

JOHN

“Believe in the Son of God”

Writing of the Book

- John was known and used as Scripture from the time it was written, from Ephesus in the mid 90's.
- It is one of the most well-attested books of Scripture.
- The chain of evidence that he is the author is continuous.

Outline of John

I. Prologue: The Word of God (1:1-18)

II. Book of Signs (1:19-12:50)

a. Testimony of John the Baptist (1:19-51)

b. Jesus and the Institutions of Judaism (2:1-4:54)

c. Jesus and the Festivals of Judaism (5:1-10:42)

d. Foreshadowing of Death and Resurrection (11:1-12:50)

III. The Book of Glory (13:1-20:31)

- a. Passover Meal (13:1-30)
- b. Farewell Discourse (13:31-17:26)
- c. Passion (18:1-19:42)
- d. Resurrection (20:1-29)
- e. Conclusions (20:30-31)

IV. Epilogue (21:1-25)

- a. Miracle of 153 Fish (21:1-14)
- b. Jesus and Peter (20:15-23)
- c. Appendix (21:24-25)

Purpose and Message

- As is true with all the Gospels, John's goal is **show us Jesus**, drawing from what he and others witnessed.
- He writes *“but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”*
- In emphasizing this truth John teaches us a number of things about Jesus and his work.

Major Themes

In the Beginning Was the Word

- The first and most distinctive feature of John is his **emphasis on the divine glory of Christ.**
- Jesus is God himself, incarnate in human flesh.
- These ways can be grouped in three categories: **Jesus' divine qualities and essence, Jesus as the unique divine messenger, and Jesus' fulfillment of the Old Testament's hopes and images**

Major Themes

In the Beginning... *(continued)*

Jesus' Divine Qualities and Essence

- Jesus is life (1:4; 5:21; 6:57; 11:25; 14:6)
- Jesus is light (1:4-5, 9; 3:19; 8:12)
- Jesus is truth (1:14; 14:6; 18:37)
- Jesus is glory (1:14; 2:11; 11:4; 12:41; 17:5, 24)
- Jesus is grace (1:14, 17)
- Jesus is the Word of God (1:1)

Major Themes

In the Beginning... *(continued)*

Jesus as Unique Divine Messenger

- Jesus finds his eternal source in God (3:31; 8:23)
- Jesus comes down to earth from God (3:34; 5:24; 6:38; 8:16, 18, 42; 15:21; 17:18)
- Jesus is the teacher come down from God (3:2; 13:13-14)
- Jesus is the true bread from Heaven (6:32-33, 50, 58)
- Jesus is the one through whom the Holy Spirit speaks (14:26; 15:26)
- Jesus is the one who conquers the world (16:33)
- Jesus is the judge who raises up all on the last day (5:22, 27-30; 6:39, 54; 11:25)
- Jesus will return to heaven with God above when his mission is complete (16:28)

Major Themes

In the Beginning... *(continued)*

Jesus' fulfillment of Israel's and All Humanity's Hopes and Needs

- Jesus is the Messiah (1:41; 4:25-26; 7:41; 10:24-25; 11:27)
- The King of Israel (1:49; 18:37; 19:19)
- Lamb of God (1:29, 35)
- Son of Man (1:51; 3:13-14; 6:27, 53, 61, 13:31)
- Prophet par excellence (4:44; 6:14; 7:40; 9:17)
- The one to whom the OT pointed (1:45; 5:39, 45-47; 8:56; 12:41; 19:36-37)

Major Themes

The Word Became Flesh

- In the first century **what was controversial** about Jesus was **not his deity but his humanity**.
- So, John emphasizes the humanity of Jesus, that **he is the Word made flesh**, that he was **in the world**.
- Only one who was truly human could truly redeem humanity.
- To rob Jesus of his humanity is to rob him of who he is, who he claimed himself to be – **Savior and Lord**.

Major Themes Believe

- The principle of faith is fundamental throughout John.
 - Faith is an activity, **to believe**, occurring about 100 times in the Gospel while the noun “faith” is absent.
- John’s readers are called to believe in:
 - God (14:1)
 - God as the one who sent Jesus (12:44)
 - What the Old Testament says (2:22; 5:46-47)
 - Jesus as the one sent by God (6:29)
 - Jesus’ name (2:23)

Major Themes

Believe *(continued)*

- John's readers are called to believe in:
 - Jesus himself (3:18; 4:39; 10:42; 12:42)
 - Jesus as the Son of Man (9:35-38)
 - Jesus' miracles (10:38)
 - Jesus as the Messiah (11:27; 20:31)
 - What Jesus says (8:45-46; 14:11)
 - That Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus (14:10; 7:21)

Major Themes

Believe *(continued)*

- John lets us know who believes:
 - John the Baptist (1:34)
 - Jesus' disciples (6:69; 16:27, 31; 17:8)
 - A woman in Samaria (4:28-29)
 - A group of Samaritans (4:39, 41-42)
 - A royal official and his household (4:53)
 - A large group in Jerusalem (7:31)
 - Many Jewish leaders (12:42)
 - Groups of Jews (8:31; 12:11)

Major Themes

Believe *(continued)*

- The Judean religious leaders were afraid everyone would **believe in Jesus**, that the whole world had gone after him.
- Looking into the future, **a special blessedness is promised to those who would believe in him without seeing him**, and Jesus specifically prays for such, **and for us today**.
- His Gospel is gospel, calling us not to look at just what is going on in others' lives, **but in our own**.