



The Gospel of John

Author

Though the fourth gospel itself, does not state that John was the author, there are clear evidences both externally and internally that would suggest the author was in fact John. Known as the “disciple whom Jesus loved,” John was the brother of James and both were sons of Zebedee. He had been an eyewitness to Jesus and been a part of all the years of ministry Jesus had. He stayed faithful to Jesus even to the cross and he completely found his identity in the son of God.

Date

Two main arguments exist for the dating of the gospel. Either a later date [between A.D. 85-95] or an earlier date [before A.D. 70]. Good arguments are made due to recent archaeological discoveries, original manuscripts, and the dead sea scrolls that the early date is to be considered. The writing of the gospel occurred before A.D. 70 and John wrote the fourth gospel from Ephesus. He had served in ministry for 20-25 years there and his writing was meant to be widely circulated among the churches of Asia Minor.

Purpose

The purpose of the Gospel is clearly stated in chapter 20 verse 31. The verse states “...but *these things 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.***” John presents both a theological and historical argument for Jesus while displaying that there is in fact a progression of belief on display.

Outline

I. Incarnation (1:1-18)

- Jesus is...God(1:1-2)
- Jesus is...Creator (1:3)
- Jesus is...Light (1:4-9)
- Jesus is...Giver of Life (1:10-13)
- Jesus is...Living Word (1:14-18)

II. Presentation (1:19 - 4)

- John the Baptist (1:19-34)
- First Disciples (1:35-51)
- Miracle at Cana (2:1-12)
- Temple Cleansing (2:13-25)
- Nicodemus (3:1-21)
- John the Baptist's final sermon (3:22-36)
- The Samaritan Women (4:1-30)
- Samaritans Believe (4:31-45)
- Healing of a Nobleman's Son (4:46-54)

III. Opposition (5 - 12)

- Paralytic and rejection (5)
- Two Miracles (6:1-21)
- Bread of Life (6:22-71)
- Teaching at Feast of Booths (7)
- Adulterous Woman (8:1-11)
- Light of the World (8:12-30)
- Freedom in Truth (8:31-59)
- Blind Man & Opposition (9)
- Good Shepherd (10:1-21)
- Dejection of Deity (10:22-42)
- Lazarus (11)
- Triumphal Entry (12)

IV. Redemption (13 - 21)

- Upper Room (13-14)
- Final Time with Disciples (15:1-16:33)
- Prayer (17)
- Arrest & Trials (18-19:16)
- The Cross (19:17-37)
- Resurrection (19:38-20:10)
- Appearances (20:11-21)

