

The Gospel of John: The “Fourth” Gospel



Title Page to John in the Book of Kells (800 AD – Ireland)

What is a “gospel”?

The Gospel of John is:

- Unique – only 8% appears in the other 3 gospels
 - A “spiritual book”
 - A “theological tract”
 - A “literary work”

Who wrote the Gospel of John?



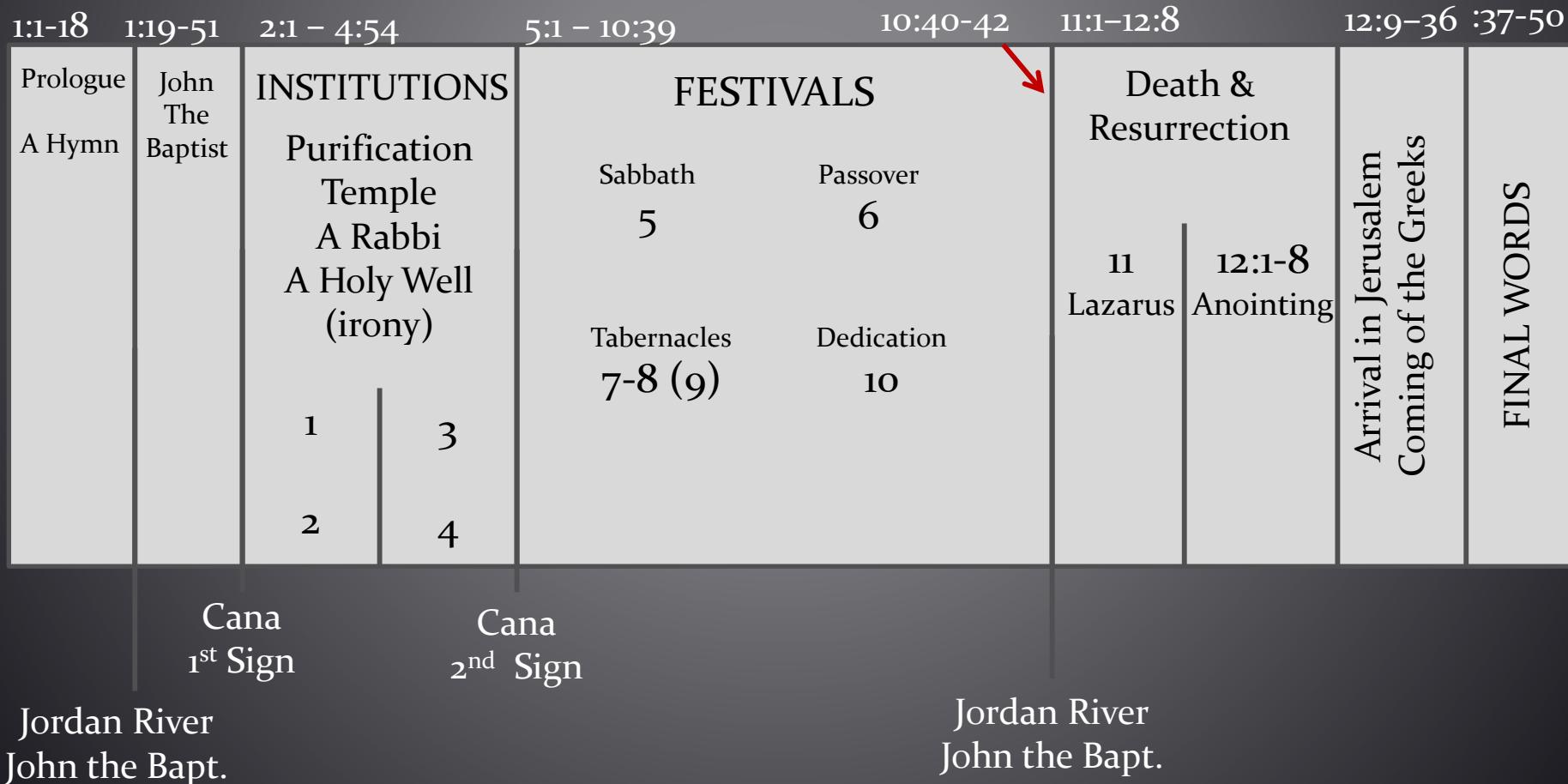
P52 (125 AD – Egypt)

