

7.1 The Gospel of John

1A. Comparison with the other Gospels

1B. Location (Judea)

The synoptic Gospels overlap in their attention to the ministry of Christ in Galilee (mainly). Distinctively, John's Gospel attends to the ministry of Christ in Judea (mainly), especially from chapter 7 to the end of the book (7.1, Galilee not Judea because of the schemes of the leaders; 7.9-10 (remained in Galilee, then He went to Jerusalem privately)).

2B. Audience within the book (individuals; disciples)

Much of the Judean emphasis is an expansion (in contrast to the other Gospels) on the happenings in and about Jerusalem in the final weeks of the life of Christ. What makes this point stick is the fact that John, like no other Gospel, gives us details of private instruction. Matthew, for example, records some great speeches given in the final week, but they are *public* speeches (cf. the Olivet Discourse, Mat. 24-25), as are most of the speeches in the Synoptics. Uniquely, John records the memorable words of farewell that culminate with the Lord's Priestly prayer (Jn. 13-17). Although in Samaria, John records the private conversation with the woman at the well.

3B. Picture of Christ

What picture of Christ do we get from Matthew based on his genealogy?

What picture of Christ do we get from Mark based on his genealogy?

What picture of Christ do we get from Luke based on his genealogy?

What picture of Christ do we get from John based on his genealogy plus the Prologue?

2A. Purpose

How would you state the purpose of the book of John based on John 20.30-31 (with 12.37-40)?

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸ so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" ³⁹ Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, ⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them."

Q: are miracles mainly displays of power proving deity?

Q: are "signs" limited to miracles (i.e. is the triumphal entry a sign)?

3A. Theme statement (cf. Warfield, Shorter Writings, II, 644f)

The man, Christ Jesus, is the Word of God who from all eternity has been with God and one with God, and who came forth from heaven to reveal God to men and through them to gather back to fellowship those given to Him by the Father.

Note how these two statements flow out of the above summary: God the Son is truly man, and the man, Christ Jesus, is truly God. Q: does it seem true to you to say that the things John records bring out one of these claims more than the other (as an accent)?

4A. Outline/structure of the book

Prologue, 1.1-18

Body, 1.19-20.31

Epilogue, 21

Q: with the theme statement in mind, can we subdivide the body of the book (note how the story line transitions [11-12] to the farewell speeches [13-17] followed by suffering, death and resurrection [18-21])?

Why does public (1-12) private (13-21) not work?

Why does word (1-17) and deed (18-21) not work?