

Key to JOHN

1. BACKGROUND

Author is John, brother of James, son of Zebedee, former fisherman and writer of 4 other N.T. books.

Time of writing is late, about A.D. 95. John was about 95 too.

Perhaps the most widely circulated piece of literature in world, because of practice of printing and distributing John's Gospel by itself.

2. THEME

GOD has called on John to present the spiritual portrait of CHRIST. JESUS CHRIST is the true Son of GOD, come for a time to be clothed in human flesh. But nonetheless the pre-existent eternal second Person of the blessed Trinity. In no other piece of literature is the deity of CHRIST more persistently affirmed or definitely proved.

The key verse and thought is found in 20:30, 31.

All the elements in John, the prologues, the miracles, the discourses, the prophetic utterances, the unique death and the resurrection and ascension . . . all blend in one grand declaration . . . CHRIST is GOD.

3. MAIN DIVISIONS

The Word is CHRIST (1:1-14); witness of John the Baptist (1:15-34); Public ministry of CHRIST (1:35-12:50); private ministry of CHRIST (13:1-17:26); sacrifice of CHRIST (18:1-19:42); Christ's resurrection (20:1-31); epilogue: CHRIST, Master of service (21:1-25).

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The material in John is unique. John writes of events, discourses, and miracles not mentioned by the other three writers. So the material is beautifully supplemental and positively essential.

The great premise of the Gospel is that the deity of CHRIST is an absolute essential to salvation. Only the eternal Son of the eternal GOD could possibly save us.

To carry out the purpose of the Gospel, John relates these miracles, among "**many other signs**," to prove His deity; all attest CHRIST's supernatural character. For instance, the water was changed into wine without a word; the nobleman's son is healed at a distance; the man healed

had been crippled for 38 years; Lazarus was raised after he had been dead for four days; the blind man had not seen from birth.

John emphasizes that the atonement was the great purpose of CHRIST's coming. Most of John's narrative centers about the religious feasts CHRIST attended at Jerusalem. John records JESUS' participation in five feasts: 2; 3-4:3; 5:1-47; 7:2-10:21; 10:22-40; 12:1-20:31.

Perhaps the high spot of John's Gospel is the upper room discourse, found in chapters 13-17. This highly concentrated body of truth has been said to contain all the elements of truth later amplified in the Epistles. The holy of holies here is chapter 17, the intimate prayer between GOD the FATHER and GOD the Son.

5. OUTLINE:

Word Made Flesh (1)
Marriage at Cana (2)
Nicodemus (3)
Woman at Well (4)
Man at Pool (5)
5,000 Fed (6)
At the Feast (7)
Sinful Woman (8)
Blind Man (9)
Good Shepherd (10)
Lazarus Raised (11)
Mary's Gift (12)
Washing Feet (13)
Farewell (14-16)
Prayer (17)
Crucifixion (18, 19)
Alive Again (20, 21)

7. KEY:

This all-transcendent writing is the very mountain peak of Bible teachings. Here we find the entrance to the heart of GOD . . . BELIEVE in His Son. In no portion of the Bible will your heart be lifted higher than in these 21 chapters which show CHRIST as the GOD of Heaven, being made flesh in order to die for the sons of men.

~ end of John ~

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