

## Gospel of John (Introduction)

### Author

This John who is credited with writing this book is John the son of Zebedee. John became known as the “beloved disciple” (21:20,24; 19:26,27), the one Jesus loved. This John was one of the inclusive three in Jesus “inner circle” (Peter, James and John). These three were present during some important times in the ministry of Jesus: 1) at his transfiguration Mk. 9:2 ; 2) at the healing of Jairus’s daughter Mk.5:22-43; 3) in the garden before his crucifixion Matt. 26:36,37. Undoubtedly, he was an eye-witness to the things of which he wrote. (John 2:6 “six stone water pots”; 6:10 “much grass”; 6:17 “it was dark”) John wrote in much detail, he not only wrote of what Jesus did, but he noticed the scene surrounding the miracles, his teachings to bring it to life to his readers.

### Date

Most scholars agree that this was the last of the gospels to be written, and date it around 85 A.D. Which is about 50 yrs after the death of Jesus.

### Purpose in Writing

This is clearly stated in 20:30,31. That the reader might come to faith in Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God. Three key words show up time and time again in this gospel:

- Signs- used 17 times in John, only 28 times in the rest of the gospels combined. This word is also translated miracle.
- Believe- appears 98 times in John, only 29 times in the rest of the gospels.
- Life- is used 34 times in John’s gospel, and only 13 times in the other gospels combined.

John’s gospel is clearly for the purpose of evangelistic efforts. He wants his readers to believe in the Lord. He had a lot of information to sort thru, and in this book, he has chosen the best he felt to get the job done, and bring as many to faith as he possibly could. This book will not only bring one to faith, but will also strengthen the faith of those who already believe.

### Outline of the Gospel of John

- 1) Chaps. 1-4- The manifestation of Jesus. Jesus is introduced to the world.....
- 2) Chaps. 5-10- The period of Confrontation. The opposition to Jesus.....
- 3) Chaps.11-12-The alienation of Jesus. Jesus is being rejected .....
- 4) Chap.13-17- The preparation of Jesus. Jesus prepares not only himself, but the disciples for his coming death.
- 5) Chaps.18-19- The consummation of Jesus. His death on the cross, the fulfillment of God’s plan.
- 6) Chaps.20,21- The resurrection of Jesus and final actions.....

It is my prayer that John’s writing will reach its intended purpose. I know it has over the years, and will continue to now in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as well. May we study these lessons well and reaffirm our faith in Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, by a man who walked, talked and witnessed his mighty works. May God bless our efforts as we study.

*Information attained for this Introduction was acquired from the Nelson King James study Bible.*