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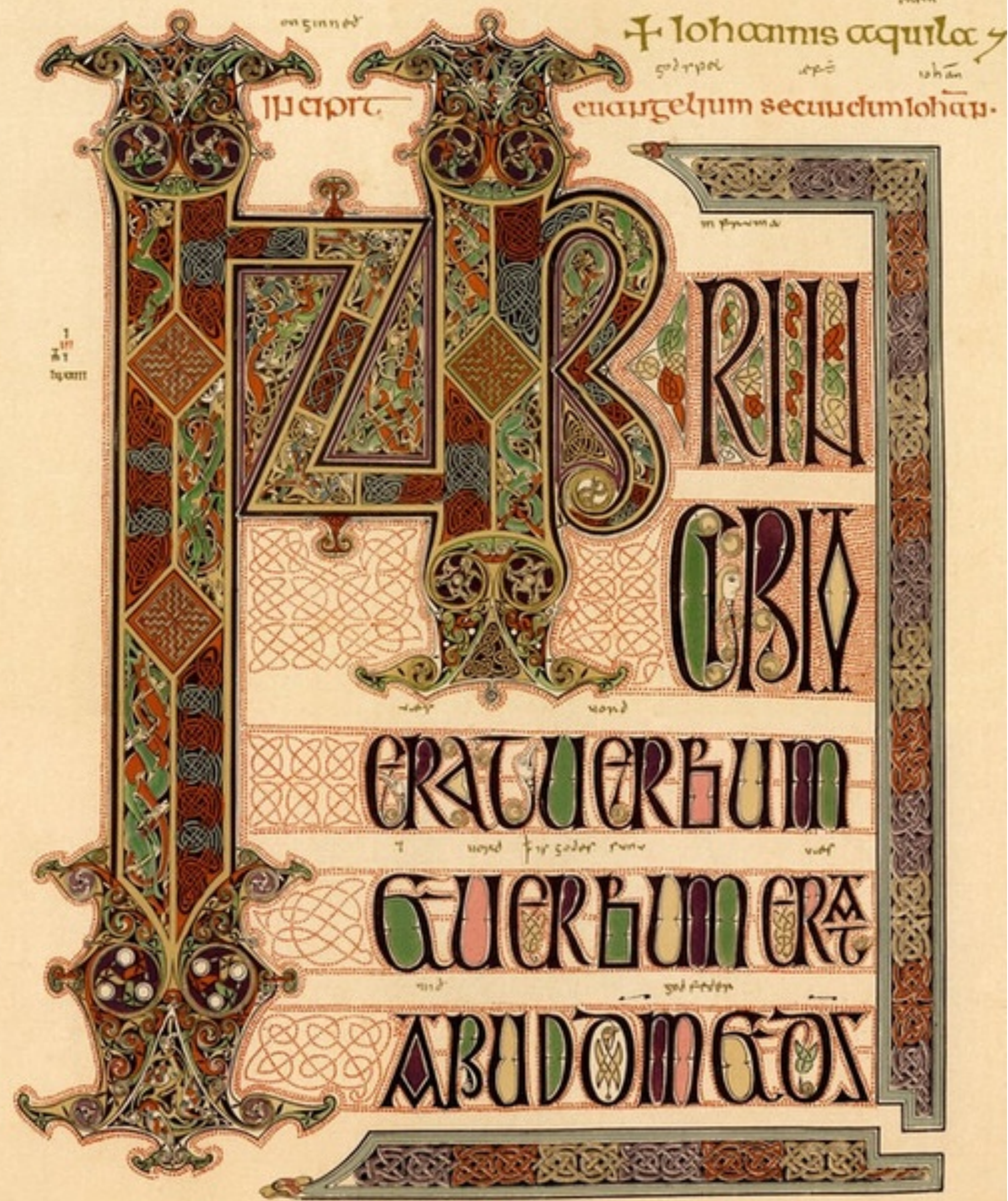
New Testament Survey

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The Gospel According to John



The Gospel of John

The Synoptic Gospels tell us what Jesus said and did,
but John tells us **WHO JESUS IS**

- * - the most theological of all the gospels (revealing Jesus as Yahweh Himself)
- * - clear apologetic for divine inspiration -
no un-aided mortal man could have written this book
- * - for myself and many others, the most amazing and wonderful book ever written



