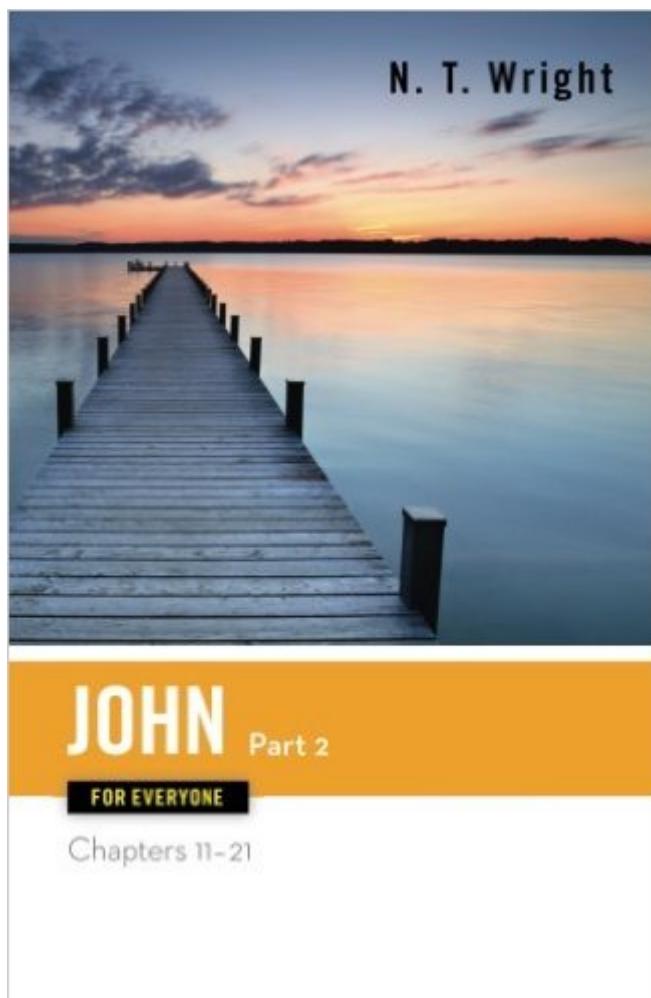


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John For Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 11-21 (The New Testament For Everyone)



Synopsis

Making use of his scholar's understanding, yet writing in an approachable and anecdotal style, Tom Wright manages to unravel the great complexity of the extraordinary Gospel of John. He describes it as "one of the great books in the literature of the world; and part of its greatness is the way it reveals its secrets not just to a high-flown leaning but to those who come to it with humility and hope." Wright's stimulating comments are combined with his own fresh and inviting translation of the Bible text. Tom Wright has undertaken a tremendous task: to provide guides to all the books of the New Testament, and to include in them his own translation of the entire text. Each short passage is followed by a highly readable discussion with background information, useful explanations and suggestions, and thoughts as to how the text can be relevant to our lives today. A glossary is included at the back of the book. The series is suitable for group study, personal study, or daily devotions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For those unfamiliar with Wright's "____ for Everyone" series, they are a series of commentaries on the New Testament books by Bishop Wright based on his extensive historical scholarship. He provides his own translation (based on his study of the source languages) which is a very engaging paraphrase. The text is divided up into chronological topic-based segments, followed by a 2-3 page

sermonette/commentary based on that section. This edition is volume 2 of a two-volume set, containing chapters 11-21 of the Gospel of John. From beginning to end, it is truly the best saved for last. Starting with the story of Lazarus (told only in this gospel, likely because John was writing after Lazarus' second death, when this story could be told without bringing him undue notoriety and danger), Wright discusses John's 3-dimensional presentation of Jesus and the other characters. One almost feels as though at Jesus' side during the final weeks of his ministry, seeing his smile and his tears. Wright suggests that Jesus was wrestling and "tormented in spirit" in such a way that he delayed making his journey to see Lazarus because he needed to pray, while approaching Jerusalem again for the final time. After raising Lazarus, Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem evokes images of Judas Maccabeus' triumphal palm-waving entry to be crowned king several centuries earlier. It is an unmistakable sign to the Pharisees, who move swiftly to conspire against Jesus. The other gospels contain many details that John glosses over because he knows those stories have been told. But as Wright shows, John helps us to see what it FELT like to be with Jesus, especially in the upper room discourse and garden prayer just prior to Jesus being arrested.

"John for Everyone: Part Two" is part of the New Testament series of books by N.T. Wright, which includes "Matthew for Everyone" all the way through "Revelation for Everyone." The series is nothing less than sensational and, in spite of his highly esteemed theological works, is one of Wright's most important contributions to the good of the Church. "John for Everyone: Part Two" covers John chapter 11-21 and picks up with the death of Lazarus. In the first passage of this book, Wright does an excellent job of explaining what is often a puzzling passage. Why does Jesus delay in going to Lazarus when he is sick, thus allowing him to die? Wright reminds us that God's ways are not our ways and that Jesus was probably praying during this time, wrestling with the Father's will, not only for Lazarus but especially for Himself. Wright's exposition of the actual resurrection of Lazarus, in which he argues that Lazarus must not have started to decay, is intriguing. One of the passages unique to John's Gospel is Jesus' "High Priestly Prayer" of John 17. Wright's comments on this passage are especially striking, as he examines this prayer in light of Jesus' prayer life - and that of John, the author. He further concludes that this prayer of Jesus' draws together everything else that the Gospel story has been about up to this point. Wright's comments on Jesus' teaching on the Church in John 17, and the use of the word "Catholic," were also very good. It's amazing how much Wright packs into these small commentaries! I'm studying various commentaries and devotionals to find those that are most profitable for God's people, including myself, and Wright's "_____ for Everyone" series is a magnificent set of commentaries I highly recommend.

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