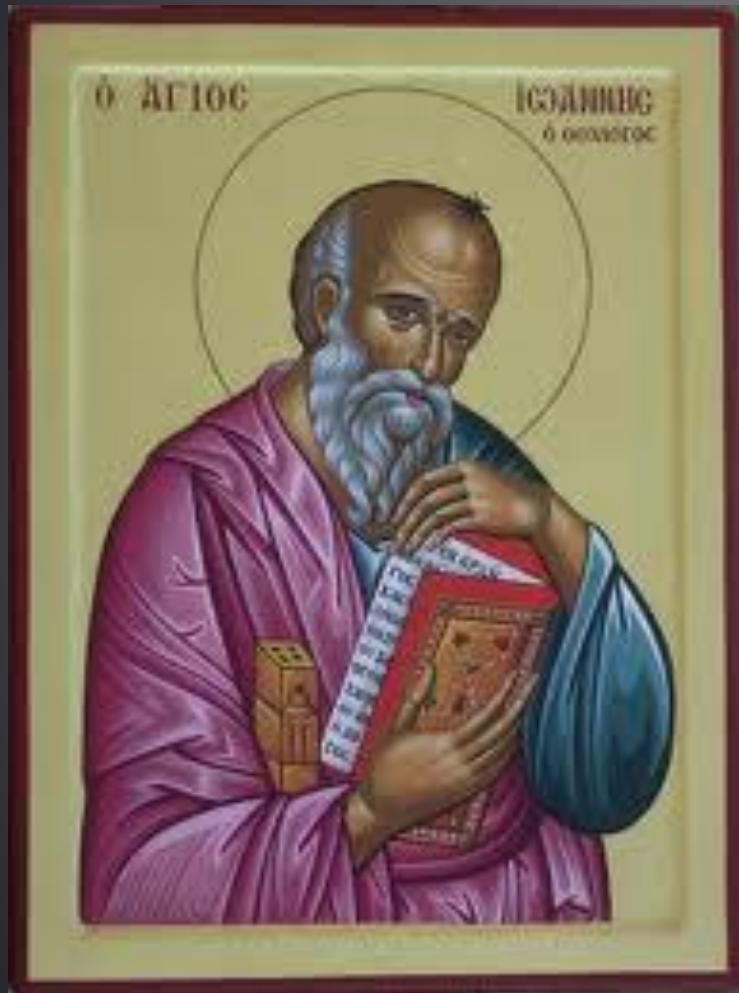
Internal Evidence

External Evidence

Date

The Book of Signs (1:1 – 12:50)





