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**The Gospel of John**

**I. Purpose**

To spread the Gospel: John uses historical evidence or signs in the gospel to build his case that Jesus is the Christ, in order that his readers will respond by believing (see John 20:30-31).

**II. Author**

**III. Date**

**IV. Distinctions and Interaction between the synoptics and John**

*Interactions between John and the synoptics*

There are many examples where the books mutually reinforce one another.

*Distinctives in John*

- A. Geographic focus
- B. In John, Jesus is explicitly identified with God (1:1,18; 8:58; 20:28).
- C. New information provided by John
- D. Information from synoptics left out by John
- E. Juxtaposition of opposites

**V. Brief Outline of John's Gospel**

Ch 1:1-18	The Prologue: The King – Eternal and Incarnate
Ch 1:19-12:50	Public Ministry: Presentation of the King (Book of Signs)
Ch 13:1-20:31	Private Ministry: The King Makes Preparations
Ch 18:1-20:29	Passion
Ch 21:1-25	Epilogue: Follow the King

## VI. Themes

### A. In the prologue, the King is identified as:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### B. Jesus is the Son of God.

In John it is very clear that Jesus is claiming a special relationship with God. His language and the reaction of those around him leave no room to doubt that he claimed to be the Messiah.

#### 1. Testimony About Himself

- a. He is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. He does the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father.
- c. He uses the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father, indicating His \_\_\_\_\_.

#### I AM Statements

- “*I am the* \_\_\_\_\_ . He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty” (6:35)
  - “*I am the* \_\_\_\_\_ . Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (8:12),
  - “*I am the* \_\_\_\_\_ ; whoever enters through me will be saved (10:9)
  - “*I am the good shepherd*. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (10:11)
  - “*I am the* \_\_\_\_\_ . He who believes in me will live even though he dies. (11:25),
  - “*I am the* \_\_\_\_\_ . No one comes to the father except through me.” (14:6)
  - “*I am the* \_\_\_\_\_ and my father is the gardener.” (15:1)
  - “Before Abraham was, *I am*.” (8:58)
2. Signs
- i. Turns water into wine (2:1-12) -- *Jesus transcends nature*
  - ii. Heals the official’s son (4:46-54) – *Jesus is master of life*
  - iii. Heals the lame man at pool of Bethesda (5:1-17) – *Jesus has authority to heal and judge*
  - iv. Feeds the 5,000 (6:1-15) – *Jesus is the bread of life*
  - v. Walks on water, stills the storm (6:15-21) – *Jesus is master over nature*
  - vi. Healing the blind man (9:1-41) – *Jesus is the light of the world*
  - vii. Raises Lazarus from the dead – (see 11) *Jesus is the resurrection and the life*

### **C. Battle between belief and unbelief**

The reader is provided with a clear claim by Jesus that he is the Son of God. In many ways the rest of the book shows the struggle over belief. The book is permeated with the word. For example, the Greek word for believe, “pisteuo,” is used 98 times in the gospel. It is as if the reader is forced to choose sides, either he believes or disbelieves.

**1. Unbelief linked to Opposition:** The strength of the opposition against him in some way testifies to who he was or who he claimed to be.

- i. Who?
- ii. Why?
- iii. Imagery of Faith: very active words are used to parallel believing.

**2. Belief linked to faithfulness**

- i. Who?
- ii. Why? Divine Sovereignty

**Who do you say that Jesus is?**