

Quote...Unquote: Whose Words Are These?

Dr. John Niemelä

Water of Life

May 1, 2025

Introduction

Four “Where-Does-It-End” Passages:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Does the Prologue end at: | 1:18 or 1:14? |
| 2. The Baptist spoke John 1:15; who said 1:16-18? | Apostle John or John the Baptist? |
| 3. Jesus spoke John 3:10-15; who said 3:16-21? | Apostle John or Jesus? |
| 4. The Baptist spoke John 3:27-30; who said 3:31-36? | Apostle John or John the Baptist? |

Paper Outline:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. The words are inspired, does who said it really matter? | |
| 2. Statistics show that John signals ends of quotes. | |
| 3. Crowd ends the Prologue at 1:18. | It ends at 1:14. |
| 4. Crowd ends John-B's quotation at 1:15. | It ends at 1:18. |
| 5. Crowd ends Jesus' quotation at 3:15. | It ends at 3:21. |
| 6. Crowd ends John-B's quotation at 3:30. | It ends at 3:36. |

1. Who Said It Matters and When It Was Said Matters

John 1:15ff	John 3	John 11-21	Date of Writing
Late AD 29*	AD 30*	AD 33 *	?

If John the Baptist spoke John 1:16-18, the words date to AD 29*

If Jesus spoke John 3:16-21, the words date to AD 30*

If John the Baptist spoke John 3:31-36, the words date to AD 30*

If supplied by the apostle, they are post-resurrection words

Who said it can affect meaning; at times it would affect meaning.

Quote enders are John's expected pattern

Examples of quote enders

John has **at least** ____ QEs for ____ quotes

1:18, 19-20, 21abcd, 22-23, 25, 27, 31, 34, 36, 38ab, 39, 41-43, 45, 46ab, 47, 48ab, 49-51; 2:3-5, 7, 10, 18-20; 3:2-4, 8-9, 21, 26, 36; 4:7, 9-10, 12, 14-18, 20, 24-26, 29, 31-33, 38, 42, 48-52; 5:6-8, 10-12, 14, 17, 47; 6:5, 7, 9-10, 12, 14, 20, 25, 27-29, 31, 33-34, 40, 42, 51-52, 58, 60, 64-65, 67, 69-70; 7:4, 8, 11, 12ab, 15, 19-20, 24, 27, 29, 31, 34, 36, 38, 40-42, 45-46, 49, 51-52; 8:5, 7, 10, 11ab, 12-13, 18, 19ab, 21-22, 24-26, 29, 32-33, 38-39, 41ab, 47-48, 51, 53, 56-58; 9:2, 5, 7-8, 9ab, 10-12, 15, 16ab, 17, 19, 21, 24-27, 29, 33-40; 10:5, 18, 20-21, 24, 30, 32-33, 38, 41; 11:3-4, 7-8, 10-12, 15-16, 22-24, 26-28, 31-32, 34ab, 36-37, 39ab, 40, 42-44, 48, 50, 56; 12:5, 8, 13, 19, 21, 28ab, 29, 32, 34, 36, 50; 13:6-7, 8ab, 9-10, 20-21, 25-27, 35, 36ab, 37; 14:4-5, 7-8, 21-22; 16:16-18, 28, 30, 33; 17:26; 18:4, 5ab, 7ab, 8, 11, 17ab, 21-23, 25ab, 26, 29-30, 31ab, 33-36, 37ab, 38-40; 19:3-5, 6ab, 7, 9-12, 14, 15abc, 21-22, 24, 26-28, 30; 20:2, 13ab, 15ab, 16ab, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25ab, 26-29; 21:3ab, 5ab, 6-7, 10, 12, 15abc, 16abc, 17abc, 18-19, 21-22.

