

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

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1. The *Gospel of John* is one of four written presentations of the person and work of Jesus Christ in the New Testament of the Bible.
2. It is the last of the gospels to be written probably between 85 and 95AD.
3. The four gospels include the following:
 - a. The three synoptic gospels: **Matthew, Mark, and Luke**.
Note: The word *synoptic* means: “according to a general view of the whole, manifesting or characterized by comprehensiveness, or presenting the same or common view, or simultaneous views, such as the first three gospels in the New Testament.”
 - b. **John** is the fourth gospel and it is written by the Apostle John.
4. The **Gospel of Matthew** presents Jesus Christ as Israel’s coming **promised Messiah and king**. It was primarily written to a Hebrew audience between 37 and 50AD.
5. The **Gospel of Mark** presents Jesus Christ as a **servant** and the **powerful Savior**. Some scholars believe that Mark’s gospel was written first around 57-60AD.
6. The **Gospel of Luke** presents Jesus Christ as the **Son of Man**, true humanity, who would become the perfect savior, and it was written primarily to the Gentiles. While it is impossible to date its composition, many scholars place its writing between 58 and 60AD.
7. The **Gospel of John** was written to unbelievers and new Christians to prove conclusively, with many miraculous signs, that Jesus is the **Son of God**, and that all who believe in Him will have eternal life. (John 1:34, 49; 10:36; 20:31)
 - a. John writes concerning the undiminished deity and the true humanity of Jesus Christ. (John 3:13-18; 20:30, 31)
 - b. This gospel was written sometime after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD but before John’s exile to the Isle of Patmos in 96AD.
 - c. Only eight of the thirty-five miracles of Jesus recorded in the synoptic gospels are found in the Gospel of John, and six of these are unique to his gospel.
 - d. Other unique features of John’s gospel are **Jesus’ Seven I Am’s** (John 6:35; 8:12; 10:7, 9; 10:11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1, 5) and the **upper room discourse**. (John 13-17)
 - e. Over ninety percent of John’s gospel is unique to him.
 - f. John does not give a genealogy of the lineage of Jesus Christ, an account of His birth, His childhood, His testing, His transfiguration, His appointment of disciples, any parables, His instituting of the last supper, His ascension, or the great commission.

- g. The Gospel of John is divided in this manner:
- (1) **The prologue** - which sets forth the theological introduction enabling the reader to understand that the words and deeds of Jesus are the words of God manifested in His flesh. (John 1:1-18)
 - (2) **The Book of Signs or Miracles** (John 1:19-12:50)
 - (3) **The Upper Room Discourse** [Farewell instructions] (John 13-17)
 - (4) **The Passion and Resurrection** (John 18-20)
 - (5) **The Epilogue** - which closes the gospel by showing the plan of God for the disciples. (John 21)