

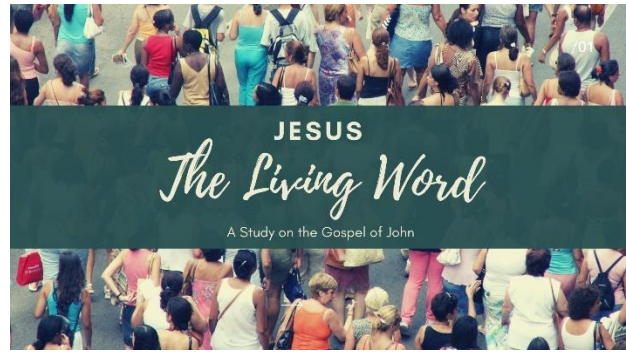
Study: "Jesus the Living Word"

A Study on the Gospel of John

Instructor: Pastor Damian Mericka

Week 1: Gospel of John Introduction

Study Notes (Introduction to John)



Author: John. How do we know this? The Gospels did not carry the signature of the Author but were added by the early church as the authorship was authenticated. In this case, Irenaeus (A.D. 130-200) identified John as the author in his work, "Against Heresies". Irenaeus was a disciple of Polycarp, who in turn was a disciple of the Apostle John himself. The emerging Church fathers after Irenaeus continued this affirmation, and this carries on to today. Instead of naming the book John, the Gospel's bare the name as the witness of (insert author).

- o John was a **Jew** (well versed in Old Testament, history, and culture), local to **Palestine** (knowledge of local areas), an **eyewitness** to what he records, and an Apostle. He is referred to as, **the disciple whom Jesus loved** (21:20). He is also the younger brother to James, **sons of Zebedee** referred to as **sons of Thunder** (Mark 3:17). He was a **prosperous fisherman** on Sea of Galilee, **owned** his own boat and staff (Mark 1:20) and had a **mother** named **Salome** who contributed financially to Jesus' Ministry. (Mark 15:40 / Matthew 27:56)

Date: A.D. 80-90. Specifically, the date is not known but supplemented from the following factors:

- o John was seen to outlive the other disciples (John 21:22-23), and Peter had died in A.D. 67-68. This rumor was well circulated allowing historians to see John as an older man when writing.
- o Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70. If John wrote a decade later, it would make sense that this was old news. He is attributed to have written this from Ephesus.

Background: A Unique Gospel. John makes up the fourth of a collection of writings about the Life and Ministry of Jesus. The others, *Matthew, Mark, and Luke* stand together in their content, structure, and perspective. Because of this shared narrative style, they are referred to as the Synoptics (Greek: See Together). John's narrative stands out for the following reasons:

- o No record of Jesus' birth, baptism, temptation, transfiguration, or ascension.
- o Contains more than 90% original detail compared to the Synoptics, with a focus on conversation details.

This is not contradiction, but elaboration. The Spirit of God designed the interlocking partnership of these Gospel voices to come together in a clear witness of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. In a sense, John would be the book while the other three are the movies. As reading the story rather than watching can bring more clarity that did not make the screenplay, John provides the supplement material that helps us understand greater the narratives of the Synoptics.

Purpose: Seeing Jesus. John would have seen the fruit of false representation of Jesus' life and ministry. All of the Apostles engaged in Spiritual Battle against falsehood and error. If we get Jesus wrong, we get everything wrong! John wrote the Gospel from the heart of a Pastor, an Apologetic and Evangelistic witness of who Jesus is, and the invitation He continually is for all of Humanity as our Messiah (20:31).

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." -**John 20:31** ESV

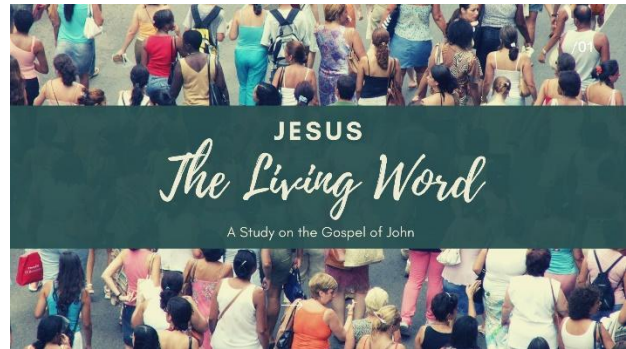
Cornerstone Bible Study Series

Study: "**Jesus the Living Word**"

A Study on the Gospel of John

Instructor: Pastor Damian Mericka

Week 1: Gospel of John Introduction



Deeper Questions for Application

- 1) How was John **affirmed** as the author of the Gospel that bears his name? What do we know about John?
- 2) When do we think John's Gospel was **written** and why?
- 3) What is **unique** about John's Gospel when compared to the other three? What does Synoptic mean? Does John's Gospel contradict the others? Explain why or why not.
- 4) What was John's **purpose** in writing this Gospel?
- 5) **BONUS:**
 - a. Identify something in John's Gospel that does not appear in the Synoptic Gospels.
 - b. What does the word, **Gospel**, mean?

*Type your answers and send them to me at damianmericka@live.com or attach through facebook messenger. ***For Next Time read John Chapter 1.**