

Gospel of John

The gospel of John stands alone among the four gospels. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are often referred to as the “Synoptic Gospels” because they present a general summary of the life of Christ in similar fashion. However, John’s gospel is different. Apart from the events associated with John the Baptist and the death and resurrection of Christ, the only event described by John which is also in the Synoptic Gospels is the multiplication of the loaves and fishes.

Furthermore, the gospel of John contains doctrinal discourse not found in the other Gospels. It is John who gives us the famous I AM statements of our Lord. As well, the gospel of John contains our Lord’s mighty promises concerning eternal life. While the Synoptic Gospels give us a general timeline of events spanning the life of Christ, John’s gospel focuses largely on the last week of our Lord’s life (John 12-21), with the first half of the book documenting the controversy amongst the Jewish rulers concerning his identity. Clearly, John presents Jesus as the Son of God (God manifest in the person of Jesus the promised Messiah).

John is known as the beloved disciple (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2). He was a fisherman by trade and the brother of James. He left his fishing nets to follow Jesus as one of the original twelve disciples. He was recognized by the early church as the author of the gospel and the three epistles that bear his name. He wrote the book of Revelation at the command of Christ who appeared to him on the isle of Patmos.

In accordance with his stated purpose in John 20:30-31, the message of John’s gospel has been used throughout the history of the church to bring multitudes to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Major Elements of John's Gospel

- A. The eternal Word takes to himself human nature – John 1:1-18
- B. The essential doctrine of the new birth – John 3:1-21
- C. Four undisputable witnesses establishing Jesus as the Son of God – John 5:30-47
- D. Our Lord's seven I AM statements – John 6:35; 8:12; 10:9; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1
- E. Seven creative miracles confirming His deity – John 2:11; 4:49-54; 5:5-9; 6:5-14; 6:16-21; 9:1-7; 11:41-45
- F. The Words of eternal life – John 3:15-16, 36; 5:24; 6:37-40, 47; 10:27, 28; 11:26; 20:31

II. Three Main Teachings of John's Gospel

- A. Jesus is equal with the Father – John 5:17-23; 8:13-59
- B. Jesus is the only way to the Father – John 14:1-6
- C. Jesus prays the Father to send the Holy Spirit – John 14:16-26; 15:26-27; 16:7-16

Conclusion

“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book, But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:30-31; Cf. 1 John 5:9-13).