

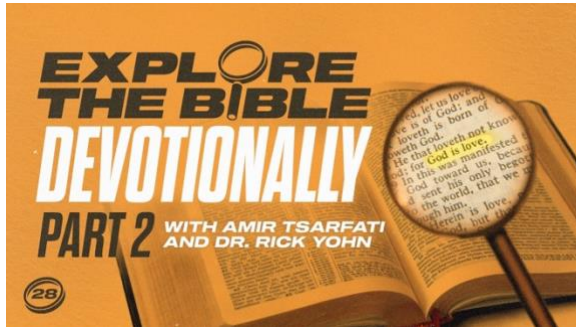


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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1eXSS3hcVA>

Devotionally Part II



AMIR: Hey, Shalom, everyone, and welcome once again to our wonderful program, *Explore the Bible*, where Dr. Rick Yohn and myself are looking into ways to help you to study and understand your Bible. And we continue today where we stopped

last time as we looked into studying the Bible in a devotional way. Dr. Rick, Shalom, how are you, my friend?

RICK: I'm doing real well, once I can clear my throat, doing very well. [Laughter]

AMIR: Wonderful. So, can you give us, in a nutshell, just what is it that we covered last time? I mean, we looked at the Gospel of John, chapter 1. We covered the first 28 verses, I think. And what is the purpose of our program last time and today? Explain a little bit about this “studying it devotionally.”

RICK: Well, Amir, devotionally, I'm talking about moving from just studying it with your mind and bringing it down to your heart. In other words, as we read the Scriptures, we know that God has given us His Word so that it might change our lives. So as we read the Bible, what is it that God wants us to change? What does He want us to know and then what does He want us to be, and then what does He want us to do? The problem is, too often when we read the Bible in a devotional way, we don't interpret it. We just begin to apply whatever thing that we see in there. And sometimes we make the wrong application because we don't know what it really is saying.

And so that's why I want our viewers to get out pen and paper and write down these four words.

The first word is *observation*: What is it in this text that I see? What do I see as I'm reading?

Secondly, *interpretation*: What is it saying? What does it really mean? So what do I see, observation. And interpretation: what does it mean? And then the third step is one that we often skip, and that is *correlation*: How does this text fit other passages of Scripture? And then finally, *application*: What is God saying to me in this passage of Scripture? And if we can follow those four steps, it will help us to apply accurately, and because we've interpreted accurately.

AMIR: So, the devotional part is the personal application of everything we looked at and studied.

I understand. Well, listen, why don't we hop right into the text where we stopped last time. And I think that this is where I'm going to read from verse 29, and on of John chapter 1. So, **"²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.'"³² And John bore witness, saying, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit."³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God. '³⁵ Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, 'Behold the Lamb of God! '³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, 'What do you seek? 'They said to Him, 'Rabbi '**

(which is to say, when translated, Teacher), ‘where are You staying? ’³⁹ He said to them, ‘Come and see. ’They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).” (John 1:29–39)

I think we can stop here, and we’ll continue later reading more. So, obviously, we clearly see that there is a problem here. And I have to ask you, I thought John knows Jesus. I thought they’re relatives. How come he said that he doesn’t know Him?

RICK: Yeah, I’m sure a lot of people are asking that same kind of question. Weren’t they related to one another, most likely cousins or something? And the answer is yes; they were related to one another. But when we really look at this text, John, though he knew Jesus, wasn’t certain. “Are you the one that we’re looking for? I mean, I know you, we are related. We’ve met each other before. We’ve talked with each other before, but are you the Messiah?” And he didn’t know that until he was told that when you see the Holy Spirit come down upon this One, you will know this is the Messiah. That’s the only way he knew that Jesus, his relative, was actually the chosen One, the anointed One, the One God promised down through the centuries. And what a surprise that must have been, even though John knew that Jesus was really connected with God. Yet now he knows this is truly the Messiah.

AMIR: Indeed. And it’s quite interesting because here is Jesus approaching, and we can clearly see, maybe for the first time in the Gospel of John, a beautiful display of the Trinity, don’t we?

