

## The Gospel of John

### New Testament Lesson 9 Nov. 22, 2009

The writer of the Gospel of John is only identified in the book as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” But early church leaders as well as historians hold that the author is the apostle/disciple John.

Bio: John was the -

brother of James - aka the Sons of Thunder Mark 3:17 James the son of Zebedee and John

the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder)

(possibly high spirited, impetuous, zeal was undisciplined & sometimes misdirected)

son of Zebedee who seems well to do b/c he had “hired servants” (Mark 1:19-20)

son of Salome who was one of the women who “provided for Jesus out of their means”

(Luke 8:3, Mark 15:40-41)

Mark 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James,

and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

Matthew 27:56 among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and

Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

John had a house of his own to which he took Jesus' mother (John 19:27)

John's family had a connection with the wealthy and influential high priest (John 18:16)

He was a Jew who was an eyewitness.

He was the youngest disciple and had a relationship to Jesus like a younger brother/ older brother. He also outlived the other disciples and wrote 5 books of the Bible (John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation).

A member of the “inner circle” along with Peter and James – was at the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus' daughter, Gethsemane. Jesus also trusted John and Peter to prepare the Passover Supper (Luke 22:8)

John did not have Peter's gifts. John is shown in the book of Acts as Peter's companion who leaves the public speaking to Peter. John was given the job to write.

Purpose:

(Our mindset should be that we are not studying a book but seeing Jesus b/c John reveals the person of Jesus so intimately and completely)

Theme verse: **John 20:30-31 (English Standard Version)**

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> 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.

Important words:

Main aim:

Believe – more than agreeing with facts and not a casual belief. Involves a deliberate, personal commitment not only to the facts but also to the living person of Jesus. Trusting in that faith alone. We believe that Jesus is who He says he is and will take us home one day. We are staking our lives on it. (Do you believe who Jesus says he is?)

Ultimate purpose:

Have Life – it is more than life in heaven, it is the quality of life now and that the quality of life is characterized by peace and joy. (Do you have that life?)

Most well known verse: John 3:16

Written primarily to the Greeks (or non-Jewish believers or questioning non – believers.)

Written after the other 3 Gospels (also possibly to refute wrong teaching /heresy which were rising like Gnostics who believed that Jesus was divine but not truly human)

This book was the last Gospel written, and is emphatic in showing that Jesus is God so that people will trust in Him for salvation

The 3 Synoptic Gospels recorded simply what Jesus did and what He said but John gives in addition a special emphasis on what Jesus meant. The Synoptic Gospels recorded the miracles of Jesus & their effect on people but John selected certain miracles and calls the miracles “signs” b/c each miracle had a spiritual significance and was an outward sign of an internal truth. For example, the interpretation of the feeding of the 5,000 is given that Jesus is the Bread of Life and anyone who eats of this bread will live forever.

Contains 19 OT quotes, no parables or exorcisms (driving out of evil spirits), but has long discourses on Jesus, the story of Nicodemus, and the woman at the well. John records Jesus’ most intimate prayer to His Father for us, tells us that Jesus wept over the sorrow of Martha & Mary and Jesus’ teaching on the indwelling Holy Spirit when he talked in the Upper Room.

To show Jesus as the Divine Son of God (Jesus if fully God & fully man). John presents Jesus to all men as both Son of God and Son of Man.

Instead of beginning with genealogy, John begins with who Jesus is. He explains that Jesus was not only with God in the beginning, Jesus was (and is) God (John 1:1) This verse highlights 2 related themes of his gospel: Jesus' eternal existence and his divine nature. Theological question -How can God & Jesus both be God? God exists in 3 persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit = the Trinity. Not 3 gods, but one God revealing Himself in 3 persons. This is a mystery of the Bible. Discuss chart.

John explains Jesus relation to God & eternity (John 1:1-2) – explains Jesus Christ's divine person.

