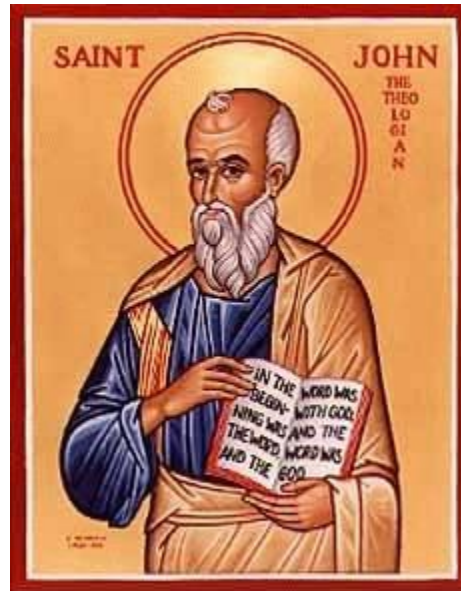


Four Gospels: One Jesus

Introduction to the Gospel of John



1. **Author:** Tradition claims the Apostle John is the author.
2. **Date:** Late first century, after the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 CE.
 - a) Written after the other three Gospels (the Synoptics), perhaps to supplement them, or to oppose some form of heresy that was developing.
3. **Audience:** Directed to those who already know the story of Jesus' life and ministry, but need to know more of what it means. Possibly written to appeal to Greek thinkers.
4. **The Purpose of the Gospel:** John 20:30-31
 - a) "John is concerned with one theme only, which he continually varies: to know him is life. That, then, is the one question that he asks his readers: Do we know Jesus? Everything else fades into twilight and darkness; it loses its importance and is pushed aside." – Ernst Kaesemann
 - b) These verses seem to provide the natural ending to John's Gospel. Scholars are almost unanimous that chapter 21 is a later addition to the Gospel.
5. **The Structure of John**
 - The Prologue:
God, the Word, and the World: 1:1-18 (names and titles to identify Jesus)
Testimony and Preparation: 1:19-51
 - The Book of Signs: 2:1-12:50
 - Jesus and the Twelve: 13:1-17:26
 - Death and Resurrection: 18:1-20:31
 - Appendix (a later addition): 21:1-25
6. **The Book of Signs:** seven miracle stories that point beyond the miracle to tell us something about Jesus
 - a) Changing water to wine at Cana 2:1-11

- b) Curing the official's son 4:46-54
- c) Curing the paralytic at Bethzatha 5:1-15
- d) Miraculous feeding in Galilee 6:1-15
- e) Walking on water 6:16-21
- f) Healing a blind man in Jerusalem 9:1-41
- g) Raising of Lazarus 11:1-54
- h) Pattern in this section: an event...a dialogue...a monologue.**

7. The "I Am" Statements in John's Gospel (OT roots = Exodus 3:14)

- a) "I am the bread of life." (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51)
- b) "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12)
- c) "I am the door of the sheep." (John 10:7,9)
- d) "I am the resurrection and the life." (John 11:25)
- e) "I am the good shepherd." (John 10:11, 14)
- f) "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)
- g) "I am the true vine." (John 15:1, 5)

8. Additional Key Passages in John's Gospel

- a) Jesus and the Woman of Samaria 4:1-42
- b) The woman accused of adultery 7:53-8:11
- c) A new commandment 13
- d) The promise of the Holy Spirit 14