Author

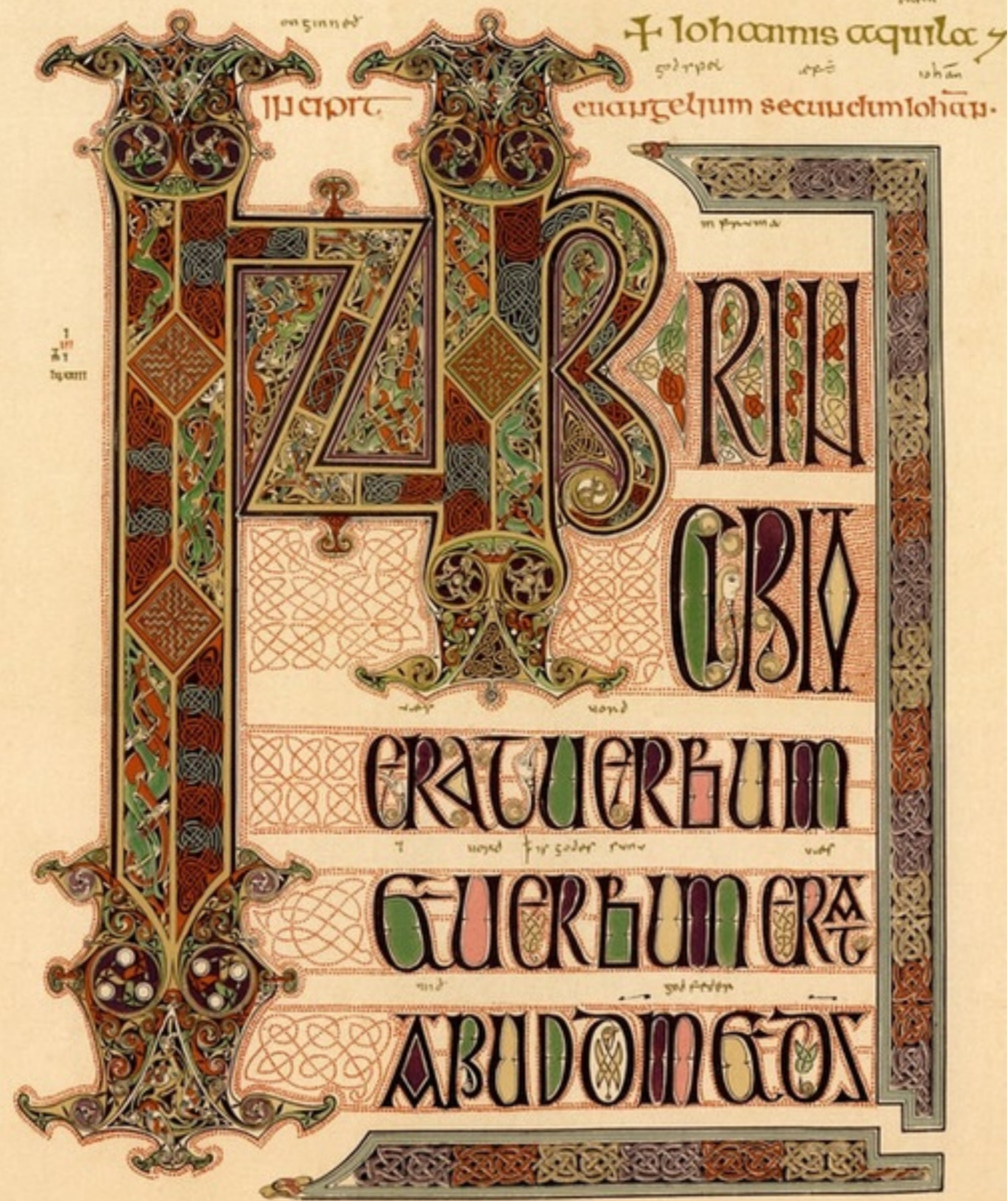
Who was John?

- * - Son of Zebedee, brother of James, one of the "sons of thunder"
 - * - who sought the place of highest honor in the Kingdom (seated at Jesus' left and right)
 - * - who wanted to call down fire from heaven to destroy Samaritans who didn't receive Jesus
- * - Only gospel writer who identifies himself, but not by name: the "*disciple whom Jesus loved*"
- * - also wrote the 3 letters of John, and the Revelation
- * - Clearly stated purpose of his gospel, which runs throughout:

...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. (20:31)

Audience and Date

- * - John had the other 3 gospels in hand, and wrote this gospel quite a few years later
- * - Date uncertain, but probably c. AD 80, at least 10 years after
- * - John notes that the Pilate's accusation is written in "Hebrew, Latin and Greek"
 - a nod to Matthew, Mark and Luke
- * - written to all Christians, and thus to all the world, to reveal Jesus as the Son of God
- * - John intended the widest circulation:
 - "that you may believe...and that believing you may have life in His name"**
- * - John intentionally writes to conclude, and be the capstone of the "four-fold gospel"



Structure

Chiastic Structure of the Prologue (1.1-18)

A Word with God (1:1–2)

└──B Word as Creator (1:3)

└──C Life and Light (1:4–5)

└──D John's witness (1:6–8)

