

John: More Resources

Here is some additional information that will add to understanding of John's Gospel.

The Gospel of John – Just the Facts

Only got time for a brief “cram plan” on the Gospel of John? Well, here it is:

Author	John the apostle; he was a “son of Zebedee; the brother of James; together with his brother, they were called “the sons of Thunder”
To Whom Written:	To new Christians and to individuals who were considering the claims of Christ; not written to any specific ethnic group or nationality
Date Written:	Probably in the range of A.D. 85-90
Purpose:	To establish that Jesus is the Son of God and the sole means of eternal salvation through belief in Him
Social Circumstance:	Jerusalem had been destroyed in A.D. 70
Prominent Persons:	Jesus (of course); John the Baptist; the disciples; Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Christ's mother, Pilate and Mary Magdalene
Prominent Places:	The countryside of Judea; Samaria, Galilee, and the cities of Bethany and Jerusalem
Key Verses:	John 20:30-31 <i>Jesus' disciples saw him do many other miraculous signs besides the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life.</i>
What makes this Gospel Different:	Only eight miracles are reported in this Gospel, but six of them are not mentioned in the other Gospels; 90% of the Gospel is unique to John and not found in the other Gospels. This Gospel does not contain much of the more traditional biographical information, but it includes an intimate “insider's” perspective, such as the famous “Upper Room Discourse” of John 14-17.

The Contents of John – A Quick Overview and Rundown

If you have a difficult time trying to get a handle on the Gospel's organization, don't be discouraged. Scholars can't seem to agree on how to outline the Gospel of John. It was not chronologically organized by the author (except that the account of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ appears at the end). Some scholars try to show that the Gospel was organized according to themes; others try to find significance in the order of the reported miracles.

The Gospel of John seems to have a unifying theme that resists any traditional organization scheme. So, perhaps the best we can do in presenting an overview of the contents is to list them (by chapters) rather than trying to categorize them. Maybe this can serve as a quick reference guide for you if you are trying to find a particular subject:

Chapters and Verse	Content
1:1 – 18	The Word Becomes Flesh
1:19 – 2:25	Testimony about Jesus
3:1 – 36	Jesus and Nicodemus
4:1 – 54	Jesus and the Samaritan Woman
5:1 – 47	Jesus' Teaching on Life
6:1 – 70	Jesus' Teaching on the Bread of Life
7:1 – 52	Jesus Faces Opposition
8:1 – 59	Jesus Claims to be God
9:1 41	Jesus Heals the Man Born Blind
10:1 – 42	Jesus as the Good Shepherd
11:1 – 57	Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead
12:1 – 50	Jesus Predicts His Death
13:1 – 38	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet
14:1 – 16:33	The Upper Room Discourse
17:1 – 26	Jesus' Final Prayer
18:1 – 19:42	The Crucifixion
20:1 – 21:25	The Resurrection

Why Study the Gospel of John?

Bible scholar Merrill C. Tenney gave this reason: "Although [John] deals with the same broad sequence of events to be found in the pages of the [other Gospels], it is quite different in structure and in style. It contains no parables and only seven miracles, five of which are not recorded elsewhere. The discourses of Jesus in it are concerned chiefly with his person rather than with the ethical teaching of the kingdom. Personal interviews are multiplied, and Jesus' relationship to individuals is stressed more than His general contact with the public. The Gospel is strongly theological, and it deals particularly with the nature of His person and with the meaning of faith in Him."

How Do the Four Gospels Compare to Each Other

This chart is intended to give you a quick overview of the four gospels with a side-by-side comparison:

Gospel:	<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Luke</i>	<i>John</i>
Author:	Matthew	John Mark	Luke	John
Author's Occupation	Tax Collector	Traveling Companion	Physician	Fisherman
Author's Nationality	Jew	Jew	Gentile	Jew
Author's Perspective	As a Disciple	As a Missionary	As a Missionary	As a Disciple
Written to:	Jews	Romans	Greeks	The world
Presents Christ as:	King	Servant	Son of Man	Son of God

Chronology for the Trials, Crucifixion & Resurrection of Christ

We thought you might appreciate getting a little broader perspective on these events, so we have included references to the other Gospel accounts:

Jesus on Trial – Religious Trials	
Before Annas	John 18:12-14
Before Caiaphas	Matthew 26:57-68
Before the Sanhedrin	Matthew 27:1-2
Jesus on Trial – Civil Trials	
Before Pilate	John 18:28-38
Before Herod	Luke 23:6-12
Before Pilate	John 18:39-19:6
Crucifixion Events	
Jesus offered drugged drink to lessen pain	Matthew 27:34
Jesus crucified	Matthew 27:35
Jesus cries, "Father, forgive them"	Luke 23:34
Soldiers gamble for Jesus' clothing	Matthew 27:35

Jesus mocked by observers	Matthew 27:39 Mark 15:29
Jesus ridiculed by the two thieves	Matthew 27:44
One of the thieves believes	Luke 23:39-43
Jesus tells the thief, "Today you will be with me in paradise"	Luke 23:43
Jesus speaks to Mary, "Behold thy son"	John 19:26-27
Darkness falls on the scene	Matthew 27:45 Mark 15:33 Luke 23:44
Jesus cries, "My god, my God"	Matthew 27:46-47 Mark 15:34-36
Jesus cries, "I thirst"	John 19:28
Jesus cries, "It is finished"	John 19:30
Jesus cries, "Father, into thy hands"	Luke 23:46
Jesus releases His spirit	Matthew 27:50 Mark 15:37
Resurrection Events	
Three women start for the tomb	Luke 23:55-24:1
The women find the stone rolled away	Luke 24:2-9
Mary Magdalene leaves to tell the disciples	John 20:1-2
Mary, mother of James, sees the angels	Matthew 28:1-2
Peter and John arrive at the empty tomb	John 20:3-10
Mary Magdalene sees angels & Jesus	John 20:11-18
Mary, mother of James, returns with others	Luke 24:1-4
These women see the angels	Luke 24:5 Mark 16:5
The angel states that Jesus has risen	Matthew 28:6-8
They are met on departing by Jesus	Matthew 28:9-10
Other Post-Resurrection Appearance of Jesus	
To Peter	Luke 24:34 1 Corinthians 15:5
To disciples on the road to Emmaus	Luke 24:13-31

To the apostles (Thomas absent)	Luke 24:36-45 John 20:19-24
To the apostles (Thomas present)	John 20:24-29
To seven by the Lake of Tiberius	John 21:1-23
To about 500 in Galilee	1 Corinthians 15:6
To James in Jerusalem and Bethany	1 Corinthians 15:7
To many at the ascension	Acts 1:3-12
To Paul near Damascus	Acts 9:3-6 1 Corinthians 15:8
To Stephen when he was killed	Acts 7:55
To Paul in the temple	Acts 22:17-19 Acts 23:11
To John on Patmos	Revelation 1:10-19