

John

Gospel of God's Son

I. PREPARING TO STUDY

A. Authorship

Unlike some books of the Bible which take their title from the text (1 Peter 1:1), the title "The Gospel According to John" is not a part of the biblical text nor taken directly from it. Rather it was fixed by tradition around the _____ century A.D. Since this is the case, the question of authorship is worth examining.

The book itself identifies the author as the disciple whom Jesus loved and who had lain close to his breast at the supper.

John 21:20, 24 20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" 24 This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

Who is this disciple? By putting together evidence compiled from the gospel, we can discover the answer.

1. Mark 14:17 says that Jesus had gathered with the twelve for the last supper. Therefore this disciple is one of the twelve _____.
2. Since he is "The disciple whom Jesus loved" it is natural to seek his identity among the three of the "inner circle of disciples." See **Matt. 17:1** **Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and Mark 14:33** **And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Write their names: _____**
3. Read **John 13:21-26** **21** When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." **22** Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke. **23** Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. **24** Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. **25** Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" **26** Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, *the son of Simon*. Could "the disciple Jesus loved" be Peter? _____. Why? _____

4. Read Acts 12:1-2 1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out *his* hand to harass some from the church. 2 Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. Could the disciple be James? _____ Why? _____
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5. Who then must “the disciple” be? _____

This was the decision of the early church fathers which resulted in the title of the book. The testimony of one of the early church fathers, Irenaeus, would date its writing between 80-95 A.D. from the city of Ephesus where John was pastor of the church.

John was the son of Zebedee, a _____. His mother’s name was Salome. John’s older brother was _____. Zebedee and his two sons were in the fishing business together on the Sea of Galilee. Zebedee and Sons was probably a very successful Galilean business, because Zebedee was said to have _____. John’s mother Salome also became a follower of Jesus and is seen along with Mary as anointing the body of Jesus and being an eyewitness of the resurrection. Some tradition says that Salome was _____ sister, but this is not confirmed.

Along with Jesus and the other disciples, John experienced conflict with the unbelieving Sadducees and _____, the dominant groups of power and influence among the Jews. After the resurrection, these same leaders tried to hush the mouth of John and Peter as they proclaimed the good news, even putting them in prison. They were of course unsuccessful in silencing the witness of the apostles, because God was as much in control of John’s world as He is in ours!

John’s first major conflict with _____ began surrounding the crucifixion because the Jewish Sanhedrin had asked Pilate to grant a Roman crucifixion for Jesus. However, this conflict was far from his last. The latter part of John’s life was lived in or near Ephesus, in modern day _____. Here John was free of the Sanhedrin, Pharisees and Sadducees, but Rome’s dominance was even more oppressive. Eventually John was _____ to the Isle of Patmos by the Roman Emperor Domitian because of John’s testimony. After the death of Domitian, John was allowed to return to Ephesus. He died around _____ A.D., the only apostle to die a peaceful death.

A CHRONOLOGY CENTERED ON JOHN THE APOSTLE

BIBLICAL EVENT	PLACE	KLASSEN	REFERENCE
The Birth of Jesus	Bethlehem	April 1, 5 B.C.	Mt.1:18-25 Lk. 2:1-20
Jesus is baptized.	Judea	Late Sept. or Oct., 25 A.D.	Mt.3:13-17 Mk.1:9-11 Lk.3:21-23
Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James, and _____ to be His disciples.	By the Sea of Galilee	Around Nov. or Dec., 25 A.D.	Mt. 4:18-22 Mk.1:16-20 Lk.5:1-11 Jn.1:35-51
John (and the other 11 disciples) made to be Apostles.	Galilee	Feb. 27 A.D.	Mt. 10:2
John, James, and Peter witness the transfiguration.	Mt. Tabor	July – Aug., 28 A.D.	Mt. 17:1-13 Mk.9:2-13 Lk.9:28-36
_____ accompanies Mary to the crucifixion.	Golgotha, Mt. Calvary Jerusalem	Friday, April 15, 29 A.D.	Mt. 27 Mk. 15 Lk. 23 Jn. 19
John outruns _____ to the empty tomb.	Jerusalem	Sunday, April 17, 29 A.D.	Jn. 20:3-10
John and 10 other disciples become eyewitnesses to the resurrection.	Jerusalem	Sunday, April 17, 29 A.D.	Mt. 28:9-10 Mk. 16:14-18 Lk. 24:26-53 Jn. 19:19-30
John and Peter are imprisoned for preaching the gospel in Jerusalem.	Jerusalem	June, 29 A.D.	Acts 3 – 4

