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## John's Use of the Verb δίδωμι *didōmi*

### Instructions:

You are going to investigate John's unique use of the verb "to give" by analyzing "who gives what to whom?" The verb "give" occurs 75x in John's Gospel, more than in any other NT book (Luke 60x, Matt. 56x, Mark 56x, Acts 35x, Rev. 58x, and several times in the letters). Repetition clues us to its possible importance for John, but it's the subject of the giving that gives us insight into its theological significance. Use this template to fill in the information and then upload it to the e360. *The summary conclusion can be written at the end of this template (double-space the summary).*

### Aim of Investigation:

Walter Brueggemann, *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy*, provides one of the most insightful discussions about how Israel gave testimony about YHWH in the Hebrew Scriptures you will ever encounter. He draws attention to the phenomenon of the theological grammar of sentences governed by strong verbs of transformation. "This focus on sentences signifies that Israel is characteristically concerned with the action of God—the concrete, specific action of God—and not God's character, nature, being, or attributes, except as those are evidence in concrete actions. This focus on verbs . . . commits us in profound ways to a *narrative* portrayal of Yahweh, in which Yahweh is the one who is said to have done these deeds," (1997: 145). "Give" is a strong, transformative verb, and when God is the giver, things change. Your task will be to unpack John's understanding of the triune God through this strong verb. Be attentive to the continuity between the God of the Hebrew Scriptures and the portrayal of God in John.

### [All Students]

- Look up the passages listed below in 2 different English Bible translations (choose **one literal translation** such as NRSV, KJV, NIV, NASB, ESV, NET and **one freer translation** such as CEB, NIV, NLT) and pay attention to any differences that affect how you understand the passage.
- Identify the **subject** by asking the question, "who (or what) is giving"?
- Identify the **direct object** by asking, "who (or what specifically) is being given"?
- Finally, identify the indirect object by asking, "to/for whom (or what) is the giving directed"?

### Concluding Summary:

All students, once they have completed this investigation, will write out an **analytical summary** of what they discovered, being attentive to what they learned about God through the things he gives, about the recipients of these gifts, and what kinds of gifts are given. This summary should be 1 to 2 pages (maximum). *It is my prayer that you will discover new ways of preaching and teaching growing out of this assignment.*

BDAG Greek lexicon lists the following translations (semantic range of meanings) for the verb δίδωμι *didōmi*.

- **to give as an expression of generosity, give, donate**, e.g., *it is more blessed to give than to receive* **Ac 20:35**
- **to give something out, give, bestow, grant**, e.g., *give someone something to eat* **Jn 6:32**
- **to express devotion, give**, e.g., *give God the glory* **Jn 9:24**
- **to cause to happen, esp. in ref. to physical phenomena, produce, make, cause, give**, e.g., *the moon will not give its light* **Mk 13:24**.
- **to put something in care of another, entrust**; *Jesus knowing the Father had given all things into his hands* **Jn 13:3**
- **to engage in a financial transaction**, e.g., *I will give to each one of you according to your deeds* **Rev 2:23**
- **appoint to special responsibility, appoint**, e.g., *he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet* **Ac 13:20**
- **to cause something to happen, give** e.g., *to give (his people) knowledge of salvation = to tell (his people) how to be saved* **Lk 1:77**.
- **to bear as a natural product, yield, produce** of a field and its crops, *yield fruit* **Mt 13:8**
- **to dedicate oneself for some purpose or cause, give up, sacrifice** *give oneself up as a ransom for many* **Mt 20:28**
- **to grant by formal action, grant, allow**, freq. of God, *he has granted (the privilege) of having life* **J 5:26**.
- **to cause to come into being, institute**, *to institute circumcision*
- **give up, something that has been under one's control for a relatively long time, give up, give back** *the sea gave up its dead* **Rev 20:13**.

<b>REF.</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b> (Who performs the action of “giving”)	<b>VERB</b> (Give full translation, e.g., “will give,” “gives,” “gave,” “has given,” etc.). Which meaning from BDAG best fits the context?	<b>DIRECT OBJECT</b> (Who or what is given)	<b>INDIRECT OBJECT</b> (To whom or for whom something/ someone is given)
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## Gospel of John

Ref.	Subject (Who gives...)	Verb	Direct Object (Who/what is given)	Indirect Object (to/for whom it is given)
1:12 Passive	God gave	To give as an expression of generosity	Power to become sons/ children of God.	To them that believe on his name (NIV) To all who believed and accepted him (NLT)
1:17 Passive	Moses gave	To give something out	The law	Children of Israel/ believers in Jesus Christ

Lit. For the law was given by/through Moses ...

