

John

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Differences between John and the Other Gospels

- Almost all of the material in this gospel occurs only in John
- Other gospels contain parables, John contains none
- Timeline of events was different, e.g., cleansing of temple at beginning of Jesus' public life
- Focuses on a group of “signs”, not found in other gospels

Who was Jesus?

- “And the Word was God” “And the Word became flesh and lived among us”
- John writes that Jesus was God, but also flesh, i.e., a human
- Foundational belief of Christianity



Book of Signs

- 7 miracles or signs
- Beginning with Jesus turning water to wine
- Ending with Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead

Conversations

- Conversation with Nicodemus about spiritual rebirth
- “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit” (John 3:5)
- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”
(John 3:16)

Conversations

- Samaritan woman
- Significant because Jewish men did not talk to Samaritan women
- Revealed he knew about the woman's past
- “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ You would have asked him, and he would have given you living water”

(John 4:10)

“I Am”

- The statement, “I Am”, only found in John
- “I am the bread of life”



The Book of Glory

- Different focus in the Last Supper
- Long speech by Jesus

“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9)

“I am in the Father and the Father is in me” (John 14:10)

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends” (John 15:13)

The Holy Spirit

- Described in John as a “parakletos”

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you” (John 14:16-17)

The Resurrection

- Mary discovers the empty tomb, followed by Peter and John
- Jesus appears to the disciples that night
- “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
- “Receive the Holy Spirit”
- “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe” (John 20:29)

Final Chapter

- Disciples encounter Jesus on shore
- Conversation with Peter
- “But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written” (John 21:25)

Cultural Connections

- The Matrix

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32)

- The Seven Last Words

