

### Unique Features of The Gospel of John

John is an unusual Gospel in that about 90 percent of what is found in John is not found in the other three Gospels, which gives us better insight into who Jesus is than if we had only Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

John utilizes various themes throughout his Gospel, such as light and darkness, blindness and sight, grace and truth, and rejecting or receiving.

### The Importance of “Faith” in The Gospel of John

The key word in the book is the verb believe (Gr. pisteuo), which appears 98 times. John is writing to persuade people to believe in Jesus. Additionally, John is also interested in strengthening the faith of those who are already followers of Jesus.

### A Summary Statement of The Gospel of John

Jesus is the Son of God—fully human, fully divine—and whoever believes in Him will have life in his name (John 20:30-31).

### A Synthetic Chart for The Gospel of John

Prologue	The 7 Signs	The Upper Room	The Final Sign	Epilogue
1:1-8	1:19—12:50	13:1—17:26	18:1—20:31	21:1-25
Eternity Past	Three Years	Final Week		Pre-Ascension
Introduction	Acceptance or Rejection	Preparation	Crucifixion	Victory
Primarily Public Messages		Primarily Private Messages		

### The Words and Works of Jesus in The Gospel of John

The 7 Messianic “I AM” Words	The 7 Messianic Works
1. “I AM the bread of life” — John 6:35	1. Water into Wine — John 2:1-11
2. “I AM the light of the world” — John 8:12	2. Healing of nobleman’s son — John 4:46-54
3. “I AM the gate” — John 10:9	3. Healing at Bethesda — John 5:1-9
4. “I AM the good shepherd” — John 10:11	4. Feeding of the 5,000 — John 6:1-14
5. “I AM the resurrection & the life” — John 11:25	5. Walking on Water — John 6:15-25
6. “I AM the way, the truth, & the life” — John 14:6	6. Healing the blind man — John 9:1-12ff
7. “I AM the true grapevine” — John 15:1	7. Raising of Lazarus — John 11:1-46

## The Jewish Feasts in The Gospel of John

An interesting feature in The Gospel of John is its connection to the Jewish Feasts.

**The first feast is Passover in John 2:13-25.** Jesus is in Jerusalem during Passover. Passover refers all the way back to Ex. 12 and the night when the Lord's angel passed over the Jews because of the blood of the Lamb.

**The second feast is the "Unknown Feast" in John 5:1-17.** We are not told for which feast Jesus travels to Jerusalem in John 5. Proposals have been Passover, Tabernacles, and Purim. Purim is connected to Queen Esther (Esther 9:20-32) and God's deliverance of the Jews from their enemies. Even today, Jews celebrate Purim and remember the time when God "worked" to save them from Haman.

**The third feast is Passover in John 6:4.** John tells us that Passover was "near." In the Feeding of the 5,000, John emphasizes the unleavened bread of Passover and reminds us that Jesus is our bread, the one capable of providing for our needs.

**The fourth feast is Tabernacles or feast of booths in John 7:2—8:59.** The Feast of Tabernacles commemorated the 40 years that Israel wandered in the wilderness as punishment for their sins. It also included a "water libation ceremony" (John 7:37-39). During Tabernacles, giant candlesticks were placed in the Temple area, and this provides the background for Jesus' statement in John 8:12.

**The fifth feast is Hanukkah in John 10:22-42.** Hanukkah, or the Feast of Dedication, commemorates the Maccabees and the recapturing of the Temple from Antiochus Epiphanies IV. Most modern Jews call this Hanukkah or "the festival of lights" referring to the time when the oil to light the Menorah for a single day miraculously burned for 8 days.

**The sixth feast is Passover in John 12:12—19.** This is the third Passover feast mentioned in John's gospel. This event literally begins the last seven days of Jesus life. This is typically called "Passion Week" and shows us that our Passover Lamb is now headed to the cross of Calvary.

**The seventh "feast" is Sabbath in John 5:9-18; 7:23; 9:14-16.** Technically, Sabbath is a holy day that occurs every week (unlike the other holidays which occur once a year). Throughout The Gospel of John, Jesus performs miracles on the Sabbath resulting in controversy with the Pharisees.

### Application

Since John's purpose is to persuade people to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the main application is to ask yourself: "Do I believe that Jesus is the Savior, that He died on the cross for my sins, and that I am forgiven because of Him?"

An additional application is to list seven (since seven is John's favorite number) people for whom you will pray that they come to faith in Jesus:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)