└──E Light enters the world (1:9–10)

└──F Rejection of the World and the Children of God (1:11–13)

└──E' Word became flesh (1:14)

└──D' John's witness repeated (1:15)

└──C' Grace and Truth (1:16)

└──B' Revelation through Christ (1:17)

A' Son reveals God (1:18)

Structure

- * - Observe also the poetic triplets, following Hebrew poetry
- * - This Poetic Prologue introduces all of John's themes
- * - These are then woven like golden threads in a tapestry throughout the book.
- * - Structure is simple, but also profound and intricate.
- * - Focuses on Jesus in Jerusalem, around the 7 Feasts
- * - The simple 2 part structure is defined by the center of the chiasm:

Part 1 (1.19-10.42) - The Signs

"He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him." (1:11)

Part 2 (13.1-20.31) - The Glory

"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God" (1:12)

Transition from Part 1 to Part 2 is the raising of Lazarus (11.1-12.50)

Structure

The Seven Feasts

* - The Synoptic gospels cover a lot of action north, in and around Galilee.

* - In contrast, John describes more action south in Judea, in and around Jerusalem, centered around the Feasts of the Jews

1. 1st **Passover** (2:23) - refers back to the Exodus when the Lord's angel passed over the Jews because of the blood of the Lamb.

2. **Purim** (5:1,17) - connected to Queen Esther (Esther 9:20-32 NASB95) and God's deliverance of the Jews from their enemies. Jesus reveals this powerful truth in verse 17: "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

3. 2nd **Passover** (6:4) - again connects Jesus with our Passover Lamb and our redemption from sins. John emphasizes the unleavened bread of Passover and that Jesus is our Living Bread.

Structure

The Seven Feasts

4. **Tabernacles** (7:2) - commemorated the 40 years that Israel wandered in the wilderness as punishment for their sins, reminding Israel that God had kept His promises and brought them safely into the Promised Land.
5. **The Great Day** (7:37) - celebrated the eighth day, after Tabernacles (Lev. 23:36) as a special assembly of offering food to the Lord. Many people would be gathered in the Temple courts. Jesus gives the gospel in 3 words: *Thirst. Come. Drink.*
6. **Dedication** (10:22) aka "Hanukkah" or the "Festival of Lights" - commemorates the Maccabees recapturing of the Temple from Antiochus Epiphanes, and referring to the time when the daily Menorah oil burned for 8 days.
7. 3rd **Passover** (11:55) - shows that Jesus' public ministry lasted 3 years. This is the beginning of the last seven days of Jesus life, called "Passion Week." Our Passover Lamb is now headed to the cross.

Themes and Threads

Fulfillment in Jesus

- * - John doesn't cite the Old Testament like Matthew does "this happened in order to fulfill..."
- * - Instead he shows the fulfillments in a more intrinsic and essential way

Examples:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (1:1-3)

וַיֵּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אֹרֶךְ וַיְהִי-אֹרֶךְ

And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us, and we saw His glory (1:14)

Themes and Threads

Signs and Substance

- * - John doesn't use the word δύναμις (miracle) as the Synoptic gospels do
- * - Instead he uses the word σημεῖον (sign)
- * - *_Signs_* point to something. They SIGN-nify something else.

Examples:

- * - The 1st sign: Changing the water to wine at the wedding in Cana (chapter 2)
- * - The 2nd sign: Healing the nobleman's son (4.46-54)
- * - Raising Lazarus from the dead (chapter 11)

Themes and Threads

The Word of the Father

The Eternal Intimacy of the Father and the Son

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. (1:18)

If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.” (14:7)

the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. (5:19)

Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (17:5)

Themes and Threads

The Seven "I AM" Statements

Harkens back to Exodus 3 where God reveals His covenant name YHWH to Moses

"I have surely ****seen**** the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have ****heard**** their cry because of their taskmasters, for I ****know**** of their sufferings. "So ****I have come down**** to deliver them" (Exodus 3:7-8)

יְהוָה - ἐγὼ εἰμι

- * - His faithful covenant love is bound up in His very name
- * - These 7 statements are metaphorical, revealing the true nature of Jesus.
- * - Each statement is followed by a ***_blessing and benefit_*** for those who are in Christ.

Themes and Threads

The Seven "I AM" Statements

1. ****I AM the bread of life****; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst...If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever (6.35,48,51)
2. ****I AM the light of the world****. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (8.12, 9.5)
3. ****I AM the door of the sheep****. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. (10.7,9)
4. ****I AM the good shepherd****. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I know my own and my own know me... (10:11,14)
5. ****I AM the resurrection and the life****. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. (11:25-26)
6. ****I AM the way, and the truth, and the life****.
No one comes to the Father except through me. (14.6)
7. ****I AM the true vine****; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (15.1,5)

Themes and Threads

More "I AM" Statements

In addition to the 7 metaphorical "I AM" statements by which Jesus reveals who He is, there are other "I AM" statements *specifically directed* to the situation at hand.

