



EXALTING JESUS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

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PART 1: FACING LIFE'S BIGGEST QUESTION



No other book in the Bible addresses more clearly mankind's biggest question, "*Where will you spend eternity...heaven or hell?*"

John reveals how Jesus is the *only* answer to this vital question! It also shows how through Jesus Christ man's deepest spiritual thirst and hunger can be satisfied.

WHO WROTE THIS GOSPEL?

Most likely John the Apostle, one of the twelve disciples. John was the son of Zebedee (21:2) and Salome (cf. Matt. 27:56; Mark 15:40; John 19:25). According to some traditions, Salome was the sister of Mary, Jesus' mother, making Jesus and John cousins. That would explain the closeness between the two.

John was about 25 years old when Jesus called him, and he lived to be about 100¹. He was a Palestinian Jew and a close companion of Peter. He eventually became a leader of the Jerusalem church (Gal. 2:9) and refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (which reflects his humility and celebrates his relation to his Lord Jesus).

TO WHOM WAS THIS GOSPEL WRITTEN?

- John's gospel was directed to the world at large, Jews and Gentiles.
- He knew that Gentiles would be reading his gospel because he translated Hebrew and Aramaic words into common Greek and was careful to explain Jewish practices to them.

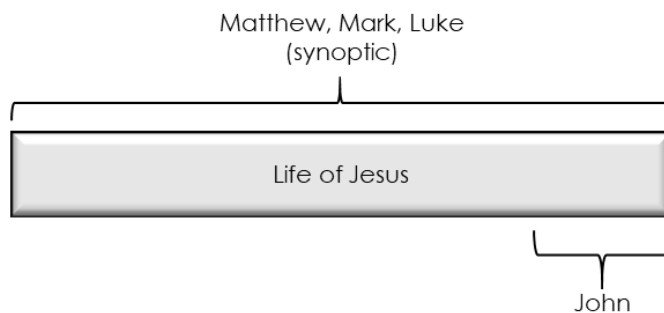
¹ Jensen, p. 177

WHEN AND WHERE WAS THIS GOSPEL WRITTEN?

- The Gospel of John was written about AD 90-100, some 60 years after he witnessed Jesus' earthly ministry.²
- John was most likely living in Ephesus at the time of this writing, where he spent most of his later years preaching, teaching, and writing.

WHY DID JOHN WRITE THIS GOSPEL?

- John wrote this gospel because many people still doubted that Jesus is the Messiah/God.
- John gives convincing evidence that Jesus is Christ, the Son of God and that by believing in him you may have eternal life (20:31).
- Apparently, he wrote his Gospel to make a unique contribution to the record of Jesus' life, and in part, and to be supplementary to the synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.



FIVE REASONS WHY THIS GOSPEL IS SO IMPORTANT

1. No other book in the Bible addresses more clearly life's biggest question, "Where will you _____?"
2. It explains how we can avoid _____ and have _____ (20:31).
3. It shows us that Jesus is the "bread of life" who satisfies our deep _____ (6:35) and came to provide "living water" to quench our deep _____ for the things of God (7:38).
4. It presents Jesus as "the Word" (1:1-2). He is both the _____ from God and the _____ from God.
5. It tells us how Jesus is the _____ we can obtain that living water and the bread of life for "no one comes to the Father" except through him (14:6).

² Green, McKnight and Marshall 370