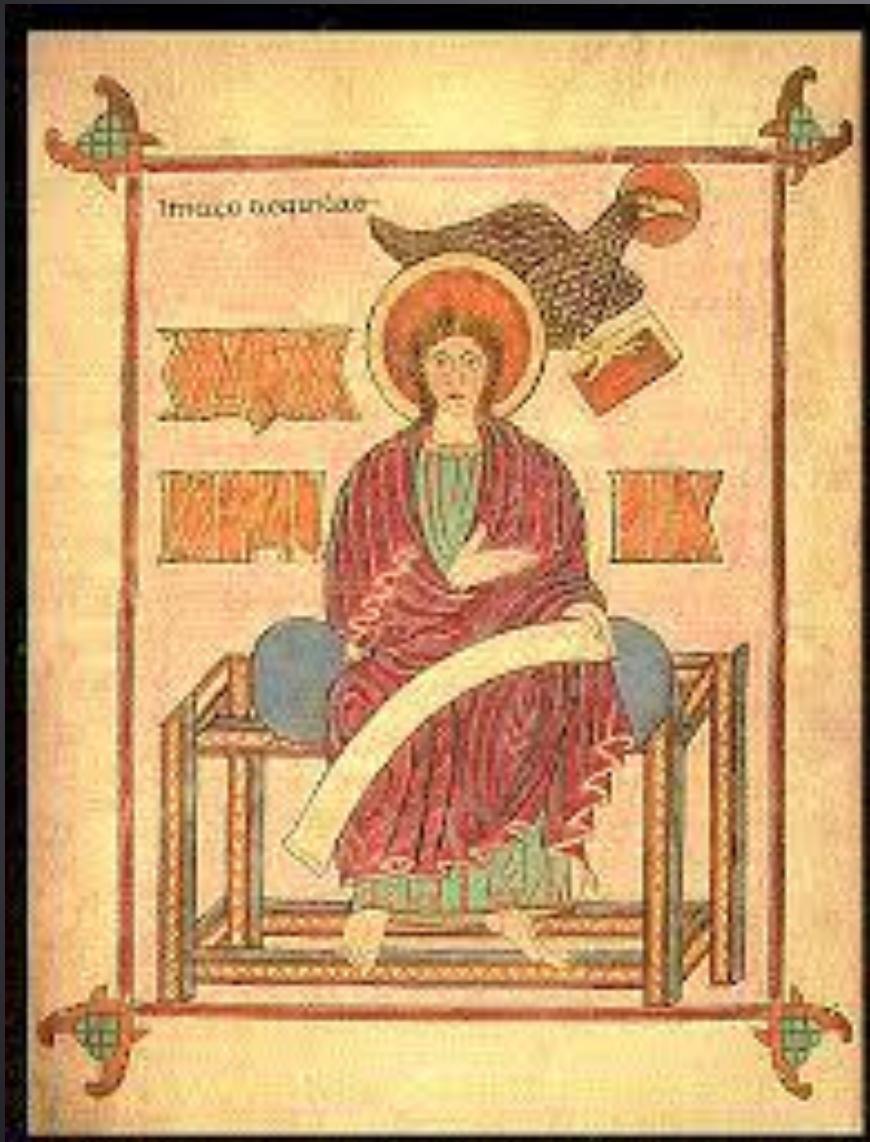
Themes in John to Watch For:

Revelation and Redemption

Misunderstanding

Jewish Concerns

Christian Concerns



John 1: 1-18

The Word Became Flesh

Vv. 1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and Word was God
He was in the beginning with God.

Vv. 3 - 8

All things through him came into being, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of people. And the light shone in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

(There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came as a witness so that he might testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. That one was not the light, but came to testify concerning the light.)



P66 – (200 AD – Egypt)

