

# **The Gospel of John Introduction**

The best way to begin studying a book in the Bible is to look at the basics. Who wrote the book? What is its purpose? What is its place in the canon of Scripture? Before we begin going through the book of John, let's look at some of the details of the book.

## **The Author - John**

- John was probably the youngest disciple
- Son of Zebedee and brother of James – Matthew 4:21-22
- Part of the “inner circle” with Peter and James – Luke 8:51, 9:28
- Was called the “beloved” disciple – John 19:26, etc.
- Lived longer than any other disciple, until about AD 100
- Wrote five books of the New Testament: Gospel of John; I, II, and III John; Revelation

## **The Purpose of the Book**

- Each Gospel presents Christ in a different way for a different audience
  - Matthew – Christ as King, written to the Jews
  - Mark – Christ as God's Servant, written to the Romans
  - Luke – Christ as the Perfect Man, written to the Greeks
  - John – Christ as the Son of God, written to the Church
- John is written as an intimate look at Christ
- John gives his reason for writing in John 20:30-31

## **Characteristics of the Book**

- John contains none of the famous parables of Christ
- The miracles in John are used to display Christ's deity and accentuate His message
- John is written in very simple language although it plunges into very deep subjects
- Mentions the Jews over sixty times
- Takes note of many Jewish customs and feasts
- “Believe” is used over 100 times in John, less than 40 times in other Gospels
- “Eternal Life” is 35 times in John, and only 12 times in other Gospels
- Half of the book deals with the “Passion Week”
- The last Gospel written, and one of the last books of the Bible written (90 AD?)

## Outlines of John

- Outline by J. Vernon McGee:
  - 1. Light – ch. 1-12
  - 2. Love – ch. 13-17
  - 3. Life – ch. 18-21
- Outline by John Phillips
  - 1. Prologue (1:1-18)
  - 2. The Signs of the Son of God (1:19-12:50)
  - 3. The Secrets of the Son of God (13-17)
  - 4. The Sorrows of the Son of God (18-20)
  - 5. Epilogue (21:1-25)