

## John - "The Son of God"

**From Whom:** This gospel is attributed to John, who was the son of Zebedee and Salome, brother of James, and one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:19, 20; Matthew 20:20; John 21:20-24). John is described as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23). John is a theological narrative, distinct from the three Synoptic Gospels. It uses symbolic language, metaphors, and discourses to convey deep spiritual truths.

**To Whom:** The text addresses a wide audience of Jews and Gentiles, aiming to strengthen faith and deepen understanding of Jesus as the Son of God.

**What/ Theme:** As stated, its primary purpose is theological and spiritual - John 20:31:  
 "But these are written that you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." - NKJV

John presents Jesus as the divine Son of God, emphasizing His pre-existence, miracles, teachings, and especially His more intimate conversations.

**Where/ When:** John was written between AD 85 and 95, likely from Ephesus. This was a time when the early Christian church was facing persecution and doctrinal challenges. The destruction of the Jerusalem temple in AD 70 had a profound impact on Jewish and Christian communities, increasing the need for the clarity found in John's Gospel. It seems appropriate to consider the writings of John in sequence: namely, the Gospel of John, the three Epistles, and the Revelation. All were written evidently during the last ten years of his life, and likely after of the three Synoptic Gospels.

### **Outline:**

#### **1. Prologue - incarnation, (1:1-18)**

- a. Word is God, (1:1-3)
- b. Word became flesh, (1:14)
- c. Word revealed God, (1:18)

#### **2. Introduction, (1:19-51)**

- a. Witness of John the Baptist, (1:19-36)  
(Jesus is Revealer of God (1:36); Redeemer of man (1:29))
- b. Witness of Andrew, (1:37-42)  
(Jesus is the Messiah [Christ] (1:41))
- c. Witness of Philip, (1:43-46)  
(Jesus is fulfillment of Old Testament (1:45))
- d. Witness of Nathanael, (1:47-51)  
(Jesus is Son of God, King of Israel (1:49))

### 3. Witness of works and words (“signs” John 20:30-31), (Chapters 2-12)

- a. Jesus at marriage in Cana, (2:1-12)
- b. Jesus cleanses temple during Passover in Jerusalem, (2:13-22)  
(Jesus is Resurrection 2:22)
- c. Jesus converses with Nicodemus in Jerusalem, (2:23-3:36)  
(Jesus must die for sins of world 3:15)
- d. Jesus converses with woman at well in Sychar, (4:1-45)  
(Jesus is giver of Water of Life)
- e. Jesus heals nobleman’s son in Capernaum, (4:46-54)
- f. Jesus heals man at pool of Bethesda, (5:1-47)  
(Jesus is equal with God)
- g. Jesus feeds 5,000 on east of Sea of Galilee, (6:1-71)  
(Jesus is Bread of Life)
- h. Jesus teaches at Feast of Tabernacles in temple, (7:1-53)  
(Jesus is Water of Life; promises the Holy Spirit)
- i. Jesus in temple forgives woman taken in adultery, (8:1-59)  
(Jesus is Light of World)
- j. Jesus opens eyes of man born blind in Jerusalem, (9:1-41)
  - i. Record of miracle, (9:1-7)
  - ii. Reaction to miracle, (9:8-41)
- k. Jesus is Good Shepherd, (10:1-42)
  - i. Humanity - Christ in form of servant, (10:1-21)
  - ii. Deity - Christ equal with God, (10:22-42)
- l. Jesus raises Lazarus from dead in Bethany, (11:1-57)
- m. Witness of Jew and Gentile to Jesus, (12:1-50)
  - i. Jesus comes to Bethany for supper, (12:1-11)
  - ii. Jesus comes to Jerusalem - tearful entry, (12:12-19)
  - iii. Jesus comes to Greeks, (12:20-26)
  - iv. Jesus comes to His hour, (12:27-36)
  - v. Jesus comes to end of public ministry, (12:37-50)

### 4. Witness of Jesus to His witnesses, (Chapters 13-17)

(Upper Room Discourse)

- a. Jesus washes feet of disciples, (13:1-38)
- b. Jesus comforts His disciples, (14:1-31)
- c. Jesus is genuine vine; disciples are branches, (15:1-27)
- d. Jesus will send Holy Spirit during His absence, (16:1-33)
- e. The Lord’s prayer, (17:1-26)

- i. Jesus prays for Himself, (17:1-5)
- ii. Jesus prays for disciples, (17:6-19)
- iii. Jesus prays for His church, (17:20-26)

#### 5. Witness to world, (Chapters 18-20)

- a. Arrest and trial of Jesus, (18:1-40)
  - i. Arrest in Gethsemane; trial before Annas, (18:1-14)
  - ii. First denial by Simon Peter, (18:15-18)
  - iii. Trial before high priest, (18:19-24)
  - iv. Second denial by Simon Peter, (18:25-27)
  - v. Trial before Pilate, (18:28-40)
- b. Death of Jesus at Golgotha; burial in tomb of Joseph, (19:1-42)
- c. Resurrection of Jesus; appearances to Mary, disciples, Thomas, (20:1-31)

#### 6. Epilogue - glorification, (21:1-25)

(The resurrected Jesus is still God)

- a. Lord of our wills - directs our service (21:6)
- b. Lord of our hearts - motive for service (21:15-17)
- c. Lord of our minds - lack of knowledge no excuse from service (21:22)

- **Another division of the Gospel of John:**

John 1-12 **Light**

John 13-17 **Love**

John 18-21 **Life**

JOHN AT A GLANCE					
Focus	Incarnation Of The Son Of God	Presentation Of The Son Of God	Opposition To The Son Of God	Preparation Of The Disciples	Crucifixion And Resurrection Of The Son Of God
Reference	1:1 ——— 1:19 ——— 5:1 ——— 13:1 ——— 18:1 ——— 21:25				
Division	Introduction To Christ	Revelation Of Christ	Rejection Of Christ	Revelation Of Christ	Rejection Of Christ
Topic	Seven Miracles			Upper Room Discourse	Supreme Miracle
	That You Might Believe			That You Might Have Life	
Location	Israel				
Time	A Few Years			A Few Hours	A Few Weeks

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