

The Bible  
**FOR DUMMIES**  
The New Testament

**April 8, 2008**



“THE GOSPELS”

**April 8, 2008**

John

**April 15, 2008**

“The History” - Acts

“THE LETTERS”

**April 22, 2008**

Romans

**April 29, 2008**

I & II Corinthians, Philipians, & Galatians

**May 6, 2008**

**YOF & God's Angels Dinner Show**

**"THE LETTERS" (cont.)**

**May 13, 2008**

**James, Colossians, Ephesians,  
Thessalonians, & Hebrews**

**May 20, 2008**

**"The Revelation" – The Book of Revelation**

## **Week 1: Matthew Review**

**Key: Matthew 5,  
Sermon on the Mount**

**"Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them..."**

**(Matthew 5:1-2)**

## **Week II: Mark Review**

**Key: Parable of the Sower**



## **Week III: Luke Review**

**Key: Parable of the Good Samaritan 10:29-3**

**He said, “The one who showed mercy on him.” And Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” (10:37)**

# The Gospel of John



## Tonight's Outline

- I. The W's: Who, What, When, & Why
- II. The Hebrew Scriptures (OT) in the Fourth Gospel
- III. Outline of John's Gospel
- IV. Difference: The Synoptics and John
- V. A Key Passage

## **I. The W's of the Gospel of John**

### **Who**

**Tradition:** John wrote this Fourth Gospel, as well as the three Epistles of John and the book of Revelation.

**Revisionist:** Language, style and content of these books different. Now presumed to be written by a follower of John (who received this oral tradition from John)—thinking is that John would have been dead at the time of the writing.

### **What**

**Gospel** – oral tradition began in South Palestine. Oral tradition continued until written down.

## **When**

**A fragment of John, the oldest fragment of any New Testament writing, was found in Egypt and dates 100 AD (suggesting Gospel written around 90 AD).**

## **Why**

**To proclaim that Jesus is God and man.**

**Gnostics: believed the body was a tomb, shackled the spirit – spirit must be released from the body to live. Flesh is putrid/evil/not to be celebrated.**

**Jesus became “sarx” – reality of human existence with all its limitations, needs, drives, ambitions.**

## **Each Gospel says that Jesus is the Messiah in Unique Way**

**MATTHEW:** Genealogy, wise men (2.1-12) confirm that they have found the ‘child who is born King of the Jews.’

**MARK:** Following baptism of Jesus, vs. 10– the skies open, dove descends, voice speaks, “Thou are my beloved son.”

**LUKE:** Angel does the announcing, tells Mary, Joseph, Shepherds that this is the Christ.

**JOHN:** Disciples and followers learn who Jesus is at the wedding at Cana (2:1-11). The wine (representing Judaism) has run out – the Messianic age, represented by the abundance of wine, has begun.

## **A Word About Creeds**

**Apostles’ Creed** – First appears in writings of St. Ambrose in 390 AD

**Nicene Creed** – Formalized by 318 bishops in Nicea in 325

“I and the Father are one” (John 10:30)

“...Father is greater than I” (John 14:28)

The term ‘confessor’ referred to those in the early church who had been arrested and tortured for their faith, though not (like martyrs) actually killed.

**Arius**: Jesus was the 'highest creature' but a man, not the same substance with God

**Athanasius** – Jesus was the God/man, incarnation of the Divine in human flesh (sarx)

**Constantine** was aghast – a divided Christianity did not serve the Empire.

**Nicea** (325) rejected the subordination of the Son to the Father. Greek word, "homoousios" (meaning of the same substance) established the Trinity.

\*by 438, Theodosian Code inflicted death penalty on those who denied the Trinity (Arians).