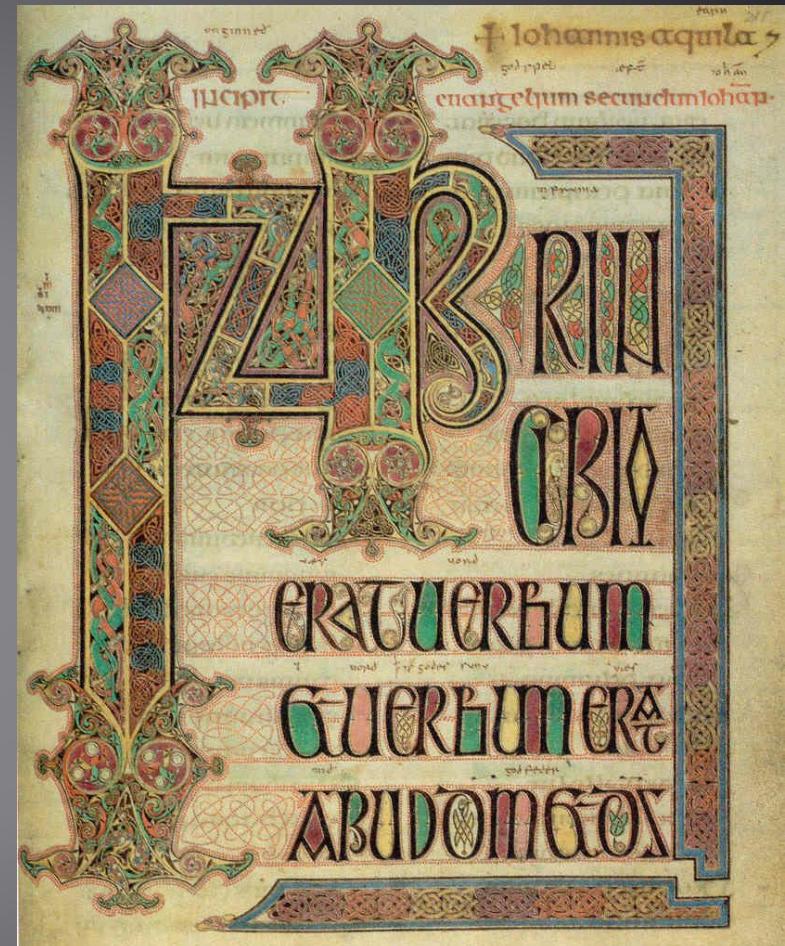
Vv. 9 – 13

The true light, which illuminates every person,
was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came
into being through him, and the world did
not know him.

He came to his own people, and the people
did not welcome him.

But to the ones who received him, he gave
them power to become children of God, who
believed on his name, who were [was] born
out of blood or out of the will of the flesh or
out of a father's will, but out of God.



Lindisfarne Gospel (800 AD –
Britain)

vv. 14 - 18

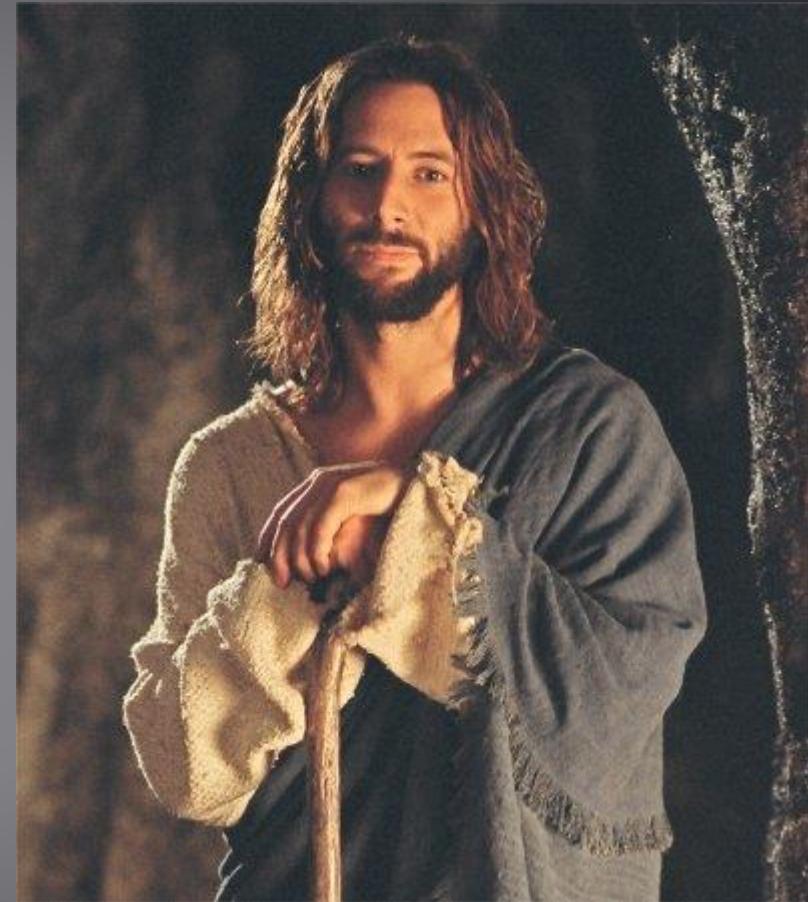
And the Word became flesh and
“tabernacled” among us, and we beheld his
glory, glory as unique from the father, full of
grace and truth.

(John testifies concerning him and has cried
out saying, “This one is he of whom I said,
‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me
because he was before me.’”)

Out of his fullness we all received grace upon
grace.

