**Author**

* The book was written by the apostle John, who was the brother of James and the son of Zebedee. John is nowhere named in the book; but instead of arguing against his authorship, this argues for it. In 21:20 and elsewhere, the author refers to himself as simply “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” But he nowhere names himself in the book.
* And though the apostle John is prominently mentioned in the other gospel accounts of Jesus’ life, he is nowhere named in this record. Therefore, John would fit the disciple who wrote the book.
* Further, this disciple can be identified as an apostle by studying the events at which he was present and comparing them to who was present at those events as recorded in the other accounts.
* Moreover, the author was a personal eyewitness of Jesus’ life and miracles. In particular, he was present at Jesus’ appearances to His apostles, at the last supper, etc. (13:23; 19:35; 21:24,25; 20:30,31). So, he was an apostle. But other apostles are named and identified in ways that distinguish them from “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” What is significant of being an eyewitness?
* Further, there are many similarities between this book and 1,2, & 3 John (note especially 1 John 1:1ff). Finally, early church writers and historians have universally recognized John as the author of this account.
* He was originally a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee – Some believe he was one of the two disciples of John the Baptist, who were pointed to Jesus (John 1:35-39).
* He was with Peter and James to witness several events that other apostles did not
* Events in his life indicate he was rather emotional and impetuous - Luke 9:49,54; Mark 9:38.
* Some believe his mother was Salome, who was a sister to Jesus’ mother Mary. If so, he & Jesus were cousins.
* His mother requested a special position for James and John
* He was beloved by the Lord, and asked who would betray Him
* He fled when Jesus was arrested, but went to His trial
* He cared for Jesus’ mother after Jesus’ died
* He visited the empty tomb after the resurrection
* He recognized Jesus at the Sea of Galilee
* With Peter, he healed the lame man at the temple gate – Acts 3.
* He was recognized by Paul to be a pillar of the church in Jerusalem – Gal. 2:9.
* He accompanied Peter to lay hands on the Samaritans to give them the Holy Spirit – Acts 8:14ff.
* He wrote the books of 1,2,3 John and Revelation .

**Date**

* No information is given in the book that allows it to be definitely dated. It is most likely the last inspired written account of Jesus’ life, yet we cannot with certainty determine the exact date of writing. It is estimated to have been written between 75 and 90 AD. The Roman destruction of the temple occurred in 70 AD.

**Theme**

* The book is an inspired record of the life of Jesus as the Messiah, written by a personal first-hand eyewitness, who is able to personally testify regarding most of the events he describes. It is a Christology (study of Christ).
* The **major purpose** of his record is to provide evidence that Jesus is the Christ in whom we must believe to be saved (see 20:30,31; 21:24,25). He repeatedly cites evidence to support this claim. He often uses words such as “witness,” “testimony,” and related words. He achieves his purpose by emphasizing Jesus’ miracles, including many events or insights into events which are not recorded in the other accounts. As a result, John gives a unique record of Jesus’ life, of inestimable value in establishing the gospel claims regarding who Jesus is.
* John presents man as either belonging to one of two things: the darkness or the light. There is no in between. The darkness is associated with death, while the light is associated with life.
* Let us read John Chapter 1

The prologue to the Gospel begins by saying, "In the beginning was the word (logos), the word (logos) was with God, and the word (logos) was God." As it is translated here, the word logos is usually translated as "word." Logos has a deep philosophical tradition that antedates John's Gospel by half of a millennium. Heraclitus (560 BC) first used the word in reference to a fixed principle in a world of change; it was his expression of God. [9] The Stoics later adapted a similar principle that the Logos was the power that controlled and ordered the world. The Logos would have helped John to present Christianity to Greeks who were familiar with the idea. [10] However, this idea of the word in relation to God was not an exclusively Greek principle. Philo (a first century Jew from Alexandria), being influenced by the Greeks, related the idea of the Logos to Yahweh, the God of Israel. [11] Additionally, the Hebrew Scriptures almost certainly inspired John to use the Logos. When the 'word of God' is used throughout the Old Testament, it often refers to God being in action, particularly in regards to "creation, revelation and deliverance." [12] With the use of Logos John would have been able to reveal Christ's deity to both Jews and Greeks alike.

