

The Gospel of John

Introduction to the Gospel

Background

Author

No name given for any of the Gospels

John -- Jesus' best friend. See John 21: 20; Earliest church tradition recognises John as author.
Detailed references to geography of Palestine pre-destruction in AD 70

Date

Probably the last of the Gospels to be written and circulated. AD 60's -- AD 90's.

Place of Origin

Possibly Ephesus in Asia (now Turkey) -- where John had settled

Written For

Doesn't say for whom it was written -- unlike Paul's letters and Luke's Gospel

Probably for Gentile Christians who had already achieved a basic knowledge of Jesus but who needed further confirmation of their faith.

The Synoptics present him for a generation in process of being evangelized; John presents him as the Lord of the maturing and questioning believer.

Purpose

To convince readers that Jesus was supernatural in his origin, powers, and goal. John 20:30 -- 31
This Gospel was probably written at a time when the church was composed of second-and third-generation Christians who needed more detailed instruction about Jesus and new defenses for the apologetic problems raised by apostasy within the church and by growing opposition from without.

More theological than the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, Luke)

Literary Form

Not a complete biography -- many gaps. More topical than chronological.

Extracts from Jesus life and teaching are selected for a purpose

Much attention given to Jesus' visits to Jerusalem

More detailed "personal" interviews

Vocabulary distinctive and limited to major ideas -- *believe, witness, love, abide, the Father, the Son, the Counselor, light, life, darkness, Word, glorify, true.*

Structure (by Phases of Ministry)

I. Prologue: Revelation of the Word (1:1-18)

II. The Public Ministry of the Word (1:19-12:50)

III. The Private Ministry of the Word (13:1-17:26)

IV. The Passion of the Word (18:1-20:31)

V. The Epilogue (21:1-25)

References to John in the New Testament

Mark 1:16-20 (ANIV)

- ¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.
- ¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."
- ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.
- ¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.
- ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Matthew 27:54-56 (ANIV)

- ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"
- ⁵⁵ Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs.
- ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. (See also John 19:25-27)

Mark 3:13-19 (ANIV)

- ¹³ Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.
- ¹⁴ He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach
- ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.
- ¹⁶ These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter);
- ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder);
- ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot
- ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

[Luke 9:51-56 \(ANIV\)](#)

- ⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.
- ⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him;
- ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.
- ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"
- ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them,
- ⁵⁶ and they went to another village.

Matthew 17:1-2 (ANIV)

- ¹ After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.
- ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

John 13:21-26 (ANIV)

- ²¹ After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me."
- ²² His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.
- ²³ One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.
- ²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."
- ²⁵ Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"
- ²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon.

Acts 3:1-8 (ANIV)

¹One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.

²Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

³When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

⁴Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"

⁵So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

⁸He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

Acts 4:5-7 (ANIV)

⁵The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem.

⁶Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family.

⁷They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

Acts 8:14-17 (ANIV)

¹⁴When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.

¹⁵When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

¹⁶because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus.

¹⁷Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 2:9 (ANIV)

⁹James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognised the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews.

1 John 1:1 (ANIV)

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

Revelation 1:9 (ANIV)

⁹I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

References to John in the New Testament

Mark 1:16-20 (ANIV)

Matthew 27:54-56 (ANIV)

Mark 3:13-19 (ANIV)

Luke 9:51-56 (ANIV)

Matthew 17:1-2 (ANIV)

[John 13:21-26](#) (ANIV)

[Acts 3:1-8](#) (ANIV)

[Acts 4:5-7](#) (ANIV)

Acts 8:14-17 (ANIV)

Galatians 2:9 (ANIV)

1 John 1:1 (ANIV)

[Revelation 1:9](#) (ANIV)

Detailed Outline

I. Prologue: Revelation of the Word (1:1-18)

- A. The Preincarnate Word (1:1-5)
- B. The Prophetic Announcement (1:6-8, 15)
- C. The Reception of the Word (1:9-13)
- D. The Incarnation of the Word (1:14, 16-18)

