

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN – INTRODUCTION

I. AUTHOR OF THE BOOK

- A. John the Apostle of Christ – the son of Zebedee (Mk. 1:19-20)
 - 1. Mother was Salome (Matt. 27:56, Mk. 15:40, Jn 19:25 cf. Matt. 20:20-24)
 - a. Requests that her two sons would sit on right and left hands of Jesus in His kingdom.
 - b. May have been the sister to Mary, the mother of Jesus
 - 2. The brother of James, also an apostle of Christ – “sons of thunder – fiery spirit (Mk. 3:17, Lk. 9:51-56)
 - 3. Fisherman by trade
 - 4. Refers to self as “disciple whom Jesus loved” (13:23, 19:26, 20:2; 21:7, 21:20, 21:24- true witness of life of Jesus)
 - 5. Close to the Lord – many times in Lord’s private audience:
 - a. Raising Jairus’ daughter (Mk. 5:22, 35-43)
 - b. Lord’s transfiguration (Matt. 17:1, Mk. 9:2)
 - c. Private discourse concerning destruction of Jerusalem (Matt. 24:3, Mk. 13:3, 4)
 - d. Lord’s sufferings in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36-45)
 - e. One of seven disciples at Sea of Tiberias after resurrection of Christ (Jn. 21:2)
 - 6. Close associate with Peter in early days of the church (Acts 3:1, 4:13, 8:14-15).
 - 7. Exiled to Island of Patmos (Rev. 1:9, - A.D. 96-100)
 - 8. Besides writing this Gospel, John wrote 3 epistles that bear his name, and Revelation.

II. THE TIMES THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN (A. D. 80-98)

- A. Many years after Matthew, Mark, and Luke were written.
- B. The doctrine known as Gnosticism was budding which falsely attacked the absolute deity of Christ.

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BOOK

- A. Theme: Jesus is the only begotten Son of God – deity of Jesus (Jn. 20:30-31)
 - 1. Carefully selected miracles (9:32, 20:30, 21:25)
 - a. Of the 35 miracles given in Gospels, John records 8. Six only found in John.
 - b. **2:1-11** (abundant water turned to wine); **4:46-54**(Nobleman’s son healed); **5:1-9** (man crippled for 38 years healed); **6:1-14** (Excess of 5,000 fed) **6:15-21** (Jesus walks on water); **9:1-41** (Healed man born blind); **11:1-44** (Raising Lazarus from the dead); **21:1-14** (catching of fish)
 - 2. Jesus’ Deity is emphasized by the self-existent and eternal designation of “I Am” (8:58)
 - a. **6:35** (bread of life); **8:12, 12:46** (Light of the world); **10:9** (the door); **10:11** (Good Shepherd); **14:6** (the true and living way); **11:25** (resurrection and life); **15:5** (the vine)

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- b. Jesus does not just tell others where to find spiritual sustenance – He is the way (cf. Jn. 1:17).
- 3. Only Gospel account to give the early Judean ministry of Christ (1:19-4:54) – a 3-6 month period of time.
 - a. Between Matthew 4:11-12, the first 4 chapters of John occur.
- 4. John's Passover accounts helps in knowing length of Christ's ministry (2:13, 5:1??, 6:4, 11:55) 2 ½ - 3 ½ years
- 5. John gives only one parable of the Lord – the good shepherd (10:6)

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

- I. Gospel of John
 - A. Prologue (1:1-18)
 - B. Jesus' public ministry (Early Judean, Great Galilean, Later Judean and Perea 1:19-12:50)
 - C. Jesus' private ministry with apostles (13-17)
 - D. Jesus' suffering and victory (18-20)
 - E. Epilogue (21)