

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE  
WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH  
GOD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH  
HIM. HE WAS WITH HIM AT THE  
BEGINNING. HE HAS MADE ALL  
THINGS BY HIM. WITHOUT HIM  
HIMSELF HE HAS MADE NOTHING.  
LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS WITH  
HIM, AND THE LIFE WAS THE  
LIGHT OF MANKIND. BUT THE  
DARKNESS HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD  
IT.

the gospel of  
**JOHN**

GENEVA  
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# WHO WAS JOHN THE APOSTLE

The Apostle John **was one of Jesus Christ's 12 disciples**, and a prominent leader in the early Christian church. Along with James and Peter, John was **one of Jesus' closest confidants**, so he appears in more biblical accounts than the other disciples.

John is traditionally regarded as the **author of five books of the Bible**: the Gospel of John, the epistles 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John, and the Book of Revelation, although some Bible scholars dispute which of these (if any) he actually wrote. He is also believed to be the only disciple who died of old age (the others were allegedly martyred).

Ancient sources may or may not refer to the Apostle John by several other names including John of Patmos (because he was banished to the island of Patmos), John the Evangelist, John the Elder, John the Presbyter, and the Beloved Disciple, though it is unclear if all (or any!) of these names do in fact refer to this John. It's also worth noting: John the disciple of Jesus is not the same person as John the Baptist, who was Jesus' cousin.



# JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

The fourth and final evangelist, John, he lived the longest of the Apostles, dying of natural causes at the age of 100. Traditionally, however, he has still been regarded as a martyr for the intense suffering and exile that he endured for the sake of Christ.

While all four gospel writers are called evangelists, John has traditionally held the title of “The Evangelist,” because of the remarkable theological richness of his gospel, which **forms the basis of the Christian understanding of (among many other things) the Trinity, the dual nature of Christ as God and man, and the nature of the Eucharist as real, rather than symbolic, Body of Christ.**

He was called “the disciple whom Jesus loved,” and that love was returned, when John, the only one of the disciples to be found at the foot of the Cross, took the Blessed Mary into his care. Tradition holds that he lived with her at Ephesus, where he helped found the Ephesian Church. After Mary’s death and Assumption, John was exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation, before returning to Ephesus, where he died.



# JOHN'S ROLE IN THE BIBLE

In addition to this Gospel, the church traditionally associates John with three New Testament letters (First, Second, and Third John) and the prophetic book of Revelation. **He was a leader in the early church, and he probably wrote his documents after most of the other New Testament books were already written.**

The miracles recorded in John's gospel are written that the reader would believe in Jesus and find life in His name (Jn 20:30–31). Therefore, **much of John's material directly states who Jesus is, not just what He does or says.**

Unlike Luke, John does not aim to chronicle the whole life of Christ—in fact, John doesn't think the world could contain such a document (Jn 21:25). Instead, John presents a few signs and teachings that should compel us to believe in Jesus.



# JOHN'S SYMBOL

## *An eagle*

His symbol is an eagle, because his writing soars to the mystical heights of heavenly things, and doesn't spend much time on the ground!

John is symbolized by an eagle – **a figure of the sky, and believed by Christian scholars to be able to look straight into the sun.**

John starts with an eternal overview of Jesus the Logos and goes on to describe many things with a “higher” christology than the other three (synoptic) gospels; it represents Jesus's Ascension and Christ's divine nature. This symbolizes that Christians should look on eternity without flinching as they journey towards their goal of union with God.



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## *Reasons to believe in Jesus*

John is the story of Jesus: God who came down to save the world. John focuses on the deity of Christ more so than the other four: **we see Jesus as the Word of God, the Son of God, and God Himself.** Jesus is a great miracle worker, an omniscient teacher, a compassionate provider, and a faithful friend.

