

Overview of the Gospel of John

1. Authorship and Audience

- **Possibly the Apostle John (see I John 1:1-3)**
- **The audience is possibly a small, sectarian community which has been ex-communicated from the synagogue. The audience has some familiarity with Gnostic dualism and Greek philosophy.**

2. Theme of the Book

- **Proclamation and Persuasion: Jesus as the Son of God**
- **Key verse: John 20:31**

3. The Fourth Gospel and the Synoptics

- **Judea not Galilee**
- **Not as Jewish as Matthew and Luke**
- **Fewer parables**
- **Unique material (e.g. the wine miracle at Cana, the women of Samaria, controversies with Jews, the raising of Lazarus...)**

4. **Structure of the Book**

I. **Introduction** John 1:1-51

- Prologue: vv. 1-18
- The ministry of John the Baptist (vv.19-51)

II. **The Revelation of Christ to the World** (Chapters 2-12)

- Miracles (signs)
- Controversies
- Sayings

III. **The Revelation of Christ to the Church** (Chapters 13-17)

- Upper room discourse

IV. **The Passion Narrative** (Chapters 18-20)

V. **The Epilogue**

- Jesus and Peter