

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

1. The Author

- A. The fourth gospel has been ascribed from earliest times to the beloved disciple, the Apostle John. He never once mentions his name, but speaks of himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20, 24).

2. The Date

- A. The consensus is that it was written around 90 A.D.

3. The Purpose for which it was Written

- A. We are not left to wonder about this, for its purpose is emphatically given at the close of the twentieth chapter, “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through His Name” (20:20,21).

- 1. At the time John wrote, an awful system of false teaching had begun called *Gnosticism* which spoke of Christ as the highest created angel (thus denying His Deity). John was inspired to write of Christ as the Son of God, the Only-Begotten of the Father, Who is indeed co-equal with His Father.
- 2. Gnosticism also denied the truth of redemption by the blood and the gift of God, which is eternal life, to every believing sinner. Thus John wrote of man’s need to be born-again and of how eternal life is given by the Son of God to all who believe on Him.

- B. Another purpose for the gospel is found in 1:18, “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the the Father, He hath declared Him.” In Christ’s revelation of Himself as the Son of God, He was also revealing the Father. “He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father” (14:9).