John may be the final Gospel, but this narrative begins far, far earlier than the other three. While Mark begins with Jesus' adult ministry, and Matthew and Luke begin with His physical birth, **John opens with the beginning of all creation: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."**

The Gospel of John **makes a strong argument for Jesus as the exclusive savior, and the only way to know God** (Jn 1:18; 14:6). Jesus is greater than the Jewish heroes Moses and Abraham (Jn 1:17; 8:58); Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, and John challenges us to believe in Him.

Theme verse of John:

**"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (Jn 3:16)**



# THE GREAT “I AM”

Jesus presents Himself as God incarnate throughout the Gospel of John, often using the phrase “I am” (the memorial name of God revealed in Exodus).

**“I am from [God], and He sent Me” (Jn 7:29)**

**“I am [God]” (Jn 8:58)**

**“I am the Son of God” (Jn 10:36)**



1

## “THE BREAD OF LIFE”

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry ... I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” (6:35, 51)



2

## “THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. ... While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (8:12; 9:5)



3

## “THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP”

“Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ... I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.” (10:7, 9)



4

## “THE GOOD SHEPHERD”

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ... I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” (10:11, 14)



5

## “THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE”

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.” (11:25-26)



6

## “THE WAY & THE TRUTH & THE LIFE”

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” (14:6-7)



7

## “THE TRUE VINE”

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ... I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (15:1, 5)

# OUTLINE OF JOHN

## 1. Prologue (Jn 1)

## 2. The “Book of Signs” (Jn 2–12)

(Seven miracles that John uses to show Jesus is the Son of God)

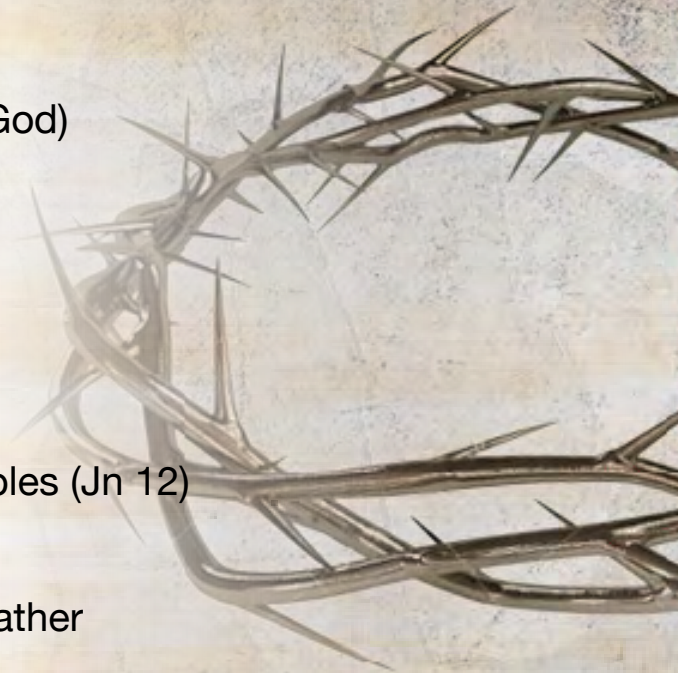
Turning water to wine (Jn 2)

- Healing the nobleman’s son (Jn 4)
- Healing the sick man at the pool of Bethesda (Jn 5)
- Feeding 5,000 (Jn 6:1–14)
- Walking on water (Jn 6:15–21)
- Healing the blind man (Jn 9)
- Raising Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11)
- The Jews reject Jesus, and Jesus withdraws to his disciples (Jn 12)

## 3. The “Book of Glory” (Jn 13–20)

- (Jesus demonstrates his love for the disciples, and the Father glorifies the Son)
- Jesus’ final teachings (Jn 13–16)
- Jesus’ high priestly prayer (Jn 17)
- Jesus’ betrayal, trial, and death (Jn 18–19)
- Jesus’ resurrection (Jn 20)

## 4. Epilogue: Jesus feeds seven disciples, reinstates Peter (Jn 21)







**Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.**

**John 20:30–31**

*Thank you!*

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