**9-21-25 Introduction to John’s gospel**

**This may be the most important book on earth.**

**Author: There is little serious debate about the authorship.**

**Date: Likely before 70 AD - JHN**

**John 5:2 says, “There is a pool” (Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD)**

**John’s silence about ministry to Gentiles suggests an early date. Alleged instances of ministry to Gentiles:**

**The Samaritan woman and her village (John 4:1-42); The royal official (John 4:46-54); Other sheep that are not part of this flock (John 10:16) Greeks who came up to Jerusalem at Passover to worship (John 12:20-22)**

**These suggest that John was written before Acts 10 (Cornelius) = A.D. 30-36 AD**

**Likely after Caiaphas was removed from the office of High Priest = 36 A.D.**

**Purpose: The purpose of John’s gospel is clear: John 20:30-31. The ultimate goal of John’s Gospel is to tell people how to obtain eternal life. More specifically, John presented signs as evidence, so that people would believe in Jesus as the Christ/the Son of God (the One who gives life) and have life as a result. What could be more important than for people who don’t have life to have it?**

**Takeaway: If John was successful, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, everything we need to know to have eternal life *has* to be in John’s gospel, or he failed. We are not saying that the gospel is not found in other books of the Bible, only that everything we need to know is in John’s gospel.**

**Key question: How would we describe the content of what one must do to have eternal life based on John 1:11-12; 3:14-6, 18; 6:28-35, 47; 11:25-27; 20:31?**

**Audience: The purpose is clear, so the audience is also clear. This is an evangelistic book. John’s focus is to reach unbelievers in general, with application to believers who read and understand its implications.**

**This also significantly impacts our reading of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. John’s audience = unbelievers. Matthew, Mark, and Luke = to make believers disciples.**

**Why is John’s Gospel so unique? It’s different than the Synoptics**

**One reason = The signs. These are written… (John 20:31a) “And the signs said…” strong-willed, seedy people need not comply.**

**1. Water to wine John 2:1-12**

**2. Distance healing John 4:46-54**

**3. 38-year lameness John 5:1-15**

**4. Feeding the 5,000 John 6:1-14**

**5. Crossing the sea John 6:15-21**

**6. Man born blind John 9:1-12**

**7. Raising Lazarus John 11:1-44**

**8. Cross & Resurrection John 19:17-30 20:1-28**

**The Text: The Prologue 1:1-14 (preamble to the book)**

**John 1:1-3 – The message: Eternal life is in an eternal Person**

**The Word = “Jesus” - He is the embodiment of God’s message to the world (1:14)**

**You’re responding to God’s message when you believe**

**“God was the Word” Illustration of David and Solomon/ Co-regents; “job title” The nature of Jesus is that He is God**

* **“In the beginning, before the beginning,” He already existed.**
* **Jesus is God, NOT A god**
* **Jesus is with God**

**John 1:4-5 – Summary of Jesus’ activity up to John’s ministry**

* **Jesus is the Author of all existence, outside of God Himself**
* **He is also the Source of life, which the Word gives to all who believe in Him**
* **The “life” He brings is a “light” to us, as we are in spiritual darkness**
* **Humanity was blind and did not understand the light He brought**

**John 1:6-10 – John’s coming**

* **John came to change our perceptions as a witness to the Light**
* **The Light had been sent that we might believe**
* **The world made by Him should have known Him, but did not**

**John 1:11-13 – Even Israel missed it**

* **Though Israel had God’s word, they missed the Word in the flesh**
* **“Received” = “believed” (Appositional)**
* **His birth was not by physical means, a physical father, or a father’s wish**

**John 1:14**

* **“Dwelt” = a (temporary) tent. The divine Word became flesh among us!**
* **He became “one of us” and manifested God’s grace**