יְהוָה - ἐγὼ εἰμι

they see Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. But He says to them, "*****It is I****"; do not be afraid." (6:19-20)

"I have surely ****seen**** the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have ****heard**** their cry because of their taskmasters, for I ****know**** of their sufferings.

"So ****I have come down**** to deliver them" (Exodus 3:7-8)

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, ****I AM****."

Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him (8:58-59)

**BEFORE
ABRAHAM
WAS**

**I
A
M**

Themes and Threads

Already and Not Yet

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (3:36)

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; (4:23)

an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. (5:25)

Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die." (11:24-26)

Themes and Threads

Prophet, Priest and King

Prophet

For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; (3:34)

...the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (6:63)

The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. (14:10)

Not only does Jesus *speak* the words of God as The Prophet, but John 1 declares that **HE IS the Word of God!**

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us"

Themes and Threads

Prophet, Priest and King

Priest

I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. (17:20-21)

Not only does Jesus make intercession for us as our Great High Priest in John 17, but John the Baptizer declares in chapter 1 that **Jesus HIMSELF is The Sacrifice:**

**"The Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the World"**

Themes and Threads

Prophet, Priest and King

King

Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." (1:49)

Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, "FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY'S COLT." (12:14-15)

Not only is Jesus declared to be the King of the Jews,
but He is revealed as **the Eternal King** of the Kingdom of God (18:36)

"My Kingdom is not of this world"

Themes and Threads

Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, (14:16-17)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (14:26)

When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, (15:26)

Themes and Threads

Motivations

John reveals the *thoughts and intentions* behind the actions

- * For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, ****because**** He was doing these things on the Sabbath. (5:16)
- * I say these things ****so that**** you may be saved. (5:34)
- * Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not ****because**** you saw signs, but ****because**** you ate of the loaves and were filled. (6:26)
- * ****Therefore**** I said to you that you will die in your sins;
for unless you believe that I AM, you will die in your sins. (8:24)

Themes and Threads

Love

The 2nd great commandment:

"The second is like it - you shall love your neighbor as yourself"

In John, Jesus raises the bar to the humanly impossible,
apart from enabling of the Holy Spirit

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another,
even ****as I have loved you****, that you also love one another. (13:34)

Themes and Threads

Personal Encounters

- * - Nathanael (chapter 1)
- * - Nicodemus (chapter 3)
- * - Samaritan Woman (chapter 4)
- * - The Man Born Blind (chapter 9)
- * - Martha, the sister of Lazarus (chapter 11)
- * - Restoration of Peter (chapter 21)

Exegesis

Exegesis: "setting forth something in detail, explanation, interpretation"

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has ****explained**** Him. (1:18)

Example of Faulty Exegesis: "The Word was **a** God"

Besides being out of accord with Scripture, it is grammatically untenable in Greek.

Find out why at <https://gknt.org/exegesis/a-god>

Exegesis

ἀγαπάω (Agape) and φιλέω (Phileo)

Is there a difference between these two words for "Love" in John? We see them used in the chapter 21 when Jesus asks Peter 3 times: "Do you love me?"

This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men ****loved**** the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. (3:19)

For the Father ****loves**** the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; (5:20)

for they ****loved**** the approval of men rather than the approval of God. (12:43)

for the Father Himself ****loves**** you, because you have ****loved**** Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. (16:27)

John, referring to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus **loved**" uses both words interchangeably. They are synonyms.

Exegesis

"Every Branch in Me"

****I AM the true vine****, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He *_takes away_*; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. (15:1-2)

* - does He "take it away" or does He "lift it up"

* - ΑΙΡΩ - "to take up / to take away" - used both ways (about 50/50) in John

* - Every branch ****in Me**** - equals intimate connection

* - ΦΕΡΩ - "bearing" denotes the current condition, not the final state

Exegesis

"Every Branch in Me"

If "take away" is the right translation, this would be the ****ONLY**** "I AM" statement which is followed by a threat or curse, rather than a benefit or a blessing!

This does not accord with the heart of Jesus as revealed in Scripture.

for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it,
just as Christ also does the church,
because we are members of His body. (Ephesians 5:29-30)

A bruised reed He will not break
and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish (Isaiah 42:3)

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit
He lifts up
Every branch that bears fruit, He prunes
so that it may bear more fruit

Class Information

- * Link to class notes will be posted in Populi, and sent to you in group chat
- * Homework assignments will be posted in Populi, and sent to you in group chat
- * Homework is due at the beginning of next class. Add your name so you get credit!
- * Contact me with any questions: wonder@hey.com -- 360.600.9962