The *passive voice* presents an interesting exegetical issue because **the subject** receives the action.

Cp. *Active voice* (subject does the action):

**Moses gave the law**

*Passive voice* (subject receives the action):

**The law was given** by/through Moses.

1:22 Passive voice	John the Baptist	To give something out	Answer for the Jews who sent them	Jew who sent the Priests and Levites
3:16 Active voice	God gave His only begotten son (NIV) God gave his one and only Son (NLT)	Appoint to special responsibility appoint	The Son of God	Everyone who believes in him
3:34 Active voice	God gives	To put something in care of another, entrust	Holy Spirit by measure (NIV) Spirit without limit (NLT)	Jesus
3:35 Active voice	The Father (God)	To put something in care of another, entrust	Everything into his son hands	Hi Son (Jesus)
4:5 Active voice	Jacob	To give something out, give, bestow, grant	Parcel of ground ( NIV) near the field (NLT)	Jacob son Joseph
4:7 Active voice	Woman at Jacob’s Well	To give something out, give, bestow, grant	Water	Jesus
4:10 occurs 2x. Active voice	Woman at Jacob’s Well	To give something out, give, bestow, grant	Water	Jesus
4:10 Active voice	Jesus	To grant by formal action, grant allow	Living Water	Woman at Jacob’s Well
4:12 Passive Voice	Jacob	To give something out, give, bestow, grant	Well	Samaritans

<b>4:14</b> Occurs 2x Active	Jesus	To give something out, give, bestow, grant	The water Jesus is offering (Holy Spirit)	To those who drink the water Jesus is offering (Holy Spirit)
<b>4:14 Active voice</b>	Jesus	<b>To give something out, give, bestow, grant</b>	<b>The water Jesus is offering (Holy Spirit)</b>	<b>To those who drink the water Jesus is offering (Holy Spirit)</b>
<b>4:15 Active voice</b>	Jesus	<b>To give something out, give bestow, grant</b>	<b>The water Jesus is offering (Holy Spirit)</b>	<b>Woman at Jacob's Well</b>
<b>5:22 Passive voice</b>	The Son ( Jesus)	<b>Appoint to special responsibility, appoint</b>	<b>Authority to Judge</b>	<b>All Men</b>
<b>5:26 Passive voice</b>	The Father (God)	<b>To grant by formal action, grant allow</b>	<b>Life in himself (NIV) Life -giving power to his Son (NLT)</b>	<b>Son (Jesus)</b>
<b>5:27 Passive voice</b>	The Father (God)	<b>To grant by formal action, grant allow</b>	<b>Given Jesus Authority to execute Judgement</b>	<b>To Jesus for everyone</b>
<b>5:36 Passive voice</b>	The Father (God)	<b>To grant by formal action, grant allow</b>	<b>The father gave Jesus works to finish, that prove He sent him</b>	<b>Jesus to prove the Father sent him.</b>
<b>6:27 Active voice</b>	Son Of Man (Jesus)	<b>To grant by formal action, grant allow</b>	<b>Eternal life</b>	<b>Disciples</b>
<b>6:31 Active Voice</b>	Moses	<b>To give something out, give, bestow, grant</b>	<b>Bread from heaven</b>	<b>Ancestors (Israelites)</b>
<b>6:32</b> Occurs 2x Passive voice	Father (God)	To give something out, give, bestow, grant	Bread from heaven	Disciples
<b>6:32. Active voice</b>	Father (God)	<b>To give something out, give, bestow, grant</b>	<b>Bread from heaven</b>	<b>Israelities</b>
<b>6:34 Active voice</b>	Jesus	<b>To grant by formal action, grant allow</b>	<b>Bread from heaven (Jesus)</b>	<b>Disciples</b>
<b>6:37 Passive voice</b>	Father (God)	<b>To cause something to happen, give</b>	<b>Those the father has given to the Son (Everyone that believe)</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
<b>6:39 Passive voice</b>	Father (God)	<b>To cause something to happen, give</b>	<b>Those the father has given to the Son (Everyone that believe)</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
<b>6:51 Active voice</b>	Jesus	<b>To grant by formal action, grant allow</b>	<b>Bread - Jesus flesh - His Body</b>	<b>Anyone who eats the Bread (everyone who believe)</b>
<b>7:19 Active voice</b>	Moses	<b>To cause something to happen, give</b>	<b>The Law</b>	<b>Jews</b>
<b>7:22 Active voice</b>	Moses	<b>To cause to come into being, institute</b>	<b>Circumcision</b>	<b>Jews</b>
<b>9:24 Passive voice</b>	Blind Man	<b>To express devotion, give</b>	<b>Praise God (NIV) God Should get the glory (NLT)</b>	<b>God</b>
<b>10:28 Active voice</b>	Jesus	<b>To grant by formal action, grant, allow</b>	<b>Eternal life</b>	<b>Jesus' Sheep who hear his voice (His followers)</b>
<b>10:29 Passive voice</b>	Father (God)	<b>Appoint to special responsibility, appoint</b>	<b>Jesus</b>	<b>Jesus' Sheep (His followers)</b>
<b>11:22 Active voice</b>	God	<b>To grant by formal action, grant allow</b>	<b>Whatever Jesus ask from God</b>	<b>Martha</b>