The Law was given through Moses, but grace
and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God. It is [only God]
the [only Son] who is close to the father’s
bosom making that one known.

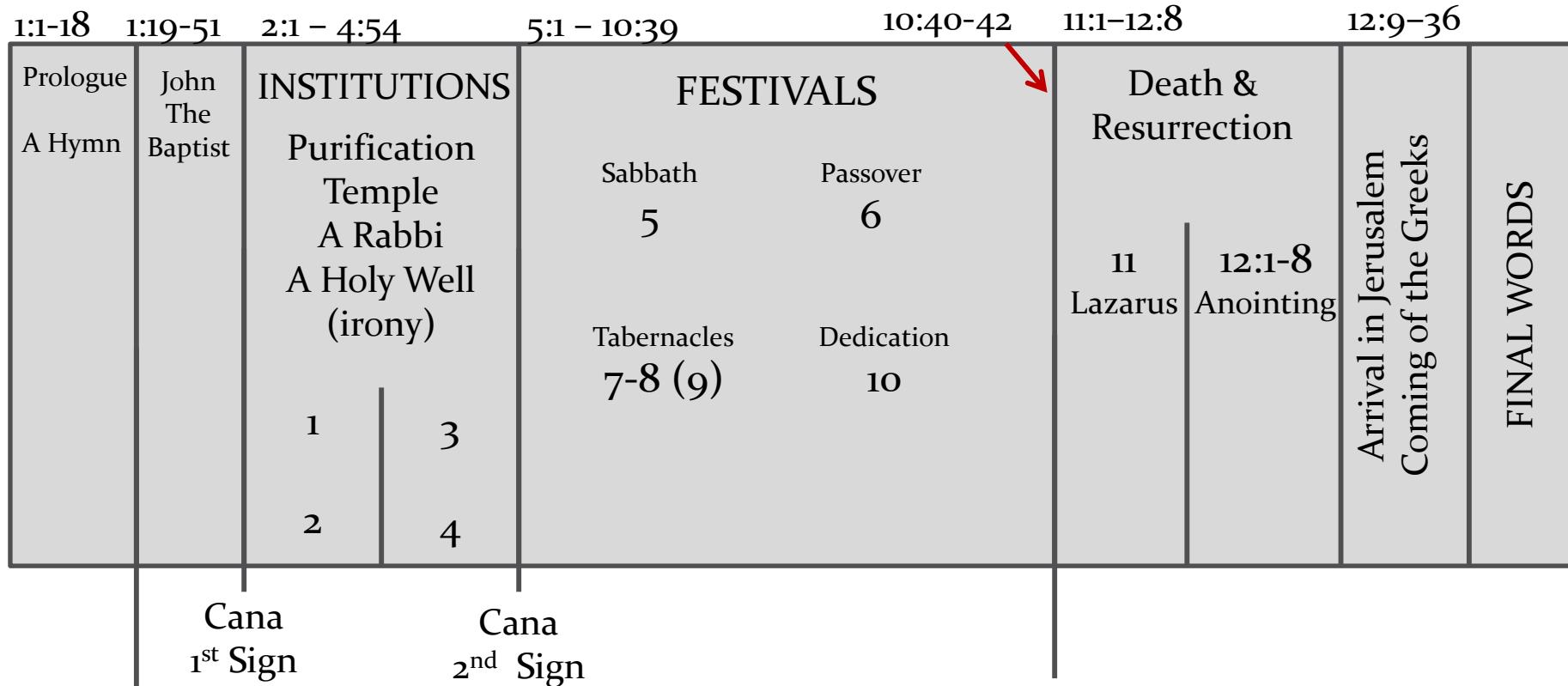


Desmond from “Lost” as Jesus

What does this mean to me?

- The Gospel is NOT about ideas, politics, power, “culture wars” or anything else – it is about a PERSON
- Radical rethinking about our society – our culture is not open to a theocentric view of the world – we must be cross-cultural and not *ghetto-ize* the church
- Not “us” and “them” – we all need transformation

The Book of Signs (1:1 – 12:50)



Jordan River
John the Bapt.

Jordan River
John the Bapt.