

JOHN: "The Metaphor Man"

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Overview

John was the last Gospel written, maybe 30 years after the others. Almost all his material is unique, not found in the other Gospels. He is the only Gospel writer not to have any parables of Jesus. Instead, John records metaphors of our Lord. Also, almost everything in John is symbolic – pointing to some spiritual reality.

John's objective for writing his Gospel:

"These [words are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31

THE 7 METAPHORS

1. "I am the Bread of Life." John 6:35-51
2. "I am the Light of the World." John 8:12, 9:5
3. "I am the Door." John 10:7, 9
4. "I am the Good Shepherd." John 10:11, 14
5. "I am the Resurrection and Life." John 11:25
6. "I am the Way, Truth, and Life." John 14:6
7. "I am the True Vine." John 15:1, 5

The 7 MIRACLES

1. Water to wine – John 2: 1-11
2. Healing of official's son – John 4:46-54
3. Healing at Bethesda pool - John 5:1-15
4. Feeding of the 5,000 – John 6:5-15
5. Walking on Water – John 6:16-21
6. Healing of Blindness – John 9:1-34
7. Raising of Lazarus – John 11:38-44

THE KEY METAPHOR:

"To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...born of God." John 1:12

The resurrected Jesus said to Mary: *"I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." John 20:17* (John references God as "Father" over one hundred times but it is only in relationship to Jesus, never humans. This means it took the death and resurrection of Jesus to make us children.

JOHN EMPHASIZES THE DIVINITY OF JESUS

"The WORD (Jesus) was with God, and the WORD (Jesus) was God." John 1:1

"I and the Father are one." John 10:30

Thomas declared to the resurrected Lord, *"My Lord and my God." John 20:28*

Leaders wanted to kill Jesus because they heard him *"claim to be God." John 10:33*

TAKE-AWAYS:

1. Because Jesus is God, we know how serious our sin is. We cannot gain salvation on our own.
2. Jesus's death and resurrection was Him signing adoption papers.
3. Jesus' claim that we must be born again (John 3:3) should make us take a good look at our salvation. Are we merely religious or are you born again?

THE GOSPELS

In the New Testament, there are four separate accounts of Jesus' life written by four different authors, addressed to four different audiences, with four different messages. Yet, all four convey the "good news" that Jesus, the Messiah and incarnation of God Himself, died on the cross for humanity's sin, then rose and was resurrected from the dead in order to reconcile the world to the Creator.

	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Author	original disciple	John Mark	Paul's Companion	original disciple
Audience	Jews	Romans	Greeks	unbelievers
Sources	Jesus/Mark	Peter	Paul	Jesus
Date	60s or 70s A.D.	50s or 60s A.D.	60s or 70s A.D.	90s A.D.?
Emphasis	Jesus and the OT	Just the Facts	The Holy Spirit	Jesus is God
Key Metaphor	King	Son of Man	Savior	Son of God
% Unique	42 %	7 %	59 %	93 %
Misc.	Jesus' 5 discourses Sermon on Mount	The First Gospel Jesus' birth	the Holy Spirit the poor	Jesus = God metaphors
Start	Jesus' birth	Jesus' baptism	Jesus' birth	beginning