## ***II. Echoes from the Hebrew scripture in John***

### ***1) I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE***

**Egypt** – God tells Moses at the burning bush in the desert that 'I AM WHO I AM'. Tell the people "I am" has sent you (Exodus 3:14)

Word JHWH is the divine name for God and connected to the root verb meaning "to be"

Jesus is the bread – God provided 'manna in the wilderness' to provide nourishment for their journey (Exodus 16)

## **2) I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**



God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. (Gen. 1:3-4)

## **3) I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD - Psalm 23**

Ezek. 34:3 | “You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture and I am your God,” says the Lord God



**4) I AM THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE**

Psalm 86:11 “Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.”

Psalm 119:1,5 “Happy are those whose way is blameless” and “O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes.”

**5) I AM THE VINE - Isaiah 5.1-6, Psalm 80, Ezekiel 15 and 19**

Speak of God as the keeper of vineyard and the people of Israel as the vineyard – planted, tended, pruned and harvested by God.



**6) I AM THE WORD** - *In the beginning was the word, and the word was God...and the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1,14)*

John connects Jesus with creation,  
Genesis 1:1-31

10,000 words in Hebrew speech - words had power! Words created the world!  
Words/preaching (not reading) is the means of salvation.

## **The Word (cont.)**

**“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory of the only Son from the Father.”**  
*John 1:14*

**Controversy in the Early Church: Reason created the world (logos = reason). This rationality, this consciousness, this divine intelligence chose to become flesh – to become/indwell/incarnate in a person**

**Gnostics (major Greek influence) saw the body as a prison/tomb. One was free to do whatever with the ‘flesh’ –but Christianity makes the ‘flesh’ the container of God. of the Spirit.**

**“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe...” John 1.6**

**John uses “believe” 70 times. Each of us must believe**

- **Intellectually (rational faith)**
- **Emotionally (believe with mind and heart, believe with passion) the Truth of God, the Word**

**For 400 years the voice of prophecy had been silenced, but now it again speaks. John “was sent” -- he is a witness.**

### ***III. Outline of the Fourth Gospel***

1. **The beginning of Jesus’ ministry (1:1-51)**
2. **Miracles and discourses (2:1-5:47)**
3. **A feeding miracle, discourses, and conflicts (6:1-10:42)**
4. **A prelude to Jesus’ hour (11:1-12:50)**
5. **The farewell meal, discourse, and prayer (13:1-17:26)**
6. **Jesus’ arrest, trial, and death (18:1-19:42)**
7. **The first resurrection appearance of Jesus (20:1-31)**
8. **Jesus’ final resurrection appearance (21:1-25)**

## IV. Differences Between the Fourth Gospel and the Synoptics

### 1) More Theological

4<sup>TH</sup> Gospel deals with incarnation, salvation, eternal life - also produces a doctrine of the Spirit - discussion with Nicodemus. Also, after the resurrection Jesus breathed on the disciples and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (20:22)

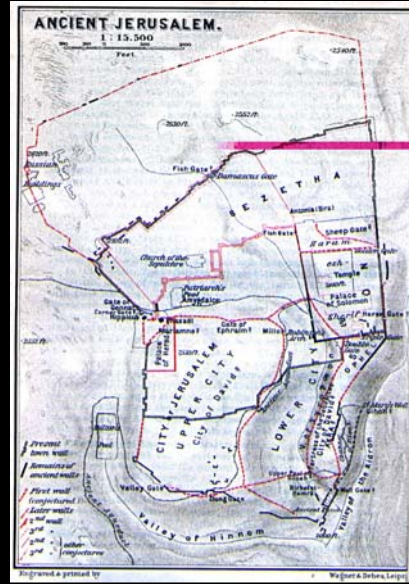
Light (21 times) and darkness (7 times) explain the natural and supernatural spheres. The world (darkness) must receive Christ (the light).

