



The Gospel of St. John: A Newly Discovered Commentary
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"The discovery and publication of previously unpublished commentaries on the New Testament by Joseph Barber Lightfoot is a highly significant event in the history of New Testament scholarship."

— John M. G. Barclay, Lightfoot Professor of Divinity, University of Durham

Newly Discovered Commentary by Joseph Lightfoot Covers John 1-12

For the first time, *The Gospel of St. John* presents renowned biblical scholar Joseph Barber Lightfoot's (1828–1889) commentary on the gospel of John. This commentary is the second volume of The Lightfoot Legacy Set, a three volume set of previously unpublished material from J. B. Lightfoot, one of the great biblical scholars of the modern era.

In the spring of 2013, Ben Witherington III discovered hundreds of pages of biblical commentary by Lightfoot in the Durham Cathedral Library, including detailed notes on the Fourth Gospel, a text that Lightfoot loved and lectured on frequently. Because of demands on his time and respect for his colleague B. F. Westcott, Lightfoot was unable to compose a commentary on the Fourth Gospel during his life. Now, *The Gospel of St. John* offers his commentary notes for John 1-12, revealing more of the thinking of a scholar considered by many as ahead of his time. This volume also includes Lightfoot's long out-of-print essays on the historical reliability of the Fourth Gospel.

James D. G. Dunn, Emeritus Lightfoot Professor of Divinity at the University of Durham, says of this volume: "Joseph Barber Lightfoot has been, for me, in many ways the epitome of what the commentator on New Testament and early church texts can and should aspire to. His detailed knowledge of the literature of the time was unsurpassed, and his ability to shed the light of that knowledge on the New Testament writings was without peer. His commentaries on New Testament texts and the early Fathers retain a relevance and a value to this day almost unique for nineteenth-century scholarship. That a fuller publication of his writings is now available in these volumes is a wonderful bonus for those who want to hear these New Testament and early church texts as they were first heard."

The Lightfoot Legacy Set is edited by Ben Witherington III and Todd Still. The first volume of the set is *The Acts of the Apostles*, a commentary on Acts 1-21. The third projected volume will explore 2 Corinthians and 1 Peter.

As Witherington III and Still elaborate in the introduction to *The Gospel of St. John*, Lightfoot's writings remain relevant because of his "encyclopedic knowledge of early Greek literature," appreciation of historical context and prayerful approach to studying the New Testament.