

# Introduction to the Gospel of John

John 1:1-5

January 4, 2026

## I. Authorship

- A. None of the four gospel accounts name the author
- B. The author is identified as *“the disciple whom Jesus loved”* – John 20, 24
- C. The traditional and strongly held view is that John, the brother of James, and apostle of Jesus is the author – Mark 3:17
- D. Date: 85-90 A.D.

## II. Brief Outline

- A. Prologue – vs. 1:1-18
- B. Public ministry – vs. 1:19-Chapter 12
- C. Private ministry – Chapters 13-17
- D. Glorification – Chapters 18-20
- E. Epilogue – Chapter 21

## III. Key Verses and Words

- A. Verse: John 20:30, 31
- B. Words: believe (98); life (47)

## IV. The Gospel of John, Chapter by Chapter

- A. Handout
- B. The Seven Miracles in John; The Seven “I Am” Statements
  - 1. Handout

## V. Prologue Part I – 1:1-5

- A. The Word in the beginning – vs. 1, 2
  - 1. When time began Jesus was the “Word”; the “logos” = full expression – Genesis 1:1; John 1:1
    - a. John 1:14; I John 1:1; Revelation 9:13
  - 2. The “Word” (Jesus) is equal to the Father but separate from the Father
- B. The Word in creation – v. 3
  - 1. John credits creation to Jesus – v. 3
  - 2. He was the creator, not the created
  - 3. Moses adds the Holy Spirit to the list of Creators
    - a. Genesis 1:2
- C. The Word (after the fall) – vs. 4, 5
  - 1. Men

- a. Mankind; those He came to save

## 2. Life

- a. It is not only from Him, or through Him, or by Him, but life is in Him
- ## 3. The “light” = Jesus – John 8:12
- a. But we His disciples are also “light” in a dark place – Matthew 5:14-16
- ## 4. “the darkness did not comprehend it” – John 1:5
- a. This is the unbelief of mankind. It is not only a rejection but a hostile one.