

Author

1. As with all the gospels, there is no manuscript of John's Gospel that attributes the Gospel to anyone else.
2. There is strong internal and external evidence of his authorship.
3. For example, John is never named as a disciple in this Gospel, but in those narrative parts where he is named in other Gospels, a disciple referred to as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" is inserted in this Gospel.
4. John 21:24 says this (the disciple whom Jesus loved) is the disciple who is writing this book.

Date

1. Late 65 or sometime in 66.
2. Probably after Peter's death but before the destruction of Jerusalem based on both internal and external evidence.
3. Interestingly, the Gospel appears to end at 20:31. Chapter 21 has been added, probably at the last minute, and most likely because of the death of Peter.
4. The only significant argument for a later date than this is the theology of John's Gospel, which seems advanced. However, when you consider Romans was written by this time, that argument fails to convince.

Outline

1. Prologue (1:1-18)
2. The Son of God's Manifestation to the Nation: The Book of Signs (1:19-12:50)
 1. In (Perea and) Galilee: First Cycle/Initial Ministry (1:19-2:12)
 2. In Jerusalem and Judea: First Cycle/Seeking a Sign (2:12-3:36)
 3. In Samaria: Gentile Response (4:1-42)
 4. In Galilee: Second Cycle/Healing the Official's Son (Second Sign) (4:43-54)
 5. In Jerusalem and Judea: Second Cycle/Sabbath Controversy (5:1-47)
 6. In Galilee: Third Cycle/Signs Given (6:1-71)
 7. Ministry in Jerusalem and Judea: Third Cycle/Hostility Peaks (7:1-11:57)
 1. Cycle One: Teaching and Unbelief (7:1-8:59)
 2. Cycle Two: Healings and Unbelief (9:1-10:42)
 3. Cycle Three: Raising of Lazarus and Unbelief (10:40-12:50)
 8. In Jerusalem: The Final Manifestation (12:1-50)
3. The Son of God's Ministry to His Disciples (13:1-17:26)
 1. Jesus Ministering to His Disciples (13:1-16:33)
 2. Jesus Praying for His Disciples (17:1-26)
4. The Son of God's Suffering and Glory (18:1-20:31)
 1. The Suffering (18:1-19:42)
 2. The Glory (20:1-31)
5. Epilogue: The Death of Peter (21:1-25)

Unique Features

1. Groups of seven – signs, I AM sayings, feast, discourses.
2. No parables.
3. John is more self-consciously theological.
4. Themes of the world, the flesh, darkness, and death are contrasted to themes of light, life, love, and divine sonship.
5. John highlight's Christ's person as both fully God and fully man.
6. Nearly half of his Gospel is taken up with Jesus' final week, suffering, death, burial and resurrection.
7. Shows signs of countering an early Gnosticism, consistent with his other works.

Use of the Old Testament

1. There are 12 OT quotations, with Isaiah 53 being the 7th. (12:38, 20:30-31)

Audience

1. Gentiles, most likely in Asia Minor, primarily, though ultimately for all believers.
2. There are frequent cultural explanations inserted into the narrative, suggesting the intended audience needs the help.

Book Recommendations:

1. *The Gospel According to John* by DA Carson, PNTC Series
2. *The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary* by Herman Ridderbos
3. *Expository Thoughts on John* by JC Ryle

Outline taken from Dan Wallace, bible.org

The Gospel According to...

JOHN