

Introduction to the book of John

Purpose of the book: That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- Key question: What does this passage teach me about Jesus?

Author of the book: John

- Affirmed by the early church. John the apostle, not John the Baptist.
- One of the twelve apostles. One of the three in Jesus' inner circle.
- "The disciple whom Jesus loved" indicates a very close, personal relationship with Jesus. (21:20,24; 19:26-27)
- Last of the apostles to die.

Date of the book: Probably between AD 80-90.

- The steadfastness and faithfulness of John's life lends credibility to his gospel.

Structural elements of the book:

- 7 I AM statements (6:35; 8:12; 10:7; 10:11,14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1,5)
- 7 signs (2:1-11, 4:46-54, 5:1-17, 6:1-15, 6:16-21, 9:1-41, 11:1-44)
- Repeated contrasts (light vs. dark, life vs. death, love vs. hate)
- Extended teachings

John 1:1-5 - What does this passage teach us about Jesus?

- John refers to Jesus as the Word. (1:1). Jesus is the complete expression of God's will, wisdom, and order.
- Jesus is eternal. (1:1-2)
- Jesus is one of the 3 persons of the Trinity. (1:1)
- Jesus was and is active and present in God's purposes and plans. (1:3)
- In Jesus is life and light. (1:4)
- Jesus came to bring redemption to a broken world. (1:5)

Jesus did and continues to accomplish His purposes and nothing can thwart that. (1:5)