

# “The Gospel of John: Introduction”

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## Scripture

### John 20:30-31

“Therefore, **many other signs Jesus also performed** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book

But **these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

### Favorite Passages in John?

- John 3:16-17 -> “For God So Loved the World...”
- John 4 -> “The Woman at the Well”
- John 8:12 -> “The Light of the World”
- John 10 -> “The Good Shepherd”
- John 21 (on the beach) -> “Do You Love Me?”

### Overview of the Gospels

- **Matthew** -> **Jewish flavor to the writing, portraying Jesus as the Christ and King**
- **Mark** -> **Jesus as the “Son of Man”, really Peter’s Gospel for the Gentiles**
- **Luke** -> **Jesus is Human and the Redeemer of Humanity**
- **John** -> **Jesus is the Divine “Son of God”**

### Timing of the Gospels

**Matthew** -> In the A.D. 50s

**Mark** -> In the A.D. 50s

**Luke** -> Because of the timing of Acts, most likely written while in Rome (A.D. 60-61)

**John** -> Around A.D. 90, along with 1, 2, and 3 John and Revelation

### The Apostle John

He was the “Disciple that Jesus Loved”

His name is not mentioned in the Gospel.

One of the Sons of Zebedee (Matthew 10:2-4)

He and James were fishermen

They were asked to be seated at Christ’s left and right in His Kingdom by their mother

Jesus gave them the name “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17)

The one laying back on the breast of Jesus at the Last Supper

The one disciple at the cross during the crucifixion

The one who Jesus told to take care of Mary, His mother

Known as “the disciple that would never die” (John 21:23-25)

He became a pillar in the Jerusalem church (Galatians 2:9)

He left for Ephesus where his Gospel was written

He eventually was exiled to Patmos where the Revelation visions came to him.

## Why Write the Gospel?

Matthew, Mark and Luke’s Gospels were already around.

What is unique about John’s Gospel?

## The Purpose for John’s Gospel

### John 20:30-31

“Therefore, **many other signs Jesus also performed** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these have been written **so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**; and that **believing** you may have life in His name.”

Many events in John not recorded elsewhere

Many events recorded in the Synoptics not in John -> the Transfiguration, for example

The word “believe” ~100 times in John’s Gospel

## The Book of Signs

### John Chapters 1 through 12

Changing Water into Wine	(John 2:1-11)
Healing the Royal Official's Son	(John 4:46-54)
Healing the paralytic at the pool	(John 5:1-18)
Feeding over 5,000 with fish and loaves	(John 6:1-14)
Walking on the water	(John 6:15-25)
Healing a man born blind	(John 9:1-41)
Raising Lazarus from the dead	(John 11:1-46)

## The Book of Glory

### John Chapters 13 through 20

Jesus in the Upper Room	John 13-15
The Promise of the Holy Spirit	John 16
The High Priestly Prayer	John 17
The Prosecution of Jesus	John 18
The Crucifixion of Jesus	John 19
Post-Resurrection Appearances	John 20

### The Seven "I AM" Statements

- I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
- I am the Light of the World (John 8:12)
- I am the Door (John 10:9)
- I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)
- I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
- I am the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)
- I am the Vine (John 15:1,5)

### The Bread of Life

#### John 6:26-40 (After the feeding of the 5,000 -> then walking on water)

"Jesus answered them and said, **Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.** "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." Therefore, they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, **"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."**

So, they said to Him, **"What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT."** Jesus then said to them, **"Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world."** Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread."

35 Jesus said to them, **"I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."** "But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. **"This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing but raise it up on the last day.** "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

In the Wilderness, Israel was given manna to eat every morning -> **Exodus 16**

Jesus is the "hidden Manna" -> a gift to the Overcomer

Church at Pergamum:

### **Revelation 2:17**

"To him who overcomes, to him **I will give some of the hidden manna**, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it."

### **The Light of the World**

#### **John 8:12 (at the Feast of Booths / Tabernacles – end of a 7-day festival)**

"Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "**I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.**"

Standing in the midst of the great lights of the final day of the Feast, Jesus declares He is the true Light of the world. He previously said that if anyone thirsts, they should come to Him and drink (John 7:37).

Not walk in darkness

#### **Colossians 1:13**

"For **He rescued us from the domain of darkness** and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

### **The Door**

#### **John 10:8-10**

"Jesus said to them again, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.** "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them." **I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.** "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Finding Pasture -> **"Are you always searching for the next, greatest thing?"**

### **The Good Shepherd**

#### **John 10:11-18**

"**I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.** "He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. "He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.

14"**I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me**, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep.**

16" **I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.**

17" For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

I am an employee – not an independent contractor

I am invested in you – not just here for a short-term gig

I will lay down my life – not think of myself if there's a specific threat

The shepherd's livelihood WAS the sheep – not for money – not for position -> **Elders in 1 Timothy 3**

"Sheep, which are not of this fold" -> the Mormon commercial

True meaning -> the Gentiles will join the Jews in the "one flock"

## **The Resurrection and the Life**

### **John 11:11-27**

"He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep." The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. So, **Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him."** Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, so that we may die with Him."

17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; and **many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother.** Martha, therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house.

21 **Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.** "Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." **Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.** Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."

Jesus: "Let's wait until he's good and dead before we come"

Jews came to console Mary and Martha -> professional mourners

Martha had confidence in Jesus's relationship with God the Father

Martha had been taught about the Resurrection

## **Lazarus's resurrection foreshadowed our future resurrection**

We will live again, even if we experience death here on the Earth

## The Way, Truth, and the Life

### John 14:1-6

**“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.** "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.** "And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" Jesus said to him, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."**

The kids were crushed -> they expected Him to rule on the Earth now – **incomplete theology**

Jesus DID go to prepare a place for US

Jesus WILL come again and receive us to Himself

Jesus is the ONLY way to God the Father

## The Vine

### John 15:1-8

**"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser."** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and **every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.** "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. **"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."** If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them and cast them into the fire and they are burned. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."**

**We should expect to be pruned a bit -> take away the old and dying characteristics, desires, and plans**

Jesus, through the Spirit, is the source of all spiritual power

We can accomplish nothing, spiritually, without His presence and power in us

## I Am He

### John 17:1-9

“When Jesus had spoken these words, He went away with His disciples across the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden which He entered with His disciples. Now Judas, who was betraying Him, also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with His disciples. So, Judas, having obtained the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

Jesus, therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, **came out into the open and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?”** They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.”

He said to them, **“I am He.”** And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. Now then, when **He said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground.**

7He then asked them again, “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” **Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He; so, if you are seeking Me, let these men go on their way.”** This took place so that the word which He spoke would be fulfilled: “Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.”

This scene shows that the simple word of God about Who He Is will cause men to fall to the ground.

He is the “I AM”...

### **Every Knee Shall Bow**

#### **Philippians 2:9-11**

“For this reason, also, **God highly exalted Him**, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

“Every Knee Will Bow” -> **Isaiah 45:11-23**

#### **John 21:25**

“There are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, **I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.**”

### **Why did John write the Gospel?**

Because Jesus is God come in the flesh, and the world should believe He IS.

Otherwise, they will not make it into Heaven!

### **There's No God like Jehovah**

#### **Prayer**

#### **Benediction**