

Purpose

To prove that Jesus is God's Son and that all who believe in Him will have eternal life

Author

John the Disciple, Apostle

To Whom Written

New Christians and searching non-Christians

Date Written

Probably 85-90 AD

Setting

Written after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD and before John's exile to Patmos

Key People

Jesus, John the Baptist, Mary, the Disciples, Mary, Martha, Jesus' Mother, Pilate, and Mary Magdalene

Key Places

Judean countryside, Samaria, Galilee, Jerusalem

Key Verses

"These [things] are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and that by believing in Him who will have eternal life. "

John 20:30, 31

Special Feature

Over 90% of *John* is unique to his gospel.

An Overview (21 Chapters)

- Birth and Preparation of Jesus (1:1-2:12)
- Message and Ministry of Jesus (2:13-12:50)
- Death and Resurrection of Jesus (13:1-21:25)

Major Themes

- *Jesus Christ, the Son of God:* John shows us that Jesus is unique as God's Son, yet He is fully God. Because He is fully God, Jesus is able to reveal God to us clearly and accurately.
- *Eternal Life:* Because Jesus is God, He lives forever. Before the world began, He lived with God, and He will reign forever with Him. We see Jesus revealed in power and magnificence, even before His resurrection. Although we must grow old and die, by trusting in Him we can have a new life that lasts forever.
- *Belief:* John records eight specific signs or miracles that show the nature of Jesus' power and love. We see His power over everything created, and we see His love of all people. These signs encourage us to believe in Him.
- *Holy Spirit:* Jesus taught His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come after He ascended from earth. The Holy Spirit would then indwell, guide, counsel, and comfort those who follow Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ's presence and power are multiplied in all who believe.
- *Resurrection:* On the third day after He died, Jesus rose from the dead. This was verified by His disciples and many eyewitnesses. This reality changed the disciples from frightened deserters to dynamic leaders in the new church. The resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith.