

SERIES: Gospel of John
Introduction to the Gospel of John

Primary Information for Starters

- Written by John, the “disciple whom Jesus loved.”
 - He was the son of Zebedee.
 - He was the brother of James.
- Written sometime between 70-90 AD.
- Written to the **world**.
 - Primary theme: Jesus is the eternal “Son of God.”
 - Key verses: 1:1-14; 3:16; 20:30-31.
 - Theme verse: John 20:30-31 *“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*

Practical Advice for Study

- Underline/Notice key words that summarize the message of the **Gospel**:
 - Father (137)
 - Believe (98)
 - World (78)
 - Send (60)
 - Love (57)
 - Life, light and darkness, truth, witness, glory, eternal.
- Note the seven “**LAM**” statements of Jesus.
 - The Bread of Life (6:35, 41, 48, 51).
 - Light of the World (8:12; 9:5)
 - Door of the Sheep (10:7, 9)
 - Good Shepherd (10:11, 14)
 - Resurrection and the Life (11:25)
 - The Way, the Truth, and the Life (14:6)
 - The True Vine (15:1, 5).
- John highlights the Incarnation, using seven **signs** to demonstrate the deity of Christ.
 - Changing water to wine (2:1-11).
 - Healing the nobleman’s son (4:46-54).
 - Healing the paralytic (5:1-9)
 - Feeding the 5000 (6:1-14).
 - Calming the storm (6:16-21).
 - Healing the blind man (9:1-7).
 - Raising Lazarus (11:38-45).
- Pay attention also to John’s depiction of the **humanity** of Christ.

Three Questions This Book Seeks to Answer:

- What do we need to believe?
- What does it mean to believe?
- Why do we need to believe?

Brief Outline of John’s Gospel

- I. **Prologue: The Incarnate Word** (1:1-18)
- II. **The Signs of the Messiah** (1:19-12:50)
 - A. John the Baptist’s witness and the first week of Jesus’ ministry (1:19-2:11)
 - B. Jesus’ ministry in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to Gentiles (2:12-4:54)
 - C. Mounting Jewish opposition, additional signs (5:1-10:42)
 - D. The final Passover: the ultimate sign and the aftermath (11:1-12:19)
 - E. The approaching Gentiles and the Messiah’s rejection by the Jews (12:20-50)
- III. **The Farewell Discourse and the Passion Narrative** (13:1-20:31)
 - A. The cleansing and instruction of the new messianic community and Jesus’ final prayer (13:1-17:26)
 - B. Jesus’ arrest, trials, death, and burial (18:1-19:42)
 - C. Jesus’ resurrection, appearances, and sending of his disciples (20:1-29)
 - D. Purpose statement: Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God (20:30-31)
- IV. **Epilogue: The Roles of Peter and of the Disciple Whom Jesus Loved** (21:1-25)

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