RICK: Yeah, you don’t have to go many places to look for the Trinity. Even though the Trinity can be seen in a number of places, this is one of the best ones. Because we see Jesus, the Son of

God, and then the voice from heaven, "This is My Son," and then the Holy Spirit coming down upon the Lord. A great passage for us to understand, this is the Triune Godhead.

AMIR: Amen, this is wonderful. And then, of course, Jesus is approaching, and John is saying, "Behold! The Lamb of God." And I think last time when we discussed that, you were asking about the Lamb of God, and we talked about the aspects of what it means to be the Lamb. We talked about Isaiah as a lamb that goes to its shearers. We talked about the Yom Kippur, the Passover, we talked about the sacrificial animal. And I think that from the moment John is saying, "Behold! The Lamb of God," isn't that already a hint that it's a sacrificial animal, that He has to be sacrificed? I mean, what else would a lamb be used for? I mean, I think that this is why... And a lot of people, I think a lot of people don't know that but the Jewish people then, as much as they are now, they're not expecting a Messiah that will sacrifice Himself. They're not expecting a Messiah that will be a lamb. They want a lion, they want a victor, they want a king, they want a ruler. They want a shepherd, and they don't want a sheep. And it's interesting because the Bible, the Word of God, the Spirit of God is testifying that He is the Lamb of God. And that's why, by the way, when John the Beloved was in heaven's throne room, He saw both the Lamb that was slain, as well as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, both in the same person. Yeah, I just think it's amazing because, I mean, up until today, the majority of the Jewish people are still waiting for the Messiah, and they're still waiting for the way He's supposed to come in the second coming, and they believe that's going to be His first (coming).

RICK: The Lion first.

AMIR: Absolutely, and although the introduction that we have to the Messiah, in the very beginning of His ministry, the very beginning of His ministry, was actually a Lamb of God, not anything else.

RICK: And it caught the attention of two of John's disciples.

AMIR: Absolutely.

RICK: There was something with that phrase that captured, I was just wondering, what about the other disciples of John? They did not catch on, but two of them, "The Lamb of God. That's interesting. I wonder who this Man really is." And so, two of them began to follow Him. And of course, my big question is, we know the one, but who is the other one who followed? I'm not told. But two of John's disciples followed Jesus because they heard "The Lamb of God." That really clicked, and they must have known something that the other disciples were just not aware of.

AMIR: Yeah, and it's interesting because... [Dr Rick's remark is garbled]... yeah...we have a span of how many days, four days in that chapter?

RICK: Yeah, yeah.

AMIR: It's a span of four days only. And again, we have the Lamb of God. And I must ask you, because... I mean, this is something that... I mean, we can continue and read until verse 51, so people will probably have a better understanding of it, but... **"⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, 'You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called...' Kepha or '... Cephas' you call it in your language, "... (which is translated, A Stone)." (John 1:40–42)**

RICK: Why all those names?

AMIR: Yeah. You know, it's very interesting because we have three languages right there, Simon, Kepha or Cephas, and Peter. Cephas, Kepha is stone in Aramaic, Peter is stone in Greek, and Simon is, of course, his Hebrew name. And the Hebrew name that we're talking about here is God... I mean, it's about the Shimon, Simeon, basically. And the amazing thing is that we see in all three languages that Peter was described here, I mean, in Greek and Aramaic, the same way, Shimon is "God has heard." So it's about to hear, "Shema," Shema is to hear. So Simeon is about God is hearing; in Greek, a pebble, a stone; in Aramaic, Kepha is a rock as well. So, these are the three names that one person had in three different languages. Amazing, isn't it?

RICK: Yeah, and... I mean, again, I just wonder what it was that these two disciples heard or saw in Jesus to follow Him. And the only thing I can come up with is the Lamb of God. So there's something that connected the sacrifices of the Old Testament with seeing Jesus, and they followed Him.

AMIR: I agree with you.

RICK: And, the very first thing that Andrew does is to find his brother and let him know we have found the Messiah.

AMIR: We found the Messiah.

RICK: We found the Messiah! Wow!

AMIR: It's quite amazing because it tells you that few, few did understand that He could be the Lamb of God, not only the Lion, not only...

