

## “Introduction to the Book of John”

I. The Gospel of John stands out as \_\_\_\_\_ from the other Gospels. It is striking that Luther and Calvin referred to this Gospel as the “\_\_\_\_\_ gospel” and “a key to open the \_\_\_\_\_ for understanding the rest” of the gospels.

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ gospels are known as the Synoptic Gospels. That is, they are very \_\_\_\_\_ in style and format often using identical language and relating the same stories. But upon opening \_\_\_\_\_ we immediately find that it is quite \_\_\_\_\_.

1. While Matthew presents Christ as the Savior of the Jews, and Mark presents Him as the Savior of the Gentiles, and Luke, being the doctor, presents Jesus in His humanity as the Son of man, John presents \_\_\_\_\_ in all His \_\_\_\_\_, as the very Son of God, God Himself.

a. In so doing, some 90% of John's material is not found in the other gospels. In pointing to the Deity of Christ, John immediately focuses in on the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ pre-incarnate Christ rather than His human birth.

II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the writing of John's gospel.

A. The early church fathers testified and recorded that John's Gospel was the \_\_\_\_\_ gospel to be written.

1. If this is true, then with John's familiarity with the first three gospels and supposing that the \_\_\_\_\_ would also be familiar with them, we can understand why he wrote in such a different manner; and also then, why his writing appears to assume that his audience was \_\_\_\_\_ with many aspects of the gospel story.

III. \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel of John?

A. Until about the beginning of the last century the oldest known manuscripts of the 4<sup>th</sup> gospel were dated about 325 A.D., with this giving rise to the reasoning that because no manuscripts of this gospel existed before the 4<sup>th</sup> century, that it could \_\_\_\_\_ have been written during \_\_\_\_\_ life time (over two hundred years earlier), nor for that matter, by anyone who had known Jesus.

1. The Egerton Papyrus 2 which were discovered in Egypt in 1935 and most of which is now housed in the British Museum in London England, is dated from about the middle to the last of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and contains quotes from John's gospel. This \_\_\_\_\_ that John's gospel existed long \_\_\_\_\_ the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

2. Further then, ... the papyrus fragment known as P52 which was discovered in Egypt in 1920 and is now housed in the John Rylands Library in Manchester, England. It is dated no later than 130 A.D. and on it is written portions of John 18 verses 31 and on. This fragment was found in a remote part of Egypt as part of the wrappings of a mummy. This is conclusive \_\_\_\_\_ that the 4<sup>th</sup> gospel had been around long enough to have had a copy distributed to a remote part of Egypt no later that 130 A.D. thus making it very possible for the author to have written the original account in the \_\_\_\_\_ and thus, to have known Jesus \_\_\_\_\_!

B. The early \_\_\_\_\_ fathers \_\_\_\_\_ to the Johannine authorship.

1. In his work "Against Heresies" written around 185 A.D. Irenaeus expressly \_\_\_\_\_ as the author of the 4<sup>th</sup> gospel writing, "Afterwards (referring to the first three gospels), John, the disciple of the Lord, who also had leaned upon His breast, did \_\_\_\_\_ publish a Gospel during his residence at Ephesus in Asia."

2. Throughout, the early church fathers such as Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Dionysius of Alexandria, and Eusebius \_\_\_\_\_ that John the Beloved penned the 4<sup>th</sup> Gospel.

C. The gospel itself \_\_\_\_\_ that the author:

1. Was a \_\_\_\_\_;
2. Had a \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of the geography of ancient Palestine;
3. Was an \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_;
4. Was a \_\_\_\_\_;
5. Was \_\_\_\_\_.

IV. \_\_\_\_\_ the Beloved?

A. A \_\_\_\_\_ who was the younger son of Zebedee;

B. The youngest of the twelve disciples, and yet was \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ circle of three disciples with whom Jesus was closest.

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ gave John and His brother the nickname "Sons of \_\_\_\_\_."

D. John sat next to Jesus at the Last Supper and lovingly \_\_\_\_\_ and rested \_\_\_\_\_. He was known as the disciple whom Jesus loved. Thus, we call him John the \_\_\_\_\_!

E. While upon the cross, our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ the care of His mother to John. After Christ ascended into the heavens John became a \_\_\_\_\_ at the church in Jerusalem. After that, he went to Ephesus and ministered there and in the surrounding area for a number of years. And, on account of the Lord's name sake John was \_\_\_\_\_ on the island of Patmos.

F. He wrote this gospel, the \_\_\_\_\_ epistles, and the \_\_\_\_\_!

V. The \_\_\_\_\_ of this gospel.

1. "Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written that you may \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31).

Conclusion: This gospel has not lost one iota of it's \_\_\_\_\_, relevance, nor effect and is as much for us today as it was for the original recipients!

Let us \_\_\_\_\_ it with all that is in us!