

INTRODUCTION TO JOHN'S GOSPEL

- I. AUTHOR of the Gospel of John
 - A. Earliest testimony ascribes it to JOHN the son of ZEBEDEE
 - B. Internal evidence supports JOHN as the author
 - 1. The author was a JEW
 - 2. The author was a PALESTINIAN JEW
 - 3. The author was an EYEWITNESS
 - 4. The author was an APOSTLE
 - 5. The author was JOHN, the son of Zebedee

- II. CONTEXT of the Gospel of John
 - A. Date of writing: between A.D. 65 and 90
 - B. Place of writing: most solid tradition says EPHESUS

III. CHARACTERISTICS of the Gospel of John

A. Its content is UNIQUE

1. Many features common to the Synoptics are MISSING
2. About 90% is material NOT FOUND in the Synoptics

B. John and the Synoptics are COMPLIMENTARY by DIVINE design

1. The differences are not CONTRADICTIONS
2. The differences should not be EXAGGERATED

C. John's emphasis is more THEOLOGICAL than BIOGRAPHICAL

1. The Synoptics focus on what you need to KNOW about WHAT Jesus DID
2. John focuses on what you need to BELIEVE about WHO Jesus IS

IV. PURPOSE of the Gospel of John (John 20:31)

A. Its APOLOGETIC purpose: "So that you may BELIEVE..."

1. To demonstrate that Jesus is the CHRIST
2. To demonstrate that Jesus is the SON OF GOD

B. Its EVANGELISTIC purpose: "and that believing you may have LIFE in His NAME"