

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

PART II

I. The date of John

A. It was written before AD 70

1. *“Now there is (present tense) at Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches”-John 5:2.*

This pool and its porches would have been destroyed by the Roman army in AD 70!

2. All scholars who date the Synoptic Gospels prior to AD 70 do so because no mention is made of the destruction of Jerusalem as a past fact! This is significant, and has application to the time of John’s composition too!

3. “One of the oddest facts about the New Testament is that what on any showing would appear to be the most datable and climactic event of the period-the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, and with it the collapse of institutional Judaism based on the temple-is never once mentioned as a past fact”-Redating the NEW TESTAMENT, John A. T. Robinson, pg. 13.

4. Think of the number of times the NT refers to fulfillment of past historical events! It is totally unrealistic to believe if the 4 gospels were written after the destruction of Jerusalem, that its destruction would not have been mentioned!

5. Remember: Daniel prophesied of its destruction in Daniel 9:24-27, and the Lord alluded to Daniel's prophecy in Matthew 24:15 & Mark 13:14, and made application to the destruction of Jerusalem which was still future at the time!

6. All scholars who date John after AD 70 do so because of external evidence!

7. No one should ever exalt external evidence over internal evidence in regard to the bible!!

Internal evidence is evidence within the bible!

External evidence is evidence outside the bible!

II. John uses nearly 7 full chapters to refer to the last 21 hours of the Lord's life (13:1-19:30). Chapter wise, that's one-third of his book! In contrast, Matthew, Mark, and Luke each use only 2 chapters each!

This point is extremely significant!

In this section of John, one sees the "heart and soul" of the Lord!

And I mean by that statement, that the great depth of love, care, and compassion the Lord had for His disciples (and by application, you and me!) is "laid bare!"

LET'S LOOK AT SOME TEXTS THAT EMPHASIZE THIS POINT!

John 13:1, *“Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them to the end.”*

John 13:4-17, as Master and Lord, Jesus washed the feet of the apostles!

John 13:21, The Lord was troubled in spirit.

John 13:34 & 35, *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

John 14:1-3, When you're troubled, keep on trusting the Father and Me!

John 14:15, *“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”*

John 14:23, *“If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”*

John 14:16-18; 15:26 & 16:13, Jesus promised another Comforter (the Holy Spirit) would come and guide them into all truth!

John 14:27, *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*

That very day, Jesus walked straight into the “Jaws of Death” totally unafraid and at peace! The world cannot offer that kind of peace-it only comes from God!!

John 15:1-14, “My Friends!”

Michael Combs has a song entitled, “Drinking from my Saucer.”

One stanza says, “Ain’t got a lot of riches, but I’ve got a friend in Jesus, and that makes me rich enough.”

John 17, Jesus prayed for Himself and the apostles.

Verse 11, “Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me.”

Verse 15, “I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil one.”

Verse 26, “And I have declared unto them thy name, and I will declare it: That the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

John 18:1 & 2-Jesus and the 11 apostles go to the garden of Gethsemene.

John 18:18, It was cold that night, and a fire was made by those who were in the courtyard.

Luke 22:43 & 44, “And there appeared an angel unto him, from heaven, strengthening him.

And being in agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

John 18:27, “Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.”

Luke 22:61 & 62, “And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

And Peter went out and wept bitterly.”

John 18:12-40, Jesus is delivered into the hands of lawless men and falsely tried.

John 19:1 & 2, Pilate scourged the Lord, and the soldiers platted a crown of thorns and put it on his head.

John 19:17 & Matthew 17:33, The Lord carried His own cross as He headed for Golgotha, but somewhere along the way He fell under the weight of it, and then Simon, from Cyrene, was compelled to carry it the rest of the way.

John 19:18, *The Lord was crucified.*

1. Crucified at 9 am-Mark 15:25.

2. Darkness came at 12 pm and remained until 3 pm-Mark 15:33 & 34.

The Lord cried out and said, “*My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?*”

Luke 23:34, “*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*”

Can we ever forget this statement?

John 19:30, “*When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*”

CHRISTIANS NEED TO REMEMBER THE STATEMENT IN JOHN 12:32 & 33.

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

This he said signifying what death he should die.”

III. THE TWO MAJOR TEACHINGS OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:

- 1. Christ had divine power**
- 2. Christ's great love and compassion**

Remember the “spiritual negatives” in place at the time of John's writing:

- 1. The prevalence of false teachers-Matthew 24:4 & 5, 11, 23 &24**
- 2. Sin abounding-Matthew 24:12**
- 3. Severe persecution-Matthew 24:9**

These are 3 powerful tools in Satan's arsenal to lead Christians away from God and His church. God's “spiritual antidote” for falling away is given to Christians in John 20:30 & 31. They must keep on believing!

**BRETHREN IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT
WE ABIDE IN GOD'S WORD!
WHEN WE DO, WE WILL BE AWARE OF
THE GREAT POWER, COMPASSION,
AND LOVE OF GOD!**

***“I have written unto you, young men,
because ye are strong, and the word of
God abideth in you, and ye have
overcome the evil one”-I John 2:14.***