

## The Gospel of John

Author: the apostle John, brother of James.

Date: probably AD 85-90.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” -John 1:1

John takes a different approach than the other gospels. Rather than being a chronology of the life of Jesus he starts his gospel before the earthly birth of Jesus with His existence before the creation of the world. John then uses his book to show us that Jesus is the Son of God (both fully God and fully human) and those who believe in Him will have the fulfillment of an eternal life in His glory.

When reading the book of John, we need to watch out for who Jesus says he truly is. He uses the phrase “I am...” affirming his existence before the creation and affirming his identity as God (see Exodus 3:14). He uses this phrase seven times to show exactly who he truly is:

I AM the bread of life (6:35) – Jesus feeds our spiritual hunger and sustains us.

I AM the light of the world (8:12; 9:5) – only in Jesus’s light can we see our true selves and our sinful nature

I AM the gate (10:7) – Jesus is our protection from this world, anything that wants to get to us must first pass by Him.

I AM the good shepherd (10:11, 14) – a shepherd’s love and commitment for his sheep comes from his ownership of the sheep. It is so much deeper than that of a hired hand. We are the creation of Jesus, His chosen people.

I AM the resurrection and the life (11:25) – Jesus is the only one who can raise us from our death in sin and give us eternal life.

I AM the way and truth and life (14:6) – the only way our lives can be united with God’s life is by Christ being both human and God.

I AM the true vine (15:1) – we can become branches that can bear fruit but we are reliant in the true vine to feed us. Similar to tree trunks transferring nutrients from their roots to their branches.

The gospel of John contains one of the most familiar and quoted verses. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” -John 3:16. While John 3:16 is one of the most popular verses of the Bible, John 11:35 is one of the easiest overlooked verses of the Bible. Being only two words, it is easily skimmed over. Let’s take a hard look at it now.

Jesus wept. Why? Most likely it is simply that he is mourning the loss of a true friend. It could be that he was empathetic to Mary and Martha. Maybe it was frustration over the disbelief that Jesus could change things even after Lazarus’s heart stopped beating and he had taken his final breath.

In truth, while all these reasons are plausible, the reason behind the tears pales in comparison to the tears themselves. Jesus wept showing us that he was truly human. He was not just a deity in human form. Jesus felt human emotions, He dealt with the temptations that we do, He struggled with the same things we still struggle with today.

John 1:1 and 3:16 tell us that Jesus was the Son of God and in fact, God himself. John 11:35 tells us that Jesus was 100% human. Anything less than that would not allow the redemptive work of dying on the cross for our sins to work. We all sin and fall short of the glory of God. The payment for sins is death and separation from God. God cannot take on sin since He was, is, and always will be perfect. God had to make himself *human* in order to take on our sin.

It is my hope and prayer that God will speak to you through the Gospel of John and that that experience will make you want to continue to read through His word, pray to Him and develop a deeper relationship with God, the great I AM.