### 2) Different Ordering of Events

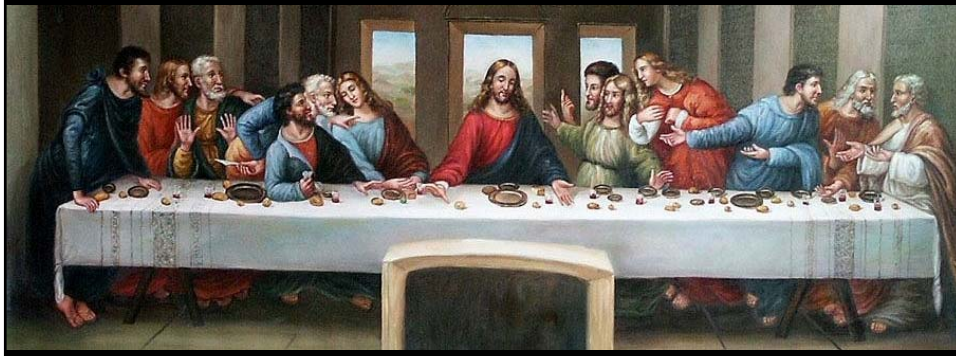
- In Matthew, Mark and Luke Jesus spends most of his time in Galilee and goes to Jerusalem only in the final day of his ministry.
- In John, Jesus moves back and forth between Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem (2:13; 5:1; 7:10)



- **John mentions 3 Passovers when Jesus goes to Jerusalem (2:13; 6:4; 12:12)**
- **In the synoptics, Jesus cleanses the Temple after his entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of his last week—in John, the cleansing occurred on his first trip to the city.**



- **In John there is no ‘last supper’ where Jesus calls attention to the bread and wine as his body and blood. Instead, the final Passover meal with Jesus features a foot washing and Jesus’ teaching about servanthood.**



### **3) Fewer Miracles and No Parables**

#### **MIRACLES**

**Matthew - 20 miracles**

**Mark & Luke - 19 miracles**

**John - 9 miracles**

**(and they are called signs)**

**Only one miracle occurs in all 4 Gospels—  
feeding of the 5,000**

### **3) Parables**

#### **PARABLES**

**Matthew - 21 parables**

**Mark & Luke - 8 parables**

**Luke - 25 parables**

**John - 0 parables**

**\*John contains two very key stories not found anywhere else in the Gospels – the story of Nicodemus (3:1-21) and the Samaritan woman (4:1-42) – both reveal key teachings about being “born of the spirit” and that Jesus is the “living water.”**

#### **4) In John, Jesus is Identified with Names and Titles (9)**

- 1. JESUS (250 times).** Derived from Hebrew (Joshua) and means “God saves”
- 2. WORD** – Greek word is ‘logos’. Jesus is seen both as existing at the dawn of creation and also as the ‘word made flesh’; only in Revelation 19.13 does this occur elsewhere in the New Testament.

**3. LAMB OF GOD** – John associates Jesus with the Passover lamb. At Passover the blood of the lamb was placed on the doorposts of the homes of the Hebrew slaves. Jesus is the sacrificial lamb during the Passover festivals. Only in 1.29 and 36 does this occur in the New Testament

**4. RABBI** – identified as the rabbi/teacher 8 times

**5. MESSIAH – “Anointed one”**

John 20:31: “These are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.”

- 6. SAVIOR** – in only one place in the Gospel is Jesus referred to as Savior; Jesus met the Samaritan woman who believed him to be the Messiah – when she told others they said “...we know that is truly the Savior of the world” (4:42)

**7. Son of Joseph and Mary of Nazareth**

- 8. KING (13 times).** Early in his ministry, after the miracles of the loaves and fishes, the people wanted to make him king (6.15) so he escaped to a remote place to be by himself. Most of the other references are at the trial – Pilot calls him King of the Jews, he is mocked with this title, and the title is placed over his cross.

**9. LORD (35 verses)** – but only called this by disciples, close friends, and those who have been healed. After the Resurrection Mary Magdalene says, “I have seen the Lord.” Later, Thomas, who was not present when Jesus appeared to the disciples, was to say, “My lord, and my God.” 20:28

## **V. A Key Passage**

Chapter 9, gaining sight

John 9:1-12;25;39

<sup>1</sup>As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who

had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup> They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Silo'am and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>25</sup> He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see."

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."