

## “No One Has Seen God at Any Time”

### I. Introduction

A. In the apostle John’s prologue of his epistle, he expresses the remarkable reality of God the Son (“the Word”) “becoming flesh” and walking the earth as a man. As the inspired apostle describes this reality, he notes a particular application of it: while no man (besides Jesus) could rightly claim, while living here on earth, to have literally and physically seen the full form of God, God *has* perfectly manifested Himself to us, through His Son. **John 1:18**

### II. Harmonizing with Other Scriptures

- A. In making this point, John 1:18 uses the words, “no one has seen God at any time” (cf. **1 Jn 4:12**). The inspired apostle Paul says, “no man has seen, nor can see” God. **1 Timothy 6:16**
- B. This might leave one wondering how passages that describe God being seen can be harmonized with such statements. For instance, Hagar appears to have seen God in some sense following her fleeing from Sarai. **Genesis 16:13**
- C. However, the context indicates that who she literally saw was God’s representative; in this case, an angel (cf. **Gen. 32:24-32; Judg. 13:20-22**). **Genesis 16:7, 9, 10, 11**
- D. Another instance in which some saw God in some sense is when Moses and 73 others “saw God.” This could, again, be talking about an angel, or it could be speaking about some type of vision (cf. **Isa. 6:1ff; Amos 9:1ff**), or other representation of God. **Exodus 24:9-11**
- E. A little later, God is said to have spoken to Moses “face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” This, however, seems to refer to the manner in which God revealed His will to Moses, and not a reference to Moses literally and physically seeing God’s face. This is especially true when we consider what is said just a few verses later. **Exodus 33:11, 18-23**

### III. Jesus: The Incarnation of Deity

- A. While no one walking the earth today has literally seen God, we can, like those in John’s time, see God in a sense. By sending His Son to this earth, God has shown Himself to us. He has declared to us everything we need to know about who He is, and what His will is for us.  
**John 1:1-3, 14, 17; 18:37**

### IV. Jesus: The One God Speaks Through

- A. Part of the means by which God declares Himself through Jesus is by Jesus’ *teaching*. As Deity Himself, and as One who has existed from everlasting and was there at the time of creation with the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus is the most perfect spokesman to communicate Divine will. **Hebrews 1:1-3; Matthew 7:29**
- B. In fact, Jesus’ own life on earth in many ways embodies the truth God wanted to communicate to mankind about Himself and His plan for saving us. **Ephesians 3:9**

### V. Jesus: The One Who Shows Us the Father

- A. This ties in with a second basic way Jesus has declared the Father to us: through His life. The way that Jesus lived as He walked the earth shows to mankind the character and nature of God, and His attitude toward us. **John 14:8-9; Colossians 1:15**
- B. An example of this is seen when we consider a trait that is a primary characteristic of God: love. The Father has manifested His love to us both by His own choice to send Jesus to the cross, and Jesus’ choices He made during His life on earth that repeatedly demonstrated the selfless care and concern Deity has for mankind. **1 John 4:9; John 15:12-13**