

The Gospel of John

an introduction

This book is a divinely-inspired record of the pre-existence, life, ministry death, resurrection and post-resurrection appearances of Christ, the Son of God. The first three gospel accounts are called the “synoptic” gospels because they are written according to a similar pattern. John’s account is different. Matthew, Mark, and Luke **recorded**, John **interpreted**. The synoptic gospels give attention to the *historical* — to Christ’s ministry in Galilee; John majors on *doctrinal and spiritual aspects* of Christ’s testimony and teaching in Jerusalem and Judea. Over one-half of John’s account is devoted to events during what is called “Passion Week,” and it is from this fact that we deduce the length of Christ’s public ministry — approximately three and one-half years.

John’s gospel contains *no parables* and *only* seven miracles, always referred to as “*signs*” or “*works*” because they bear witness of His Sonship:

1. **Water to wine, 2:1-11**
2. **Healing the nobleman’s son, 4:46-54**
3. **Healing an afflicted man, 5:1-9**
4. **Feeding the 5,000, 6:1-4**
5. **Walking on water, 6:16-21**
6. **Healing a blind man, 9:1-12**
7. **Raising Lazarus from the dead, 11:1-46**

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