II. The Public Ministry of the Word (1:19-12:50)

A. The Beginning Ministry (1:19-4:54)

- 1. The witness of John the Baptist (1:19-34)
- 2. The first disciples (1:35-51)
- 3. The first sign (2:1-11)
- 4. The interlude at Capernaum (2:12)
- 5. The cleansing of the temple (2:13-22)
- 6. The interview with Nicodemus (2:23-3:21)
 - a. Nicodemus's visit (2:23-3:15)
 - b. The author's comment (3:16-21)
- 7. Further testimony of John the Baptist (3:22-36)
- 8. The Samaritan ministry (4:1-42)
 - a. The woman at the well (4:1-26)
 - b. The return of the disciples (4:27-38)
 - c. The faith of the Samaritans (4:39-42)
- 9. The interview with the nobleman (4:43-54)

B. The Rise of Controversy (5:1-47)

C. The Beginning of Conflict (6:1-8:59)

- 1. The feeding of the five thousand (6:1-15)
- 2. The walking on the water (6:16-21)
- 3. The address in the synagogue (6:22-59)
- 4. The division among the disciples (6:60-71)
- 5. The visit to Jerusalem (7:1-52)
 - a. The journey (7:1-13)
 - b. The popular debate (7:14-36)
 - c. The climactic appeal (7:37-44)
 - d. The rejection by the leaders (7:45-52)
- 6. [The woman taken in adultery (7:53-8:11)]

D. The Intensification of Controversy (8:12-59)

- 1. Teaching in the temple area (8:12-30)
- 2. The discourse to professed believers (8:31-47)
- 3. The response of the unbelievers (8:48-59)

E. The Manifestation of Opposition (9:1-11:57)

- 1. The healing of the blind man (9:1-41)
 - a. The healing (9:1-12)
 - b. The consequences (9:13-41)
- 2. The Good Shepherd discourse (10:1-21)
- 3. The debate in Solomon's Colonnade (10:22-42)
- 4. The miracle at Bethany (11:1-44)
 - a. The announcement of death (11:1-16)
 - b. The conversation with Martha and Mary (11:17-37)
 - c. The raising of Lazarus (11:38-44)
- 5. The decision to kill Jesus (11:45-57)

F. The Crisis of the Ministry (12:1-50)

- 1. The dinner at Bethany (12:1-11)
- 2. The entry into Jerusalem (12:12-19)
- 3. The response to the Greeks (12:20-36)
- 4. The response to unbelief (12:37-50)

III. The Private Ministry of the Word (13:1-17:26)

A. The Last Supper (13:1-30)

1. The washing of feet (13:1-20)
2. The prediction of the betrayal (13:21-30)

B. The Last Discourse (13:31-16:33)

1. Questions and answers (13:31-14:31)
 - a. The new commandment (13:31-35)
 - b. The question of Peter (13:36-14:4)
 - c. The question of Thomas (14:5-7)
 - d. The request of Philip (14:8-15)
 - e. The promise of the Spirit (14:16-21)
 - f. The question of Judas (not Iscariot) (14:22-24)
 - g. Parting comfort (14:25-31)
2. The discourse on relations (15:1-27)
 - a. The relation of the disciples to Christ (15:1-11)
 - b. The relation of the disciples to one another (15:12-17)
 - c. The relation of the disciples to the world (15:18-27)
3. The discourse on revelation (16:1-33)
 - a. The revelation of rejection (16:1-4)
 - b. The revelation of the Holy Spirit (16:5-15)
 - c. The revelation of Jesus' reappearance (16:16-24)
 - d. The revelation of the Father (16:25-33)

C. The Last Prayer (17:1-26)

1. The prayer concerning himself (17:1-5)
2. The prayer concerning the disciples (17:6-19)
3. The prayer concerning future believers (17:20-26)

IV. The Passion of the Word (18:1-20:31)

A. The Arrest in Gethsemane (18:1-11)

B. The Hearing Before Annas (18:12-14, 19-24)

C. The Denial by Peter (18:15-18, 25-27)

D. The Trial Before Pilate (18:28-19:16)

E. The Crucifixion (19:17-27)

F. The Death of Jesus (19:28-37)

G. The Burial of Jesus (19:38-42)

H. The Resurrection (20:1-29)

1. The witness of Peter and John (20:1-9)
2. The appearance to Mary Magdalene (20:10-18)
3. The appearance to the disciples (20:19-23)
4. The confession of Thomas (20:24-29)

I. Statement of Purpose (20:30-31)

V. The Epilogue (21:1-25)

A. The Appearance at the Sea (21:1-14)

B. The Reinstatement of Peter (21:15-23)

C. The Colophon (21:24-25)