

SENT PEOPLE in John's Gospel

1. John the Baptist - the last of the Old Testament 'Sent ones'.

John 1:6

There came a man who was **sent** from God; his name was John.

John 1:33

(John said) I would not have known him (Jesus), except that the one who **sent** me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

Matthew 11:10

This is the one about whom it is written: " 'I will **send** my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' [Mal. 3:1]

John 3:28

(John said) You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ [Or Messiah] but am **sent** ahead of him.'

2. Jesus Christ. God's Sent Man.

John 3:16,17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not **send** his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:34

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

John 4:34

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who **sent** me and to finish his work.

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 5:30

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgement is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who **sent** me.

John 5:36

"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has **sent** me.

John 6:29

Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has **sent**."

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 6:39

And this is the will of him who **sent** me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

John 6:44

"No one can come to me unless the Father who **sent** me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:57

Just as the living Father **sent** me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

John 7:16

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who **sent** me.

John 7:18

He who speaks on his own does so to gain honour for himself, but he who works for the honour of the one who **sent** him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

John 7:28

Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own, but he who **sent** me is true. You do not know him,

John 7:29

but I know him because I am from him and he **sent** me."

John 7:33

Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I go to the one who **sent** me.

John 8:16

But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who **sent** me.

John 8:18

I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who **sent** me."

John 8:26

"Just what I have been claiming all along," Jesus replied. "I have much to say in judgement of you. But he who **sent** me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."

John 8:29

The one who **sent** me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."

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 9:4

As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who **sent** me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

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 11:42

I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people

standing here, that they may believe that you **sent** me.”

John 12:44

Then Jesus cried out, “When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who **sent** me.

John 12:45

When he looks at me, he sees the one who **sent** me.

John 12:49

For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who **sent** me commanded me what to say and how to say it.

John 13:16

I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who **sent** him.

John 13:20

I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who **sent** me.”

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 17:3

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have **sent**.

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 17:21

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.

John 17:23

I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you **sent** me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:25

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have **sent** me.

3. The Blind man (= the standard human condition! - Also See Ch 9 v 40,41)

John 9:7

“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means **Sent**). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

4. The Holy Spirit

Luke 24:49

I am going to **send** you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

John 14:26

But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will **send** in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 15:26

"When the Counsellor comes, whom I will **send** to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

John 16:7

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will **send** him to you.

5. His disciples

Mark 3:14

He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might **send** them out to preach

John 4:38

I **sent** you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour."

John 13:20

I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I **send** accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

John 17:18

As you **sent** me into the world, I have **sent** them into the world.

And after the cross...(and ONLY with the **SENT** Holy Spirit)

Luke 24:49

I am going to **send** you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

John 20:21

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has **sent** me, I am sending you."

Notes (added each week after the study)

Week 1 - John compared with Jesus.

John Baptist is the last in the line of Old Testament (Covenant) messengers from God. Isaiah and Malachi foretell his arrival with a limited message from God, just like them. He was **sent** to- Prepare the way for the Christ, by Baptism in water for repentance from sin. He wasn't 'the Light' but he did preach a small reflection of God's light, just like the previous prophets. Let's illustrate it by 'Moonlight' compared with 'Sunlight'. (Genesis 1 does say that these are 'signs', as well as lightbearers for our earth.)

God (The Sun') laughsI am Love.
The Old Covenant Law ('The Moon') says.....you should love too.
The Sun shouts.....I am Truth.
The moon whispers.....you must not lie.
The Sun sings.....I am all faithfulness.
The moon sighs.....don't cheat on your wife.

This is the difference between colour and black and white! Doesn't Paul the ex-Pharisee call the Law 'the letter that kills?!' Didn't God write it on cold stone the first time? Sure it had a tough job to do - to define sin, and thereby restrict its damage in the Jewish people. But it was doomed to fail.
This is the difference between warm rays and cold moonbeams!

But John fulfilled his 'sending' faithfully..... and was killed for doing it! Jesus called him 'the greatest among men', (*Matthew 11v10,11*) but then talked about a coming group of people in 'the kingdom of God' whose LEAST member would be greater than John! The Old Covenant is not to be compared with the New Covenant. Jesus is not just a 'superior prophet' - and nor indeed will the LEAST member of His kingdom be!

Jesus is introduced in *John 3v16/17* as God's **sent** one. Jesus says why he was **sent** - to save us all from our lost-ness. (John repeats that in *1 John 4v14*). But Jesus also says why he was not sent! 'He was not sent to condemn us! Why should we imagine he was? Well, Paul describes the Old Covenant and its messengers as 'the ministers of condemnation'! (*1 Corinthians 3 v5-9*) The Law made people aware of their sinfulness.(*Romans 5v20*) It established my guilt - condemnation. It killed me! (*Romans 7v9*) Do you recognise the feeling?!

This 'black and white' reflection of God's light that is the Old Covenant made people expect this condemnation to be the character of God (and they still do!). But Jesus isn't 'the moon'.....He's 'The Sun'! And He's come to show us what His Father is REALLY like.

Jesus was not **sent** to condemn. Do you ever find him accusing the ordinary (sinful) person? NEVER! Tax collecting collaborators, prostitutes, beggars - all feel safe with him. 'Does no one condemn you?' He asks the (immoral) woman He has rescued from her Pharisee accusers. (John 8v10) '**Neither do I**', He says. Then He **sends** her! 'Go..... and leave your sinning behind you.' That's the lifting word of Faith, not of condemnation.

This is the beginning of understanding God's **Sent** Man , Jesus. Don't confuse Him with the Old Testament Law. He's not a pale reflection of the true God. He's joyful Love, the Faithful and True messenger, riding out to show us the sunlight of his Father.