2 Most Writers End the Prologue at 1:18, but it actually ends at 1:14

Problems with 1:1-18 as the Prologue

A major admission by B. F. Westcott

Ryken and Ryken admit to a difficulty that arises from ending the Prologue at 1:18

Evidence for the Prologue as 1:1-14

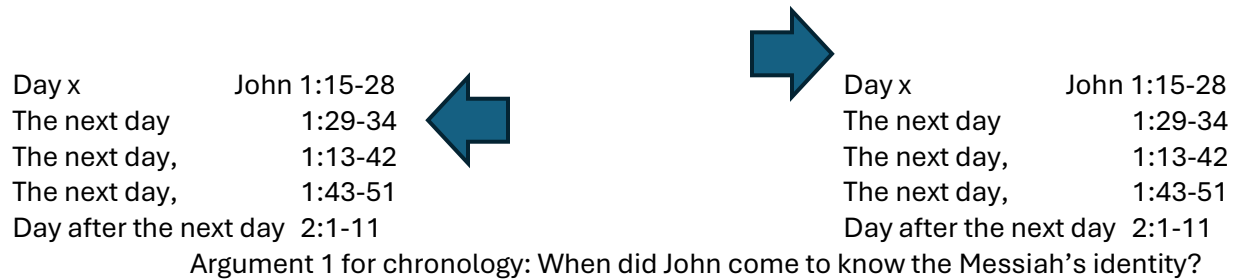
An Inclusio

Evidence that 1:15 begins the narrative

2 Most Writers End the Baptist's speech at 1:15, but it actually ends at 1:18

A. No quote ender in 1:16, but 1:19 is a quote ender

B. Chronology of Jesus' baptism



Argument 2: Reconciling Mark 1:12 with John 1

Factoring the Baptism and Temptation into the chronology of John 1

C. This chronology explains a mystery: John 1:15 being repeated in 1:27 and 1:30

D. Taking seriously John the Baptist as a prophet (contrary to common opinion)

E. Defining "We all" in John 1:16 contextually as John the Baptist meant it

2 Most Writers End Jesus' speech at 3:15, but it actually ends at 3:21

A. Some versions that end Jesus' speech at 3:21

Beck: New Testament in the Language of Today, Common English Bible, Complete Jewish Bible, English Standard Version, Holman Christian Standard Bible, Modern Language New Testament: The New Berkeley Version, New American Standard Bible, New American Standard Bible (update), New Century Version, New English Bible, New International Readers' Version, New International Version, New King James Version, New Living Translation, New Revised Standard Version, Oxford Study Bible, Philips: The New Testament in Modern English, Pickering: The Sovereign Creator Has Spoken, Revised English Bible, Ruden: The Gospels, The Message, Williams: New Testament in the Language of the People.

B. Does the start of monologue end the speech?

The contention

The inconsistency

3 Most Writers End Jesus' speech at 3:15, but it actually ends at 3:21

- C. Are Past-Tense Forms a Problem here?

The contention

An alternate understanding of the past referents

- D. Is the Absence of First-Person Referents a Problem?

The contention

John's usage of third-person referents for first person (elsewhere)

The inconsistency

- E. John 3:22 is a quote ender; no quote ender appears at 3:16

- F. Jesus' whole argument involves the Trinity

4 Most Writers End John the Baptist's speech at 3:30, but it actually ends at 3:36

- A. John 4:1 is a quote ender; no quote ender appears at 3:31

- B. John's Gospel uses third-person referents for first person elsewhere

- C. The present-tense forms in John 3:32 favor John as the speaker

Conclusion

APPENDIX

The paper argues that the recognition that Jesus speaks throughout John 3:10-21 is important. Jesus contrasts earthly truths that the group with Nicodemus has not yet believed with higher-level (heavenly) truths that they clearly have not yet come to believe. When one looks over this chart, a very high percentage of the verses in John's Gospel mention two (or three) members of the Trinity. Note that such verses even precede John 3. In fact, John the Baptist made mention of all three members. One cannot deny that the truth of the Trinity is an important doctrine that appears early in John. Those who cut Jesus' message short in John 3 are unlikely to perceive what is going on in John 3. So much for those who assert that it does not matter whose words are quoted in passages like John 1:15-18; 3:16-21, or 31-36.

Verse Data

This section lists verses that mention no members of the Godhead, then those with one, two, or three members. Subsections will be group passages naming one member or another.

