

John

Original Historical Setting

Author: John

Written: ~80-95 A.D.

Audience: Probably Christians living in Roman Asia

Occasion: John does not say what prompted his writing. But he may have wanted to give a more full account of certain aspects of Jesus' life in order to make clearer that Jesus was the Christ the Son of God.

Timeline:

~6-2 BC – Jesus is born

~5-1 BC – King Herod dies

~27 AD – Jesus begins His ministry

~30 AD – Jesus is crucified

70 AD – Temple is destroyed

World Events that occur simultaneously

1 A.D. – Druids in Britain believe that they descended from a supreme being

26 A.D. – Pilate begins 10-year role as governor

30 A.D. – Tiberias' 16th year as Caesar

Features and Structure

John says that his goal was to write about those events that showed that Jesus was the Christ and the Son of God.

The book can be divided into two sections.

OUTLINE

1-12 Jesus' signs, ministry and conflicts with "the Jews"

13-21 Jesus' passion, resurrection and glorification

Genre/Literary style

A Gospel composed in simple but elegant (Koine) Greek

Key text(s)

1:1 – In the beginning was the Word

1:14 – And the Word became flesh

3:16 – For God so loved the world

6:35 – I am the Bread of life

9:25 – I was blind but now I see

What to look for

- Since John, himself, explains why he wrote the Gospel—so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God—read each account of the signs and discourses with that in mind.
- As opposed to the action-packed Gospel of Mark that is good for short attention spans, John is much more cerebral and is appealing for those who enjoy peeling off layer upon layer of dramatic, insightful symbolism and reading more extensive teachings by the Master Teacher.
- Notice that there is not one parable or anything about Jesus' birth, temptation, the Last Supper, the prayer in Gethsemane or His ascension. This may be due to the fact that others had written about these details and John is focusing upon the deity of Christ by carefully selecting miracles and teachings that promote this theme.
- See if you can spot the seven miracles (signs) of Jesus as well as the seven "I am" statements that Jesus uses to describe Himself.

Interesting facts

- John does not use his name when referring to himself but uses terms that refer to himself as a personal witness or the one whom Jesus loved.
- John is the most popular first name in the U.S. with one in every 25 Americans named John.
- John contains the shortest verse of the Bible –**11:35**

Memory Verse: John 14:6