John is present in Jerusalem for the Jerusalem Council.	Jerusalem	50 A.D.	Acts 15 Gal. 2:1-9
John becomes pastor of the church at _____.	Ephesus	70 A.D.	
Jerusalem destroyed by Romans.	Jerusalem	70 A.D.	
John writes the Gospel of John.	Ephesus	Between 80 and 85 A.D.	Irenaeus
John is exiled to Patmos.	Ephesus	95 A.D.	
John writes _____.	Isle of Patmos	95-96 A.D.	
Death of the Apostle John	Ephesus	Around 100 A.D.	

B. Relationship to the Other Books of the Bible

Matthew, Mark, and Luke are all called, “_____ Gospels” meaning “a same or collective view” because of their obvious similarities. But the Gospel of John is different—distinctive. **The Synoptics deal with the _____, the physical, and the public events of the life of Christ. John concentrates more on the personal, _____, divine aspects.** The first three gospels contribute many of the raw facts of what Jesus said and did. John offers us the interpretation of the facts.

To say that John is distinctive is not to say it is primary. Each of the gospels is necessary if we are to have an accurate view of our Lord, for each pictures Him from a different angle. The subject is the same; there is no _____ in the different views, but a more accurate understanding is gained by seeing all four pictures. Can you put the names of the gospels in the proper places below to show the differing perspectives of the four gospel accounts?

Gospel	Primary Recipients	Jesus is
_____	Greeks	The Son of Man
_____	Romans	The Suffering Servant
_____	Jews	The Messiah-King
_____	Whole World	The Son of God

Because the gospel is written for _____ and because of emphasis upon the _____ of Christ, the Gospel of John is often thought to be one of the most precious jewels of the Word of God. Many new Christians begin their study of the Bible with John's gospel. Many older Christians continually reread it as one of their favorite books.

The Gospel of John is also important for its major contributions to our understanding of _____ and Christian doctrine (teaching).

Below are listed four technical names for branches of theology to which John makes substantial contributions. Match the name with its description and John's contribution.

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| 1. Pneumatology | The study of the person, work, and purpose of Christ. John shows the centrality of Christ in God's activity. He presents Jesus as Messiah, Son of God, and God in the flesh. |
| 2. Eschatology | The study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. John gives us a unique name for the Spirit not offered by any of the other gospels. (John 14:16) |
| 3. Christology | The study of God's saving activity. John presents Jesus as the sacrificial lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. His very purpose in writing is to tell people how to be saved. |
| 4. Soteriology | The study of the end time and the age to come. John shows us that those who have trusted Christ already experience that eternal life. |

II. EXAMINING THE TEXT

A. THE PURPOSE

- John the Apostle tells us his precise purpose** in writing his gospel.
John 20:31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
 John says his purpose was to show that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, God's own _____, and to lead people to _____ Him and receive eternal life.

2. **To accomplish this purpose**, did John attempt to give us a complete biography of Jesus, telling almost everything he knew about the Lord? _____. Read **John 20:30** *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; and 21:25* *And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.* Instead he chose _____ events, miracles, and teachings that most pointedly _____ Jesus' Lordship. We will examine that selection in an outline of the book.

B. AN OUTLINE

1. The Prologue (John 1:1-18)

2. Jesus Presents Himself to the People (1:19 – 6:71)

- a. Jesus and the _____ (1:19 – 2:12)
- b. Jesus and the Jews (2:13 – 3:36)
- c. Jesus and the _____ (Chapter 4)
- d. Jesus and the Jewish _____ (Chapter 5)
- e. Jesus and the Multitudes (Chapter 6)

John 6:66 *After this many of His disciples drew back and no longer went about with Him.*

3. Jesus' Conflict with the Jews (7 – 12)

- a. Conflict over Moses (7:1 – 8:11)
- b. Conflict over _____ (8:12-59)
- c. Conflict over His _____ (Chapters 9 – 10)
- d. Conflict over His power (Chapters 11 – 12)

John 12:37 *But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,*

4. Jesus Fulfills the Purpose for Which He Came (13 – 21)

- a. Jesus _____ for the Cross. (Chapters 13 – 17)
- b. Jesus dies on the cross. (Chapters 18 – 19)
- c. Jesus rises from the dead and appears to His disciples. (Chapters 20 – 21)