

The Work of God

Intro: The Structure(s) of John

Structure one: The Coming & Going of Jesus

'I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.'
John 16v28

Part I Jesus is the Son who has come from heaven to reveal His Father (1-12)

Part II Jesus is the Son who is returning to heaven to open the way to His Father (13-21)

Structure two: The Signposts of Jesus

'Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.'
John 20.30-31

Introduction (1.1-51)	Jesus is the everlasting Word, the long-awaited King
Section one (2.1-4.54)	Jesus is the Christ who has come from His Father to bring in His glorious kingdom of life & feasting (the two signs at Cana bracket this material) Ch 2: WHO is Jesus & WHAT is His kingdom like? Ch 3: WHO is Jesus & HOW do you enter His kingdom? Ch 4: WHO is Jesus & WHO can enter His kingdom?
Section two (5.1-10.42)	Jesus is the Son who has come from the Father; He will judge those who reject Him but continues to offer life to all (the two Sabbath healings bracket this material)
Section three (11.1-20.31)	Jesus is the Son who must die and rise again to offer life (the two resurrection signs bracket this material)
Conclusion (21.1-25)	Jesus the Son commands His apostles to feed His sheep (the unpaired sign leaves the book open and points the reader forward to the ongoing work of God in the world)

1. The World without God

1. *What do the following verses tell us about the natural condition of the world?*

5.24

8.23

5.42

8.34

7.7

8.37

8.12

8.44

8.21

8.47

2. *How would you summarise the natural condition of the world in these chapters?*

Implications

- No neutrality

- No self-salvation

2. The Work of God

i) Jesus has come to do the work of God

5.17

5.19

5.36

cf. 4.34

ii) Jesus has come to judge, but not yet

5.22

5.27-29

9.39

cf. 3.17

iii) Jesus has come to give life NOW

5.21

5.24

5.25-26

6.33

6.38-40

6.51

7.37

8.12

9.3

10.10

- The life-giving work of Jesus is illustrated in both the raising of the paralytic (5.1-15) and the giving of sight to the blind man (9.1-41; see especially verse 3).
- The nature of His life-giving work is explained further in chapters 6-8

Implication

- **Hooray for Jesus – believe in Him!** 6.29

3. The Word of God

The way God does His work is by His Spirit through His word

5.24

6.63

6.68

cf. 14.10 *'The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me...'*

Implications

1. The nature of evangelism

How should Jesus' teaching about the way God does His life-giving work shape our evangelism?

2. The nature of discipleship

How should Jesus' teaching about belief (see 8.31) shape our view of the Christian life?

3. Life-planning

How should the knowledge of what God is doing in the world shape our life's priorities?

Further Reading (* = easy read; ** = deeper but still accessible; *** = weighty but brilliant)

* Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word* (IVP, 2014)

* Richard Alldritt & Ash Carter, *God Speaks* (IVP, 2013)

** Peter Adam, *Written for Us: Receiving God's words in the Bible* (IVP, 2008)

** Timothy Ward, *Words of Life: Scripture as the living & active word of God* (IVP, 2009)

*** John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Word of God* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 2010)