

A LOOK AT THE BOOK JOHN

Ralph Porter
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AUTHOR AND DATE

External and internal evidence combine in support of John the apostle as author.

The date is considered by most commentators to have been well after the synoptic gospels. John left Jerusalem during the revolt against Rome and arrived in Ephesus about A.D. 69-70. It has been reported that he wrote the gospel while there. It was probably written long enough after the destruction of Jerusalem that it was no longer considered a major issue. The date is thus assumed to be about A.D. 85-90.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Little is known about the circumstances leading to the writing of the gospel. Clement reports that he was moved by friends and by the Spirit to write a "spiritual gospel." The other gospels with their emphasis on Jesus' Messianic ministry had already been written.

The content and stated purpose of the book show that John was concerned to write a gospel to a more general audience concerning the deity of Christ so that others might learn the truth about who Jesus is and trust Him.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The purpose statement found in John 20:30-31 clearly defines what John wanted to accomplish.

That purpose is revealed on three levels:

- 1) To demonstrate that Jesus is the Son of God, that is, He is God Himself (5:18)
- 2) That the reader might trust Jesus personally.
This trust in the One who is the Son of God would produce the third purpose:
- 3) That the reader might have life.

In agreement with John's three level purpose, his theme also develops on three levels:

- 1) The central theme of the entire book is that Jesus is God's Son and therefore makes a legitimate claim to be God Himself.
- 2) The same evidence produces two responses, some trust Him while others refuse to trust Him.
The reader is thus warned that he too must choose one of these two alternatives.
(1:12; 3:16)
- 3) Those who trust Jesus receive life.
John observes Jesus' teachings about life.
 - * He has come to offer them life.
 - * The life He offers is a satisfying abundant life.
 - * It is also a life that does not end at death; it is eternal.

JOHN

That you might believe: Jesus Is the Son of God

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INCARNATION OF THE SON OF GOD 1:1-18	PRESENTATION OF THE SON OF GOD 1:19-4:54	OPPOSITION TO THE SON OF GOD 5-12	INSTRUCTION BY THE SON OF GOD 13-16	INTERCESSION OF THE SON OF GOD 17	CRUCIFIXION OF THE SON OF GOD 18-19	RESURRECTION OF THE SON OF GOD 20-21
<p>His Identification as God 1:1-3</p> <p>His Function as Light and Life 1:4-9</p> <p>His Relationship to those who Believe 1:10-13</p> <p>His Revelation of the Father 1:14-18</p>	<p>Witness of John the Baptist 1:19-34</p> <p>Witness of the Disciples 1:35-51</p> <p>Witness of the Wine at the Wedding 2:1-11</p> <p>Witness of Jesus Himself concerning His Authority 2:12-25</p> <p>Witness of Nicodemus concerning the New Birth 3:1-21</p> <p>Witness of John the Baptist Repeated 3:22-36</p> <p>Witness of the Samaritan Woman concerning the Water of Life 4:1-42</p> <p>Witness through Healing the Official's Son 4:43-54</p>	<p>Opposition over Healing of a Paralytic 5</p> <p>Opposition concerning the Bread of Life 6</p> <p>Tension between Evidence and Unbelief 7</p> <p>Attempt to Trap Him 8:1-11</p> <p>Rejection of His Words and Works 8:12-12:22</p> <p>Prediction of His Death 12:23-36</p> <p>Explanation of Their Unbelief 12:37-50</p>	<p>Washing of the Disciple's Feet 13:1-20</p> <p>Prediction of His Betrayal 13:21-30</p> <p>Preparation for His Death 13:31-38</p> <p>Promise of His Return 14:1-14</p> <p>Provision of the Holy Spirit 14:15-31</p> <p>Source for Productive Living 15:1-17</p> <p>Hatred from the World 15:18-16:4</p> <p>Illuminating Ministry of the Holy Spirit 16:5-15</p> <p>Benefits of His Death 16:16-33</p>	<p>Prayer for His Glorification 17:1-5</p> <p>Prayer for His Followers 17:6-26</p> <p>For protection for the disciples 17:6-19</p> <p>For unity of all believers 17:20-23</p> <p>For presence of all believers with Him 17:24</p> <p>For His presence in all believers 17:25-26</p>	<p>His Arrest 18:1-14</p> <p>His Trial 18:15-19:16</p> <p>Before the High Priest 18:15-27</p> <p>Before Pilate 18:28-19:16</p> <p>His Crucifixion 19:17-37</p> <p>His Burial 19:38-42</p>	<p>Discovery of the Resurrection 20:1-10</p> <p>Appearance of the Risen Lord 20:11-31</p> <p>Commission from the Risen Lord 21:1-24</p> <p>Epilogue: The Untold Part of the Story 21:25</p>