RICK: ...The Lion of the Tribe of Judah,

AMIR: Exactly, not only the King, but He could actually be a servant. He could actually be a simple man. He could actually walk right among us. He could actually live in a very little shack and not in the palace. And I think that's... I mean, I'm amazed at the anticipation for the Messiah during those days. They knew, I mean, look at Simeon in the temple, and look at everyone that were there at that time of the birth of Christ. They all knew He has to come, this is the right time. Some knew because they calculated, some knew because the Magi said what they said, some knew because everything around them showed that this is it; there were signs everywhere. And they knew that they live in a world where Messiah is already here, present, walking among them.

I mean, it's one thing to say Messiah has come. By the way, I want you to know, I don't know what day this program is going to be broadcasted, but the day that we are recording right now, there's an Israeli guy who claimed to have seen the light of God, who claims that in a few hours from now, Messiah will be revealed in Jerusalem today. Now, why am I saying that? Because you would think that this is something 2,000 years ago people were dealing with, and it's all about the anticipation in those days, they didn't have anything better to do. Well, it's 2026, and people are still busy, thinking, guessing, hoping, trying to figure [out] when and where will He come. And that person, that person is a celebrity, he was on reality shows and TV, he belongs to a well-known family in Israel, and he just announced to everyone, "Tonight in Jerusalem, it's a very special date on the Hebrew calendar, Messiah will be revealed at the Temple Mount of the Western Wall area." Just to tell you that the anticipation for His coming is still there among His people. And as Paul once said, they have the zeal, but they don't have the knowledge. And that's what we see, that's probably what we saw then, and that's what we see today.

I would like to, if you don't mind, I would like to read furthermore, so we can complete this. ⁴³ **The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow Me. '44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. '45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. '46 And Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth? 'Philip said to him, 'Come and see. '47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, 'Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit! '48 Nathanael said to Him, 'How do You know me? 'Jesus answered and said to him, 'Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you. '49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, 'Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel! '50 Jesus answered and said to him, 'Because I said to you, "I saw you under the fig tree," do you believe? You will see greater things than these. '51 And He said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'"** (John 1:43–51)

Wow. I mean, think about that, what an amazing thing that Nathaniel experienced with Jesus. And I'm amazed that Nathaniel said, "You are the Son of God." And then he also said, "You're the King of Israel." I mean, these are two big proclamations. And I think that very few, if any, could say such a thing without the Holy Spirit directing them. Because again, the teachings, the traditions, the customs, were not pointing at someone like Jesus to be the Messiah. The teaching was that He has to come, and He has to defeat the enemies, and He has to rule, and He has to bring peace and prosperity. And we have to have independence and all of that. And nothing of this was...

Jesus is not a general, He's not a leader, He's not a conqueror. He's not any of those things. And yet He saw in Him, in that simple man, He saw in Him, King and the Son of God, which I think only the Holy Spirit could have revealed that to him.

RICK: Very definitely. And when you just think of what you've just read, we find that He actually goes back to the Old Testament. This is the one that Moses was talking about.

AMIR: ...And the prophets.

RICK: Yeah, and the prophets. And to realize that here are young men who actually knew the Scriptures. They must have been brought up pretty well in understanding the Word of God. And so when they saw Jesus, they began to make this connection. But again, it has to be the Holy Spirit revealing it to them. But at the same time, they had to know the Scriptures. And you have a beautiful relationship. And that's what we're talking about now that when you read the Scriptures, you want to have the Holy Spirit making known what it is you're reading. And one of the things that came to my mind as I went through this passage of Scripture is all the things that we learn about Jesus in this passage.

AMIR: Yeah, I mean, let's start from verse one. Yeah, go ahead.

RICK: He is the Word, the Word of God. And as the Word, that means that He is the One who reveals. He is the One who tells. He is the One who is speaking. He is the One who is revealing. That's what a word does. The word makes known something that we did not know. So in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He is also in Him was life. And then that life was the light of all mankind. So He is the Word, He is the life, He is the light...

AMIR: He is God.

RICK: ...And then we see that... He is God. Yeah. And grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. So He is the One who brings grace and truth. He is the Messiah. He is the One that Elijah spoke about. He is the prophet that Moses spoke about. He is the Lamb of God. He is the King.

AMIR: The Son of God, King.

