

## **John 1a**

The Gospel of John was the last Gospel to be written. It was composed around the year 90 AD. It is more of a spiritual relating of the life of Christ than the first three gospels (Synoptic Gospels). It seems to be aimed more to the Greek minds, as by that time the converts were more Gentile than Jewish. John, who refers to himself in this Gospel as 'the one who Jesus loved', had time to think about what the other writers left out. Half of his gospel is about Jesus last week, and the teachings of those last days. He has groups of seven miracles, parables and I Am statements. Whether he planned it that way or it was the work of the Holy Spirit without John's mental involvement, we don't really know. We do know it is inspired! John tells of things that we often refer to but are only found in his gospel. The meeting with Nicodemus, the raising of Lazarus, the second miraculous catch of fish and Peter's restoration are all unique to John. It is because of John's mention of three Passover feasts that we know Jesus ministry was three and a half years. John states his purpose for writing (20:30-31) is to know Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ.

1-2 John is the only Gospel that begins by addressing the eternal existence of Christ. He refers to Jesus as the logos of God. The Greeks understood logos to mean the governing power and principles behind all things. The Jews referred to logos as God. See Genesis 1:1, Colossians 1:7, 1John 1:1-2.

3 The Word was the instrument of creation. Psalm 33:6, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:2

4 Here we find Jesus referred to as life and light. Man has life in the temporal physical sense of being (*bios*), but Jesus brings life of an eternal nature (*zoe*). Light illuminates. Light keeps us from stumbling, helps us see where we are going, and shows us the reality around us. Though the word is used in a natural sense, like much of John it is also allegorical of revelation and understanding. John 5:26, John 12:46, 1 Corinthians 15:45, Colossians 3:4

5 The darkness has not understood or overcome the light. The world system, the Romans, Pilate, Herod, the religious leaders did not understand or overcome Jesus. John 3:19, 1 Corinthians 2:14

6-7 The topic now switches to John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin. John 1:33, 3:28; Malachi 3:1, 4:5; Matthew 21:45

8 John the Baptist's whole ministry was to prepare people to receive Jesus. Acts 19:4

9 Jesus is the true illumination. Many claim to bring illuminating truth. Unless it lines up with what Jesus taught and lived, they are darkness not light. Notice He gives light to every man coming into the world. It is not that the light is available, it is what we do with it as John says a couple chapters later. Once given to us do we come and live in it, or avoid it? See 3:19, Romans 1:20. Can anyone stand before God and say they never had a chance? Consider Romans 10:13-18 Do you see two things at work, those who preach and revelation from God?

10 His own creation did not recognize their Creator. Did He give them enough proof? What would the Creator do to prove to His creation that He made them? John 17:25, 1 John 3:1, 2 Corinthians 4:4, 1John 2:11

11 The Jews who were in a covenant relationship with Him, had the words of the prophets describing His coming, even they did not receive Him. It shows the condition of Israel at the time – blinded by the Prince of the world. They had the Word but only in intellect, not by the Spirit in revelation to their hearts relationally. Luke 19:14

12 A wonderful verse that can be used in sharing the Gospel. Salvation is open to all who will receive Jesus. You can be a part of the family of God through receiving His son. His name, Jesus, means the salvation of God. Do you believe He is the salvation of God, the way provided by God, not intellectually, but from your heart? He gave us the “power” or “right” – most commonly used as ‘the power of choice.’

13 We are not born of a blood line, or human desire or because of another’s will, but of God. He drew us and moved us and helped us choose to be chosen. It was a work of the Holy Spirit. James 1:18, Philippians 2:13

14 The logos became a man! Romans 1:3,4; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 2:14-17 They saw His glory. Glory is the essence of God, the expression of His character. Jesus life displayed the glory of God. But they also saw unveiled glory on the Mount of Transfiguration. Since grace and truth are mentioned here, I prefer the first meaning. John 2:11, 11:40; Hebrews 1:3