

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

KEY—FACTS

05/12/2021

Author: **JOHN** John, one of Jesus’ 12 disciples. John also wrote the letters of 1, 2 and 3 John and the last book of the Bible called Revelation. He seems to have had an especially close friendship with Jesus (John 13:23). John was nicknamed “Son of Thunder”, which may refer to a wild life as a youth. But Jesus transformed him into a man who spoke more eloquently about love than any other New Testament writer.

Timeline of Key Events

- 37 B.C—Herod the great begins to rule
 - 6/5 B.C—Jesus is born
 - 5/4 B.C—Jesus’ family escapes to Egypt
 - 4 B.C—Herod the great dies
 - 4/3 B.C—Jesus’ family returns to Nazareth
 - 6/7 A.D—Jesus visits the Temple as a boy
 - 14 A.D—Tiberius Caesar becomes Emperor
 - 26 A.D—Pontius Pilate appointed as governor
 - 26/27 A.D—Jesus begins his ministry
 - 28 A.D—Jesus chooses the 12 disciples
 - 29 A.D—Jesus feeds 5000
 - 30 A.D—Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension.
- Also during this time, saddles were first used in Europe (A.D 1), Judea becomes a Roman Province (A.D 6), Zealots in Judea rebelled against Rome (A.D.7) and Paul was converted on the Damascus road (A.D34).

Note: Almost all the events in Jesus’ life happened in the area that is present –day Israel and Jordan.

Date

Written: Gospel of John was probably written between A.D 85 and 90. There was widespread persecution of Christians throughout the Roman Empire, and John was writing to encourage believers.

Special

Features: Of the eight miracles found in this book, six are unique to John (they are not in the other three gospels). In fact, over 90 percent of John is not found in the other Gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The Gospel of John also displays deep familiarity with first-century Jewish life and traditions. Jesus' conflict with religious authorities arises from His claim of identity with God, which this Gospel emphasizes more than the others.

Real—Life Subjects

Covered:

FAITH—Chapters 4:47-53; 9:35-38 and 11:27
FRIENDSHIP OF GOD—Chapter 15:14-15
JOY—Chapters 4:36; 15:9-11 and 16:20-24
LOVE OF GOD—Chapters 3:16; 10:11; 15:9, 13 and 16:27
LOVE FOR OTHERS—Chapters 13:34-35 and 15:12, 17
PEACE—Chapters 14:27 and 16:33
PRAYER—Chapters 14:13-14; 15:7, 16 and 16:23-24
PRODUCTIVITY—Chapter 15:1-8 and verse 16
REJECTION—Chapters 1:10-11 and 12:48
SALVATION—Chapters 1:12, 29; 3:14-16; 10:7-9 and 14:6
SERVICE—Chapter 13:1-17
TRUTH—Chapters 1:17; 8:31-32 and 14:6
WILL OF GOD—Chapters 4:34; 6:29 and 38-40; 7:16
WORD OF GOD—Chapters 6:63; 8:31-32 and 15:3
WORSHIP—Chapters 4:21-24 and 9:31, 38

KEY—VERSES to ponder upon and remember by heart:

Chapter 1, verses 1-5, 14 and 18
Chapter 3, verses 3 and 16
Chapter 4, verses 14 and 35
Chapter 5, verses 24 and 28-29
Chapter 6, verses 29 and 47
Chapter 8, verse 12
Chapter 10, verses 11 and 30
Chapter 11, verses 25-26
Chapter 13, verses 34-35
Chapter 14, verses 2-3, 6, 15-17, 21 and 26
Chapter 15, verses 12-13
Chapter 16, verse 33
Chapter 20, verses 29-31

THE WORD (John 1:1-5)

The Word—Jesus Christ, Son of God: the *Word* {Gr.logos} is Jesus Christ. John faced a serious problem in writing to the Gentiles, that is; the non-Jewish world. Most Gentiles had never heard of the Messiah or Savior who was expected by the Jews. The idea was foreign to them.

However, the Messiah was the very center of Christianity. How was John going to present Christ so that Gentile could understand?

The answer lay in the idea of the *Word*, for the *Word* was understood by both Gentile and Jew.

1. The Jews saw the word as something more than mere sound. A word was something active and existing. It was power—it possessed the power to express something, to do something. This is seen in the many Old Testament references where The *Word of God* was seen as the creative power of God, the power that made the world and gave light and life to every human being (Genesis 1:3,6,11; Ps 33:6; Ps 107:20; 147:15; Isaiah 55:11).
2. The Gentiles or Greeks saw the *Word* more philosophically.
 - (a) when they looked at the world of nature, they saw the things were not chaotic, but orderly. Everything had its place and moved or grew in an orderly fashion, including the stars above and the vegetation below. Therefore, the Greeks said that behind the world was a mind, a reason, a power that made and kept things in their proper place. This creative and sustaining mind, this supreme reason, this unlimited power was said to be the *Word*.
 - (b) The *Word* was also seen as the power that enabled people to think and reason. It was the power that brought light and understanding to the human mind, enabling people to express their confused thoughts in an orderly fashion.
 - (c) More importantly, the *Word* was the power by which people came into contact with God and expressed their feelings to God.
3. John utilized this common idea of the Jews and Gentiles to proclaim that Jesus Christ was the *Word*. John saw that a word is the expression of an idea, a thought, an image in the mind of a person. He saw that a word describes what is in the mind of a person. Thus, he proclaimed that in the life of Jesus Christ, God was speaking to the world, speaking & demonstrating just what He wanted to say to humanity. John said three things.
 - (a) God has given us much more than mere words in the Holy Scriptures. God has given us Jesus Christ, *The Word*. As *The Word*, Jesus Christ was the picture, the expression, the pattern, the very image of what God wished to say to the human race. The very

image within God's mind of the *Ideal Man* was demonstrated in the life of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was the perfect expression of all that God wishes us to be. Jesus Christ was God's utterance, God's speech, *God's Word* to us. Jesus Christ was the *Word* of God who came down to earth in human flesh to bring us into face-to-face relationship with God (see verses 1-2). *Jesus was the Word of God who came to earth to live out the written Word of God.*

(b) Jesus Christ is the Mind, the Reason, the Power that both made and keeps things in their proper order. He is the creative and sustaining Mind, the Supreme Reason, the unlimited Power (see v3).

(c) Jesus Christ is the Light, the Illumination, the Power that penetrates the darkness of the world. He, the Life and Light of the world, is what makes sense of the world and enables us to understand the world (see vv4-5).