

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN

Introduction-Chapter 3

Author

Based on textual and traditional evidence, who is the author of the Gospel of Saint John?

What six considerations support this conclusion?

Date

When is it likely that this Gospel was written?

Destination and Purpose

What audience is this gospel written for?

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Themes and Characteristics

What is the most pervasive theme in the Gospel of John?

Read 1:1 How does the opening verse of John's Gospel relate to the opening verse of the book of Genesis? How was the universe created? (Note 1:1)

Read 1:2-5 What is the spiritual meaning of the phrase “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”? (Note 1:5)

Read 1:14 What mystery of our faith is asserted by the phrase “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”? What is the link between the Incarnation and the erection of the Tabernacle in the Old Testament? (Note 1:14)

Read 1:29 What is the meaning of the phrase “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world”? (Note 1:29)

Read 1:43-51 How does the mention of Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth along with “called” while sitting “under the fig tree” lead Nathaniel to proclaim “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”?

⁸ Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. ⁹ For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, ^[c] I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. ¹⁰ In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree.” Zechariah 3:8-10 (Note 1:49)

Read 2:1 What is meant by the phrase “the third day”? What is the theological significance of this phrase? What is the traditional exegesis on the Marriage at Cana and how does this relate to the Sacrament of Matrimony? (Note 2:1)

Read 2:2-12 What theological meaning does the Church draw from the intervention of Mary on behalf the wedding couple at Cana? (Note 2:3)

Does Jesus demean His Mother by calling her “Woman”? How is the story of the wedding at Cana related to the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis Chapter 3? (Note 2:4)

What are the final words of Mary in the New Testament? (Note 2:5)

What was the purpose of the six stone jars filled with water and how does this relate to purification on the third and seventh day? How does the first miracle performed by Jesus relate to the first sign performed by Moses? (Note 2:6)

What is the biblical symbolism associated with “the good wine”? (Note 2:10)

Read 2:13 How many times is the Passover feast mentioned in John's Gospel and how does this relate to the length of His public ministry? (Note 2:13)

Read 2:14 How was the Jerusalem Temple divided? Could the Gentiles worship and pray in the Jerusalem Temple? (Note 2:14-22) (Note 2:14)

Read 2:15-17 What does the cleansing of the Temple by Jesus prefigure? (Note 2:15)

Read 2:18-21 What is meant by the phrase "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up"? (Note 2:19)

Read 3:1-2 Who is Nicodemus and what is the symbolic meaning of meeting Jesus at night? (Note 3:1) (Note 3:2)

Read 3:3-6 How does the Church interpret Jesus' proclamation "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God"? (Note 3:5)

Read 3:7-15 How does the story of Moses hoisting a bronze serpent on a pole relate to the mission of Jesus? (Note 3:14)

Read 3:27-30 How did God reveal himself to the Israelite nation in the Old Testament and how is this relationship extended in the New Testament? (Note 3:29)

Read 3:31-36 How does the Church understand and interpret John 3:36 “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him.”? (Note 3:36)