

Midweek Study

God's Amazing Book

Journey Through the New Testament

BELIEVE AND LIVE

A Quick Look at the Gospel According to John

Fast Facts on John

- 1. Who?** John, the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ.
- 2. When?** 96 AD
- 3. Why?** To present Jesus as the Son of God (not merely human)
- 4. Key Phrase:**
Jesus Christ is the Son of God

Quick Facts

- Jesus is ETERNAL (John 1:1-18)
- 92 % UNIQUE from the other three Gospels.
- God came in the flesh (1:14)
- the word "believe" occurs approximately 100 times in the gospel.
- There are also 7 emphatic "I AM" statements which identify Jesus as God and Messiah (6:35; 8:12; 10:7, 9; 10:11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1, 5).

PROLOGUE 1:1-18	Book of Signs 1:19 – 12:50	Book of Glory 13:1 – 20:31		EPILOGUE 21:1-25
	7 Great Miracles	Upper Room Discourse 13:1 – 17:26	Passion and Resurrection 18:1 – 20:31	
	Public Teaching: 3 Years	Private Teaching: A Few Days		
	"His Great Acts"	"His Personal Instruction"		
	1) Water into Wine (2) 2) Heals a Son (4) 3) Heals a Lame Man (5) 4) Feeds the 5,000 Men (6) 5) Walks on Water (6) 6) Heals a Blind Man (9) 7) Raises Lazarus from the Dead (11)	1) On Servanthood (13) 2) On Salvation (14) 3) On the Spirit (14 – 16) 4) On Abiding in Him (15) 5) On Prayer (17) 6) On the Kingdom (18 – 19) 7) On Faith (20 – 21)		
<p>"And truly Jesus did many other signs . . . which are not written in this book; 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" (20:30-31).</p>				

Source: Daniel Akin "John" handout, danielakin.com

Leon Morris compares "John's Gospel to a pool in which a child may wade and an elephant can swim." On the one hand, it is commonly given to new believers and even inquirers to examine the foundations of Christian faith. It is a favorite for the simple faith of simple folk. On the other hand, "years of close study of this Gospel do not leave one with a feeling of having mastered it, but rather with the conviction that it is still 'strange, restless, and unfamiliar.'"

Introduction to John

Strategic to John's background and setting is the fact that according to tradition John was aware of the synoptic gospels. Apparently, he wrote his gospel in order to make a unique contribution to the record of the Lord's life ("a spiritual gospel") and, in part, to be supplementary as well as complementary to Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The gospel's unique characteristics reinforce this purpose:

1. John supplied a large amount of unique material not recorded in the other gospels.
2. He often supplied information that helps the understanding of the events in the synoptics. For example, while the synoptics begin with Jesus' ministry in Galilee, they imply that Jesus had a ministry prior to that (e.g., Matt. 4:12; Mark 1:14). John supplies the answer with information on Jesus' prior ministry in Judea (chap. 3) and Samaria (chap. 4). In Mark 6:45, after the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus compelled his disciples to cross the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida. John recorded the reason. The people were about to make Jesus king because of His miraculous multiplying of food, and He was avoiding their ill-motivated efforts (6:26).
3. John is the most theological of the gospels, containing, for example, a heavily theological prologue (1:1–18), larger amounts of didactic and discourse material in proportion to narrative (e.g., 3:13–17), and the largest amount of teaching on the Holy Spirit (e.g., 14:16, 17, 26; 16:7–14). Although John was aware of the synoptics and fashioned his gospel with them in mind, he did not depend upon them for information. Rather, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he utilized his own memory as an eyewitness in composing the gospel (1:14; 19:35; 21:24).

8 Signs of Jesus' Divine Nature

2:1-11 - Turning water to wine.

4:46-54 – Healing the nobleman's son

5:1-9 – Healing the cripple at Bethesda

6:1-14 – Feeding 5,000 with five loaves and two fish

6:15-21 – Walking on water

9:1-41 – Restoring sight to a blind man

11:1-44 – Raising Lazarus from the dead

21:1-14 – Giving the disciples a large catch of fish.

THE 7 "I AM" STATEMENTS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN¹:

6:35 – I am the BREAD OF LIFE. I am the One who satisfies life. I am the sustainer of life.

8:12 - I am the LIGHT OF THE WORLD. I am the illuminator of life, the explainer of all things, the One who casts light upon all mysteries and enigmas of life – and solves them.

10:7 - I am THE DOOR. I am the only openings that leads to eternal life; the open way.

10:11 - I am THE GOOD SHEPHERD. I am the guide of life, the only one who is able to safely steer us and protect us through all life's perils. I am the One whose rod of discipline and staff of guidance can comfort, give peace, lead to still waters and restores souls.

11:25 I am THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. I have the miraculous power of life, and I am the giver and restorer of life. Resurrection power is the only power that saves when all hope is lost. Resurrection power works in the midst of despair, failure, and even death. When nothing else can be done, I appear and say, "I am the resurrection and the life."

14:6 - I am THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. I am ultimate reality. I am the real substance behind all things.

15:1 – I am THE TRUE VINE. I am the producer of all fruitfulness, the reason of all fellowship, the source of all identity and communion.

Dating John: *The Monarchian Prologue to the Fourth Gospel, probably written about 200 or a little later, says concerning the date of the appearance of the Gospel: "He [the apostle John] wrote this gospel in the province of Asia, after he had composed the Apocalypse on the Island of Patmos." The banishment of John to Patmos occurred in the last year of Domitian's reign (ca. 95). A few months before his death on September 18, 96, the emperor had discontinued the persecution of the Christians and recalled the exiles (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.20.5-7). This evidence indicates that the Gospel was composed in 96 or one of the years immediately following. [Why Four Gospels, David Alan Black, 89]*

¹ Adapted from Ray Stedman, *Adventuring through the Bible*, Gospel of John.