

## Introduction to NT Books

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### IV. John

#### A. The Authorship of John

##### 1. External Evidence

a. Early fathers such as Irenaeus Tertullian, and Origin ascribed the Gospel to John.

b. A consistent Christian history accepted Johannine authorship.

##### 2. Internal Evidence

a. Baptist tradition has accepted Johannine authorship because writer was a Jew and an eyewitness to the Lord.

b. He called himself the disciple “whom Jesus loved.”

#### B. The Date of John

1. Probably sufficient time had gone by after AD 70, since John did not refer to the major event in Jewish history.

2. Manuscript P52 is a fragment of John’s Gospel and is dated AD 125; John probably wrote his Gospel with the Epistles and the Ἀποκάλυψις toward the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century (AD 95-98).

C. The Origin and Destination of John: he probably wrote to churches perhaps in Ephesus or elsewhere in Asia Minor.

D. The Purpose of John: to evangelize by showing that Christ is the Son of God, and that by putting faith in His is requisite for eternal life (Jn. 20:31).

#### E. The characteristics of John

1. John recorded seven sign miracles (σημεῖον [17x in John]).

a. Jn. 2:11

b. Jn. 4:54; *et al.*

2. John recorded many of Christ’s ἐγώ εἰμι (ἐγὼ εἰμι) sayings:

a. I am the bread of life (Jn. 6:35, 48).

b. I am the light of the world (Jn. 8:12).

c. I am he (Jn. 8:24).

d. I am the door of the sheep (Jn. 10:7).

e. I am the good shepherd (Jn. 10:11, 14).

f. I am the resurrection and the life (Jn. 11:25).

g. I am the way, the truth, and the life (Jn. 14:6).

h. I am the true vine (Jn. 15:1).

i. I am (Jn. 18:5, 6, 8)

3. John repudiated Gnosticism with clear statements on Christ as the God-Man.

a. Jn. 1:1-18.

b. Jn. 3:13.

c. Jn. 5:4.

d. Jn. 6:69

e. Jn. 14:17 (cf. P66).

4. John focused on the Lord's first week and last week of ministry.

5. He included the famous *ecce homo* (Latin translation) expression, "behold the man" (Jn. 19:5).

6. He recorded the prediction of Peter's death and possibility that John may escape death (Jn. 21:18-23).