1. Verses Not Mentioning any Member of the Trinity (115 = 13.1% of 879 verses)

1:5, 19, 22, 24, 28, 35, 44, 46; 2:6, 9-10; 3:1, 19-20, 23-25; 4:18, 20, 22, 28, 36-37, 51-52; 5:2-5, 9-10, 29, 35; 6:4, 9, 13, 18, 49; 7:2, 22, 24, 47, 49, 51-53; 8:17, 32, 35; 9:8-10, 13, 18-21, 23, 32, 34; 10:2-5, 12-13, 19, 21-22; 11:1, 10, 18-19, 31, 49-50, 55; 12:5-6, 10, 20, 25, 31, 39; 13:17, 30; 15:13; 16:11, 21; 18:3, 10, 14, 16, 18, 27; 19:8, 19, 22, 31, 35; 20:1, 3-6, 8, 10-11, 23; 21:3, 8-9, 11, 24-25

2. Verses Mentioning Only One Member of the Trinity (558 = 63.5% of 879 verses)

A. The Father only (12 = 1.4%)

1:6, 13; 3:21, 27; 5:44; 6:31; 8:47; 9:31; 10:35; 12:43; 16:2; 17:17

B. The Son only (543 = 61.8%)

1:3-4, 7-11, 15-17, 20-21, 23, 25-27, 30-31, 37-43, 45, 47-48, 50; 2:1-5, 7-8, 11-15, 18-25; 3:4, 9-10, 12-15, 22, 26, 28-32; 4:1-9, 11-17, 19, 25-27, 29-33, 35, 38-50, 53-54; 5:1, 6-8, 11-16, 27-28, 31, 33-34, 39-41, 46-47; 6:1-3, 5-8, 10-12, 14-17, 19-26, 30, 34-36, 41-43, 47-48, 50-56, 58-62, 64, 66-68, 70-71; 7:1, 3-15, 19-21, 23, 25-27, 30-32, 34-38, 40-46, 48, 50; 8:1-15, 20-25, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37, 39, 43-46, 48, 51-52, 56-59; 9:1-2, 5-7, 11-12, 14-15, 17, 22, 25-28, 30, 36-41; 10:1, 6-11, 14, 16, 20, 23-24, 26-28, 31, 39-42; 11:2-3, 5-9, 11-17, 20-21, 23-26, 28-30, 32-39, 43-48, 51, 53-54, 56-57; 12:1-4, 7-9, 11-19, 21-24, 29-30, 32-38, 41-42, 46-48; 13:2, 4-16, 18-19, 21-29, 33-38; 14:3-5, 14-15, 18-19, 22, 25, 27, 29-30; 15:3-7, 11-12, 14, 17-20, 22, 25, 27; 16:4, 6, 9, 12, 18-20, 22, 24, 29, 31, 33; 17:10, 16, 19-20; 18:1-2, 5-6, 8, 12-13, 15, 17, 19-26, 28-40; 19:1-6, 9-18, 20-21, 23-30, 32-34, 36-42; 20:2, 7, 9, 12-16, 18-20, 24-27, 29-30; 21:1-2, 4-7, 10, 12-18, 20-23

C. The Spirit only (3 = 0.3%)

14:17; 16:8, 13

3. Verses Mentioning Two Members of the Trinity (199 = 22.6% of 879 verses)

A. The Father and the Son (189 = 21.5%)

1:1-2, 12, 14, 18, 29, 34, 36, 49, 51; 2:16-17; 3:2-3, 11, 16-18, 33, 35-36; 4:10, 21, 23, 34; 5:17-26, 30, 32, 36-38, 42-43, 45; 6:27-29, 32-33, 37-40, 44-46, 57, 65, 69; 7:16-18, 28-29, 33; 8:16, 18-19, 26-29, 38, 40-42, 49-50, 53-55; 9:3-4, 16, 24, 29, 33, 35; 10:15, 17-18, 25, 29-30, 32-34, 36-38; 11:4, 22, 27, 40-42, 52; 12:26-28, 40, 44-45, 49-50; 13:1, 3, 20, 31-32; 14:1-2, 6-13, 20-21, 23-24, 28, 31; 15:1-2, 8-10, 15-16, 21, 23-24; 16:1, 3, 5, 10, 16-17, 23, 25-28, 30, 32; 17:1-9, 11-15, 18, 21-26; 18:4, 7, 9, 11; 19:7; 20:17, 21, 28, 31; 21:19

B. The Father and the Spirit (1 = 0.1%)

4:24

C. The Son and the Spirit (9 = 1.0%)

1:32; 3:6-8; 6:63; 7:39; 16:7, 14; 20:22

4. Verses Mentioning All Members of the Trinity (7 = 0.8% of 879 verses)

1:33; 3:5, 34; 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:15