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**John 1 Bible Study**

**Bible study of John chapter 1**

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John 1:19-28 Bible Study: [John the Baptist](http://www.bibleversestudy.com/johngospel/john1-who-was-john-the-baptist.htm)  
John 1:29-34 Bible Study: [Lamb of God](http://www.bibleversestudy.com/johngospel/john1-lamb-of-god.htm)  
John 1:35-51 Bible Study: [Andrew, Peter, Philip & Nathanael](http://www.bibleversestudy.com/johngospel/john1-andrew-peter-philip-nathanael.htm)

**JOHN 1:1-3  1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.**

**Whatever this "Word" (John 1:1) is, what claims are being made above?**  
A. The Word is someone who can be referred to as **"Him"** (John 1:3).  
B. He was **"with God"**(John 1:1).  
C. He **"was God"**(John 1:1).  
D. He existed from **"the beginning"** (John 1:1 & 2).  
E. Everything was **"made through Him"** (John 1:3).

**To start, are these five claims at least internally consistent with the rest of the Bible?**  
Since John 1:1 talks about **"in the beginning,"** please turn to the beginning of the Bible and read [how God created the world](http://www.bibleversestudy.com/genesis/genesis1-how-god-created-the-world.htm.htm) in [Genesis chapter 1](http://www.bibleversestudy.com/genesis/genesis1-how-god-created-the-world.htm.htm).

**What are the second and third words of Genesis 1, verses 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24 and 26?**  
**"God said,"** so according to the Bible, God created everything not with a wand or a snap of His fingers but through **"Word"** (John 1:1), hence "E" above.

**When does Genesis 1 say the creation through His Word took place?**  
**"In the beginning"**(Genesis 1:1),  hence "D" above.

**What is the fifth word in Genesis 1:26?**  
**"Us,"** which means that whomever God is referring to is: (1) also God; (2) with God; and (3) someone who can be referred to by a personal pronoun, hence "A," "B," "C" above. So A,B,C,D,E above are internally consistent in the Bible.

**To whom does the "Us" refer?**  
God the Father, God the Son (see John 1:14 below) and God the Holy Spirit.

**Is the Holy Spirit mentioned in the Genesis passage above?**  
**"And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."**(Genesis 1:2)

**JOHN 1:4-13  4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

**What role was John the Baptist sent to perform?**  
John 1: 7-8 state that he was to, **"bear witness of the/that light."**

**Who is the "light"?**  
John 1:10 onwards refers to the light as **"He"** and**"Him,"** and states that the**"world was made through Him,"** equating Him to the **"Word"** above. So the**"Word"** above is now being referred to as the **"light."**

**Where is this "light"?**  
John 1:10 states, **"He was in the world,"**and John 1:11 states, **"He came to His own,"** although **"His own did not receive Him."**

**What is "his own" in John 1:11?**  
The Israelites.

**Who can become children of God?**  
**"Those who believe in His name."** (John 1:12)

**JOHN 1:14-18  14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.**

**What happened to the "Word"?**  
**"Became flesh and dwelt among us"** (John 1:14) - i.e., He became a human being and lived among us.

**What is His name?**  
**"Jesus Christ."**(John 1:17)

**What additional precision is there about His relationship with God the Father?**  
John 1:18 states that Jesus is the Father’s **"only begotten Son,"** and*monogenes*, the original Greek word translated**"only begotten"** literally means "one of a kind" - i.e., "unique" or "incomparable," and connotes derivation instead of birth, indicating no defined start to Jesus’ existence; He had always existed from the **"beginning"**(John 1:1) with the Father.

**How can A,B,C,D,E above be stated more precisely with these additional details?**  
A. **Jesus** is someone who can be referred to as **"He"** or **"Him."**  
B. **Jesus** is the only begotten son of God the Father.  
C. **Jesus** is God.  
D. **Jesus** existed from **"the beginning."**  
E. Everything was made through **Jesus.**

According to the Bible, Jesus isn’t a 30-year old man who lived 2,000 years ago. The verses above state that He is God who came to live with mankind in human form for about 30 years some 2,000 years ago, but was and always remains the Creator God.