



# The Gospel according to John – 21 chapters

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## Title:

The Gospel according to John, named after its author. Not the Gospel of John, but the Gospel according to John.

## Author:

Written by John, one of the 12 disciples. John is the “beloved disciple” mentioned in the Gospel. Therefore, he was an eyewitness to these events.

## Occasion and Purpose:

John’s Gospel was probably written in Asia minor to a mix of Jewish and Gentile people. According to 20:31 John’s purpose is that his readers would believe in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God and thereby have eternal life in Him.

## Themes:

1. **Abide-Sent-Witness** — Jesus is intimately close to the Father, He is sent by the Father to testify to the world and save those who believe in Him. Jesus calls the disciples to be intimately close to Him and sends them to bear testimony about Him. The Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus and the Father to empower the disciples for their testimony and to bear testimony to the world and convict the world of guilt regarding sin, righteousness and judgment.
2. **Jesus is Superior** — The miracles that Jesus performs serve to demonstrate that He is sent by the Father and testify to His identity and mission. His greatest work is to die on the cross and raise from the dead. John demonstrates that Jesus is the fulfillment of all OT hopes and is therefore superior to all the OT festivals and rituals and even the Patriarchs.
3. **Believe-Life** — This is the main theme of John. Everything is pointing to Jesus and encouraging belief in him that leads to life. There are many examples of people believing and of people refusing to believe, given John’s readers to imitate or avoid. There is abundant testimony and evidence that Jesus is truly the Messiah and Son of God, and therefore, a fitting object of trust.
4. **Son of God/Father** — Jesus is highlighted as the Son of God, sharing in a unique, close relationship with the Father God, because He is from God, and of the same nature as the Father. Jesus has unity with the Father and thereby reveals the Father, by saying what the Father says and doing what the Father does and fulfilling the mission for which the Father sent Him.
5. **“I Am” sayings** — Jesus uses the phrase “I Am...” many times to explain something about his nature and mission. These sayings all point to Jesus as the true fulfillment of all the Jewish hopes and his identity as equal with the God of the Old Testament.

## Summary:

Jesus has been sent into the world to reveal God. Some reject Him and His testimony, but those who believe in Him experience eternal life and are sent on the mission to testify that He is the Messiah and Son of God, so that others may believe.

## Organization:

<b>1:1-18 Prologue</b>	
	1:1-13 The Eternal Word came bringing light – with two results 1:14-18 The Word became flesh, Incarnate Glory of God Himself
<b>1:19-12:50 Public Ministry</b>	
	1:19-51 From John to Jesus 2:1-4:54 The Cana cycle of signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2:1-12 Water to Wine</li><li>• 2:13-25 Jesus and the Temple</li><li>• 3:1-21 Jesus and Nicodemus</li><li>• 3:22-36 John's witness to Jesus</li><li>• 4:1-42 Jesus and the Samaritan Woman</li><li>• 4:43-54 Jesus back in Galilee (2<sup>nd</sup> sign)</li></ul> 5:1-10:42 The Feast cycle of signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5:1-47 Healing of the lame man and Sabbath controversy</li><li>• 6:1-71 Bread of Life and Words of Life</li><li>• 7:1-8:59 Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles</li><li>• 9:1-10:21 Healing of the man born blind and Sabbath controversy</li><li>• 10:22-42 Jesus identity clearly stated and rejected by the Jews</li></ul> 11:1-12:36 The Climactic Sign and preparation for the cross (fulfillment of all signs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11:1-54 The Climactic Sign – Raising of Lazarus</li><li>• 11:55-12:36 Jesus moving toward the Passover</li></ul> 12:37-50 Conclusion – rejection by the Jews
<b>13:1-17:26 Private Ministry</b>	
	13:1-30 Introduction – Jesus washes the disciples' feet and predicts His betrayal 13:31-16:33 Upper Room Discourse – Jesus prepares the disciples for His departure 17:1-26 Jesus prayer to the Father
<b>18:1-20:31 Passion Ministry</b>	
	18:1-11 Arrest 18:12-27 The Jewish trial and Peter's denial 18:28-19:15 The Roman Trial 19:16-42 Death and Burial 20:1-29 Resurrection and Appearances 20:30-31 Purpose of the Book
<b>21:1-25 Epilogue</b>	
	21:1-14 Reveals Himself in the miraculous catch of fish 21:15-19 Re-commissions Peter 21:20-33 Peter and John 21:24-5 Postscript – verifying testimony & unfinished witness

## Key Verses:

1:1-18; 3:3-15, 16-21; 5:19-27; 6:28-29, 32-40; 8:31-32, 52-58; 9:35-41; 10:7-15;  
11:21-27; 12:23-28, 37-41; 13:1-5, 31-35; 14:1-11, 15-18, 25-27; 15:1-8, 18-21;  
16:5-11, 17-22; 17:1-5, 24-26; 18:36-37; 19:28-30; 20:19-22, 30-31