

JOHN: Jesus Is God Who Became Man



The Gospel of John is often called the best-loved of the four Gospels. It is usually recommended as the first book of the Bible for new Christians to read. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the **Synoptic Gospels** because they record **similar events**. John, however, is 90% different from the other Gospels. It includes many events *not recorded by the others* and omits several of significant events that *are recorded* in the others. In the Gospel of John, there is no genealogy, no account of Jesus' birth (because He was "in the beginning" 1:1), nothing about His boyhood, temptation in the wilderness, transfiguration on the mountain, the appointing of His disciples, His parables, the account of His ascension into heaven, and no Great Commission.

Purpose: The purpose of John's gospel is presented at the end of the book, John 20:30-31, *"³⁰ The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name."* (NLT).

John's main focus is that **Jesus is GOD**. This emphasis begins with the very first verse when John states that the Word (Jesus) is God (1:1). He follows up by saying that the Word *"...became human and made his home among us"* (1:14). Next, John makes an important statement that no one has ever seen God but that Jesus *"...has revealed God to us"* (1:18). The Greek word for *"...revealed God"* is where we get the English *"exegete"* which means: "to expound, interpret." Jesus is the "exegete" of the Father, that is, the visible manifestation of the Father.

Bible teacher, Warren Wiersbe, writes, "...there is one major theme that runs throughout John's gospel: Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and if you commit yourself to Him, He will give you eternal life (John 20:31)." (The Wiersbe Bible Commentary, p. 228.)

Jesus also **directly claimed** to be **equal with God the Father** (8:19; 10:30-33, 37-38; 12:44-45; 14:8-11) and accepted worship as God (20:24-29).

Central Lesson: Jesus Is God Who Became Man: Trust Him and Live.

Structure: Theologian, William MacDonald, explained, "John builds his Gospel around seven public miracles, or 'signs.' Each is designed to show that Jesus is God... In addition to these seven performed in public, there is an eighth sign performed only for His disciples after the resurrection—the miraculous catch of fish (21:1-14)." (Believer's Bible Commentary, 1464-1465).

The Eight "**SIGN**" Miracles of the Gospel of John

1. Changing the Water into Wine (2:1-11).
2. Healing the Royal Official's Son (4:46-54).
3. Healing the Paralyzed Man at the Pool of Bethesda (5:1-9).
4. Feeding the Five Thousand with Five Loaves & Two Fish (6:1-14).
5. Jesus Walking on Water (6:16-21).
6. Healing the Man Blind from Birth (9:1-41).
7. Raising Lazarus from the Dead (11:1-44).
8. The Miraculous Catch of Fish (21:1-14).

The Seven "**LA**m" Claims of Jesus in the Gospel of John

The "I am" statements have their roots in the Old Testament where Moses encountered God in the burning bush. God identified Himself as "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). Jesus identified Himself with God when He used this expression (also cf. 8:56-59).

1. "I am the bread of life" (6:35).
2. "I am the light of the world" (8:12).
3. "I am the gate" (10:7).
4. "I am the good shepherd" (10:11).
5. "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25).
6. "I am the way and the truth and the life" (14:6).
7. "I am the vine" (15:5).

Author: **JOHN**, the Apostle. Scholars believe it was written from Ephesus. No verse in this gospel mentions the name of the author. However, the writings of the early church leadership all claim that John is the author. One particular early church leader by the name of Irenaeus claimed that Polycarp taught him that John wrote this gospel. Polycarp was a disciple of John.

The only reference in the book to the author's identity is in John 21:24 *"This disciple is the one who testifies to these events and has recorded them here. And we know that his account of these things is accurate."* Earlier the chapter refers to him as *"...the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, 'Lord, who will betray you?'"* (John 21:20 cf. also 13: 21-25). There is much evidence within the gospels that point to John as this individual.

Date: About A.D. 85-90 after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and before John's exile to the island of Patmos by the Romans.

Key Verses: John 20:**30-31** and John 3:16.

Key Chapter: John **chapter 1** which presents Jesus as **God in human flesh** (1:1-18), **the Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world" (1:19-39), **the Messiah** (1:40-42), **the Son of God** and **the King of Israel** (1:43-49), and **the Son of Man** (1:50-51).

Key Words:

- **SIGNS** (2:11, 23; 3:2; 4:48; 6:2, 26; 7:31; 9:16; 11:47; 12:37; 20:30) Also cf. 10:25 *"The proof is the work I do in my Father's name."* NLT
- **Believe** (3:15-16, 18, 36; 5:21; 6:35, 40, 47; 11:25-26; etc.) occurs 98 times and conveys the idea of **trust in**. John wanted to stress an active, continuous, and vital trust in Jesus.
- **Eternal life** (3:15-16, 36; 4:14, 36; 5:24, 39; etc.) mentioned 35 times.
- **Born again, born of God** or **born of the Spirit** (1:13; 3:3-5, 7-8).

Outline: The Life Application Bible outlines the book as:

- I. **Birth and Preparation of Jesus, the Son of God** (1:1-2:11)
- II. **Message and Ministry of Jesus, the Son of God** (2:12-12:50)
- III. **Death and Resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God** (13:1-21:25)

Central Lesson: Jesus Is God Who Became Man: Trust Him and Live.

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.