RICK: He is the Son of God. So all of these, if you want to know who Jesus is, John chapter 1 gives you a lot of information as to who He is.

AMIR: Yeah. And so, when you see all of these, that's a long list, by the way. I mean, the Word, God, Creator, Life, Light, Human, Glory of the Father, all of that. And you mentioned in the beginning of our program together, that a devotional approach actually has an application for our lives. So when you read all of that, where do you see the application for our lives? I mean, Jesus gave us a whole list of titles and who He is. But what would you apply for your own life from this portion of God's Word?

RICK: Well, the portion that really speaks to me is the response of these men. It tells us that Andrew, as soon as he sees Jesus and understands who He is, the first thing he does is find his brother Peter. "Come..."

AMIR: Correct.

RICK: "...We have found the Messiah." And then Philip, "Yes, Nathaniel, come. Look at what we have found!" And my question, even in my own life is: With the things that God has revealed to me, what am I doing with them? Am I sharing what He has revealed to me to others? I mean, I go back to the three parables in Luke 15. As soon as these individuals found something that was lost, the first thing they wanted to do was to tell others about it; tell their friends so they could all rejoice. And this is where Andrew comes in: "We have found the Messiah. Peter, we found Him! We've been looking for Him. And He's right here in our midst." My question to myself is: Okay,

with all that God has entrusted me with, with the spiritual gifts He has given me, with the knowledge I have of Scripture, with whom am I sharing this? And I find—each day I just ask God, give me someone I can encourage, someone I can share Jesus with, because of this great treasure that I found, and the gifts He has given to me. I want to use all of this to share with others what I have found. And those of you who are viewing these sessions, we so appreciate that you really want to know. That's why you are watching. And so my question to you: What are you doing with what you are learning? Are you sharing these discoveries with your friends?

AMIR: And isn't that interesting? You shared with me quite a few times something very interesting and personal, I guess. You said "The older I get, the more I understand that He must increase and I must decrease. And that all I want to do is share Him with others." The reason I'm saying that, because you know there's a certain age and a certain time in life where you are so busy, you think there's so many things to do. And then the older you get, the more you understand that there's really nothing more important, nothing more important than sharing Him with everybody around. I mean, everything else is just meaningless [compared] to this. So with that in mind...

RICK: Yeah, when we were on the cruise, all I wanted to do is to be with people and talk to them about the Scriptures.

AMIR: And that's what I saw also, yeah.

RICK: Yeah, I remember the... what was it? Six o'clock at night, people would go up to where they serve the ice cream and sit around and start talking.

AMIR: Yeah, you created what we call "The ice cream forum." [Laughter] It's basically the section of the dining room where the ice cream is served is where eventually there was a small

Bible study every evening headed by you. I mean, you just wanted to sit there and share with people and they ask you questions and you answered. And it was so beautiful and we almost institutionalized it. We almost created it as a thing that is going on every day. And we also had some guest speakers, people who showed up and ended up staying there and also sharing.

So Dr. Rick, listen, thank you for everything you do in sharing the Word and the message of the Messiah with everybody, whether it's through teaching people when you see them in person, whether it's in writing books together with me, or whether it's joining us online for things like that. It's definitely noticeable that the Messiah is your King. The Messiah is everything in your life. And I can see that John chapter 1 and all the multiple descriptions and titles of the Messiah are actually very personal to you and are something that you want to share with as many people as possible.

So with that in mind, we will conclude today's *Explore the Bible*. Next week or next time we're going to meet, we're going to go again to another portion of Scriptures. I think it's going to be from the Epistles, and we will look into another way of studying the Bible devotionally. Until then, I want to remind people that you can ask Pastor Dr. Rick also questions online. Go to our website, beholdisrael.org, there is a section where you can find the presentation of our program today. And there's a section where you can ask Dr. Rick a question related to today's topic.

Thank you for watching. Thank you, Dr. Rick. Thank you for everyone that is watching. Please like, subscribe, share, and comment so the algorithm of Facebook, YouTube, and others will immediately prompt this video and bring it to the attention of as many people as possible. It takes a few seconds, but it makes all the difference in the world. Thank you, God bless you, and Shalom.

* Scripture is taken from the New King James Version unless noted otherwise.

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