

# Victory Hour

by Wanda Bolton-Davis

## Gospel of John: INTRODUCTION



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The Gospel of John is one of the most captivating books in the Bible. Although this Gospel is often given to many new believers as their introduction to the Christian gospel, it also challenges long-time believers to a deeper relationship with Jesus. John reveals Jesus in a personal, intimate way. Written to inspire faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, this book is considered by many to be the deepest and most spiritual book in the Bible. In it, Christ gives a more complete revelation of Himself, and of God, than in any of the Synoptic gospels. Over one half of the book is given to the events of Christ's life, and His sayings during His last days. There are several discourses and conversations that are found only in John- such as the talk with Nicodemus (3:1-21); the conversation with the woman at the well (4:1-26); the discourse to the Jews at the Feast of Tabernacles (7:14-39; 8:3-58); the parable of the good Shepherd (chapt. 10); the series of private instructions to the disciples, His comforting words and intercessory prayer (chaps. 14-17); and His meeting with the disciples at the Sea of Galilee (chapt. 21). John records eight miracles, six of which are found only in this gospel: The water made wine (2:1-11); healing the nobleman's son (4:46-54); healing the man at the pool (5:1-9); the man born blind (9:1-7); the raising of Lazarus (chapt. 11); and the second draught of fish (21:1-6).

**Writer:** Some scholars have disagreed on the author of this gospel. Some have speculated that it was written by John, the son of Zebedee. Other persons have named John, the elder at Ephesus, because of his position within the Christian church at this time. There are some who suggest that perhaps the Gospel is the testimony of John, the beloved disciple and son of Zebedee, but written by another who lived closely with him. However, the long, accepted tradition is that the writer is indeed, the brother of James, the son of Zebedee, who refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved."

**About the writer:** John was a Palestinian Jew, the son of Zebedee & Salome. He was the younger brother of James. He was prominent in the early church, but his name is not mentioned by name in this Gospel, which again, would be natural, being the author. John was very familiar with Jewish life. He knew well the hostility between the Jews and Samaritans. He knew the Jewish customs. He was familiar with the geography of the Holy Land. It is apparent in his writings that he was indeed an eyewitness to the many discourses of Jesus' life.

**Date:** Uncertain. Probably late in the first century.

**Place:** According to Irenaeus, one of the early church fathers, this Gospel was written in Ephesus. However, there are many who believe that the original manuscript was written in Israel and rewritten in its final form in Ephesus. It is said to have been revised in its final form to correct and address the heretical influences by the pagan philosophies that attempted to relate Christ to the philosophical ideas of the time, which threatened to undermine true faith in Christ as the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).

**Purpose and Emphasis:** There are two thoughts that are interwoven throughout this book; faith and eternal life. The Gospel of John reveals three aspects of Christ; 1) The person of Christ; 2) Christ in the individual believer; and 3) The victory and government of Christ. Jesus is portrayed as the Divine Son of God.

**Relationship to the synoptic Gospels:** The synoptic Gospels (from the Greek 'syn,' meaning "together," and 'optic,' meaning "seen") are the first three Gospels in the New Testament, the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of Mark, and the Gospel of Luke, that display a high degree of similarity in content, narrative arrangement, language, and sentence and paragraph structures. These gospels are also considered by Biblical scholars to share the same point of view. The fourth Gospel, John, differs greatly from these three. (See charts)

The book can be divided into five parts

### Outline

- 1) The Prologue
  - a. The Eternal Word incarnate (1:1-18)
- 2) The Manifestation of Christ's Divinity to the world
  - a. The six-fold testimony (1:19-12:50)
- 3) The Private Revelation
  - a. Instruction to the disciples (chapters. 13-17)
- 4) Jesus' Humiliation and Triumph over Death (chapters. 18-20)
- 5) The Epilogue (21:1-23)

It is my prayer that we would come to know God more intimately during the course of this study. As we study the life of Jesus, may the Holy Spirit reveal, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in a way that will leave you changed forever!!!