

## New Testament: Gospel of John

The Gospel of John tells us that it was written by the disciple whom Jesus loved. Tradition also says that he lived to be very old and that his Gospel was the last of the four to be written, possibly around 90 AD. The most important thing he wanted to emphasize to his readers was that Jesus was the Word of God Incarnate and that He existed with God the Father from the beginning. His Gospel was written mostly for Jewish Christians because it is filled with references to Old Testament events and symbols that only Jewish readers would understand. This Jewish community remained part of the synagogue for a time. But at some point in the history of this community, they were no longer welcome in the synagogue. This can be seen in the way the Gospel talks about "the Jews" and "their synagogue". The attitude is not meant to be anti-Semitic but rather about a Jewish community that is angry with another Jewish community for the way they have been treated. This led to the formation of the unique Johannine Christology and the separation of the community from the synagogue all together. John's Gospel is not considered one of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) because it differs in language, style and theology. It also contains accurate historical data not found in the Synoptic Gospels. There are seven miracles in John's Gospel. They are not presented so much as miracles but more as signs that refer to a deeper theological meaning. There are no parables in this Gospel, either. John's Gospel uses **high Christology** of any of the Gospels. This means that it uses language ("I AM") that describes the divinity of Jesus Christ in His very being. This is different from just using honorary titles. *"but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."* (John 20:31) –Sherrie Clutts DRE