vitally with believing His promise of everlasting life.

Note John 20:31.

These are written so you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and so that by believing, you may **have life in His Name**.

Why Is It that I See Martha Anticipating that Jesus Would Raise Lazarus on This Occasion?

Compare John 11: _____ with 11:_____.

CONCLUSION