

WHY CHRIST MUST INCREASE

JOHN 3:31-36

I. THE INTERPRETIVE KEYS TO UNLOCKING THE JOHANNINE TERMINOLOGY IN THIS TEXT

- A. The Passage Is Contrasting The Superiority of Jesus, The Son Of God With The Ministry Of Any Other Prophet
- B. The Passage Is Speaking Of The Son Of God In His Incarnation And Not Prior To His Taking On Flesh
- C. The Passage Is Giving The Reasons Why The Son Of God, In His Flesh, Should Have Experienced An Ever Expanding Increase To His Ministry And Recognition Of His Preeminence

II. THE REASONS THE LORD SHOULD HAVE CONSTANTLY INCREASED IN THE EYES OF MEN WHILE HE WAS ON THE EARTH (3:31-36)

- A. He Must Increase Because Of His Origin: *He That Cometh From Above* (3:31a)
 - 1. If He Did Not Previously Exist As A Man Or An Angel Then There Is Only One Possibility Remaining
 - 2. Every Other God Ordained Spokesman Originated On the Earth, The Product Of Two Human Parents
- B. He Must Increase Because There Is No One Greater On The Earth: *He Is Above All* (3:31b)
- C. He Must Increase Because He Gave The Testimony Of A First Hand Witness (3:32-33)
 - 1. That Testimony Is Nevertheless, Universally Rejected (3:32b)
 - 2. That Testimony Is Verified By Whoever Will Receive It (3:33)

- D. He Must Increase Because He Spoke The Specific And Exact Utterances Of God At All Times (3:34)
1. Other Human Spokesmen Were Capable Of Misspeaking Off The Record
 2. But The Spirit Was Given In Measureless Supply To The Son Of God
- E. He Must Increase Because The Father's Relations To Him Are Unique (3:35)
1. Of All The Things That God Can Love, He Loves Christ As Nothing Else In the Universe
 2. Of All The Persons That God Could Have Entrusted Precious Things To, Christ Is Ultimately The Foreordained Authority Over *All Things*
- F. He Must Increase Because The One Who Believes On Him Has Everlasting Life (3:36)