<b>17:2 Active voice</b>	<b>Father</b>	<b>To grant by formal action, grant allow</b>	<b>Eternal Life</b>	<b>Everyone given to Jesus</b>
<b>17:4 Active voice</b>	<b>Father</b>	<b>To express devotion, give</b>	<b>The work the father gave his Son - Jesus to do</b>	<b>Father</b>
<b>17:6</b> occurs 2x Passive voice	Father/ Jesus	Appoint to a special responsibility	Disciples	Given to Jesus
<b>17:7 Passive voice</b>	<b>Father/ Jesus</b>	<b>To put something in care of another, entrust</b>	<b>Disciples</b>	<b>Given to Jesus</b>
<b>17:8 Active voice</b> occurs 2x	Jesus/ Jesus	To put something in care of another, entrust	Message	Given to Disciples
<b>17:8 Active voice</b>	<b>Father/ Jesus</b>	<b>To put something in care of another, entrust</b>	<b>Message</b>	<b>Given to Jesus</b>
<b>17:9 Active voice</b>	<b>Father/ Jesus</b>	<b>To put something in care of another, entrust</b>	<b>Disciples</b>	<b>Given to Jesus</b>
<b>17:11 Active voice</b>	<b>Father/ Jesus</b>	<b>To put something in care of another, entrust</b>	<b>Disciples</b>	<b>Given to Jesus</b>
<b>17:12 Active voice</b>	<b>Father/ Jesus</b>	<b>Appoint to a special responsibility</b>	<b>The name given to Jesus</b>	<b>Disciples</b>
<b>17:14 Active voice</b>	<b>Jesus</b>	<b>Appoint to a special responsibility</b>	<b>The Father's word</b>	<b>Disciples</b>
<b>17:22</b> occurs 2x Active voice	Jesus	To express devotion, give	The glory of God- the Father	Given to Jesus for the Disciples
<b>17:24</b> occurs 2x Active voice	Father	To express devotion, give	The glory of God- the Father	Given to Jesus
<b>18:9 Passive voice</b>	<b>Father</b>	<b>Appoint to a special responsibility</b>	<b>Disciples</b>	<b>Given to Jesus</b>
<b>18:11 Passive voice</b>	<b>Father</b>	<b>Appoint to a special responsibility</b>	<b>Jesus- the cup of suffering</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
<b>18:22 Active voice</b>	<b>The officers</b>	<b>To cause something to happen</b>	<b>Slap across Jesus' face</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
<b>19:3 Active voice</b>	<b>The Jews</b>	<b>To dedicate oneself for some purpose or cause, give up, sacrifice</b>	<b>Mocked, as they slapped him across the face</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
<b>19:9 Passive voice</b>	<b>Pilate</b>	<b>To dedicate oneself for some purpose or cause, give up, sacrifice</b>	<b>No answer</b>	<b>Pilate</b>
<b>21:13 Active voice</b>	<b>Jesus</b>	<b>To give something, out, give, bestow, grant</b>	<b>Bread and fish</b>	<b>The Disciples</b>

**Summary** (Write out an **analytical summary** of what you discovered. Be alert to who in John's gospel is said to give. Do you see any patterns? What patterns do you see with those who receive these gifts? What kinds of gifts are given? Why is this verb important to John's theological understanding? How has this study challenged your ministry context, whether current or future? , Studies like

this force us to slow down and really think about what is being said and how the concept fits into the overall goals of this gospel (20:30-31). This summary should be 1 to 2 pages (maximum). *It is my prayer that you will discover new ways of preaching and teaching growing out of this assignment.*