### 7 Signs (Miracles)

1. Turning water into wine (2:1-11)
2. Cure of the nobleman's son (4:46-54)
3. Cure of the paralytic (5:1-18)
4. Feeding of the multitude (6:6-13)
5. Walking on water (6:16-21)
6. Giving of sight to the blind (9:1-7)
7. Raising of Lazarus (11:1-45)

### 7 "I am"s

1. **John 6:35 (English Standard Version) Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**
2. **John 8:12 (English Standard Version) Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**
3. **John 10:7,9 (English Standard Version) So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.**
4. **John 10:11,14 <sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,**
5. **John 11:25 (English Standard Version) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,**
6. **John 14:6 (English Standard Version) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**
7. **John 15:1,5 (English Standard Version) <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**

## Outline of John

- 1:1-18 Prologue - Explanation of Jesus (the Word) before he became flesh.  
(Incarnation – the coming of God’s Son into the world as a human being.)
- 1:19-51 John the Baptist denies being Christ but points to Jesus the Lamb of God.  
(Lesson to follow – our job is to point others to Jesus)  
The first disciples
- 2:1-11 Jesus changed water into wine / wedding at Cana (1<sup>st</sup> miraculous sign)  
(Spiritual Lessons – do we see things as a crisis or opportunity, Jesus has the power to transform & provide abundantly for us, & our timing is not always God’s timing)
- 2:12-25 Jesus clears /cleanses the temple of money changers.  
(Lesson – What can we do to cleanse our worship to God? Late for Service, idle chatter during Service, are our hearts prepared to meet w/ God?  
What sins do we need to get rid of?)
- 3:1- 21 Jesus teaches Nicodemus about being born again.  
(We have a spiritual rebirth when we accept Jesus as our Savior)
- 3:22-35 John the Baptist’s Testimony about Jesus
- 4:1- 42 Jesus talks to Samaritan woman about living water and worship in truth & spirit.  
(Jesus satisfies – “never thirst”, “eternal life”)(Jesus’ attribute – omniscient)  
Disciples rejoice Jesus & many Samaritans believe.
- 4:43-54 Jesus heals Royal Official’s son & his household believes. (2<sup>nd</sup> miraculous sign)
- 5:1- 47 Jesus heals lame man/paralytic at pool (Bethesda) and answers Pharisees accusations of healing on the Sabbath & equality w/ God. (3<sup>rd</sup> miraculous sign)
- 6:1-15 Jesus feeds 5,000 (4<sup>th</sup> miraculous sign)  
John 6:35 (English Standard Version) Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
- 6:16-24 Jesus walks on water (5<sup>th</sup> miraculous sign)
- 6:25-71 Jesus teaches “I am the Bread of Life” & many disciples desert him

- 7:1-52 Jesus teaches at the Feast of Tabernacles & the unbelief of Jewish leaders
- 8:1-11 Jesus helps woman accused of adultery
- 8:12-59 Jesus teaches "I am the Light of the world", on Abraham's children, & children of the devil
- 9:1-41 Jesus heals blind man & teaches on spiritual blindness (6<sup>th</sup> miraculous sign)
- 10:1-42 Jesus teaches "I am the Door (gate)", "I am the Good Shepherd"
- 11:1-44 Jesus raises Lazarus & teaches "I am the Resurrection and the Life" (7<sup>th</sup> miraculous sign)
- 11:45-12:49 Jesus' Last Days: the plot to kill Jesus, anticipating the Passover, the triumphal entry, Jesus predicts his death, & continued Jewish unbelief
- 13:1-38 Jesus washes disciples' feet, predicts his betrayal, predicts Peter's denial
- 14:1-14 Jesus comforts disciples, teaches "I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
- 14:1-31 Jesus promises the Holy Spirit
- 15:1-16:33 Jesus teaches "I am the vine; you are the branches", the world hates disciples, the work of the Holy Spirit, and that the disciples' grief will turn to joy.
- 17:1-26 Jesus prays for himself, for disciples, for all believers
- 18:1-19:16 Jesus arrested, taken to Annas, (Peter's denial), questioned by high priest, before Pilate, sentenced to be crucified
- 19:17-42 Jesus' crucifixion, death, burial
- 20:1-31 Jesus' resurrection - the empty tomb, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, appears to disciples, & appears to Thomas
- 21:1-25 Jesus & the miraculous catch, and Jesus reinstates Peter