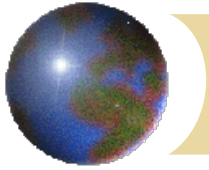


The Gospel of John

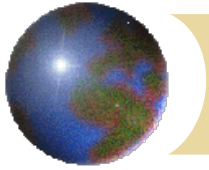
Robert C. Newman





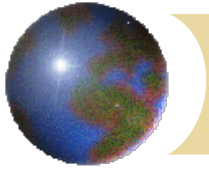
Recent Criticism of John

- ❖ John is more strenuously questioned by liberals than are the Synoptics.
- ❖ Many who are not liberal are influenced:
 - ❖ General public
 - ❖ Muslims
 - ❖ New-Agers
 - ❖ Conservatives in liberal denominations



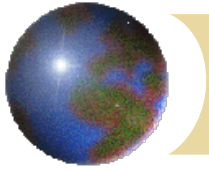
Objections to John

- ✚ Differences in content vs Synoptics
- ✚ Explicit indications of Jesus' deity
- ✚ Alleged Hellenistic features in John
- ✚ Gospel's claim to be from closest disciple



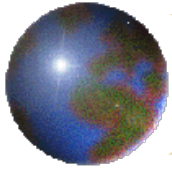
Differences in Content

- ❖ Unique Material
 - ❑ 92% of John not found elsewhere
- ❖ Detailed Chronology
 - ❑ Jesus' ministry in John clearly 3+ years
- ❖ Different Themes
 - ❑ Not in John:
 - Kingdom, demons, repentance, prayer
 - ❑ New in John:
 - Truth, life, world, abiding, witness
 - ❑ Shared:
 - Father, Son of Man, faith, love, sending



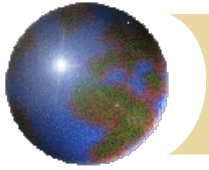
Explicit on Jesus' Deity

- ✪ Clearer in John, but implied in Synoptics
 - ✪ Speech, forgiving sin, raising dead, commanding weather
- ✪ Jesus' own statements more cryptic than those of narrator



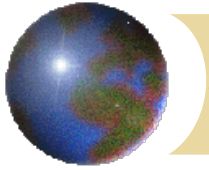
Hellenisms in John

- ❁ *Logos* - λόγος
 - ❁ Greek philosophical background
 - ❁ But also in Philo
 - ❁ And Aramaic equivalent in Targums
- ❁ Other words with philosophical or pagan dualistic meanings
 - ❁ Light/dark, truth/error
 - ❁ These found in Dead Sea Scrolls



From Closest Apostle?

- ✪ This is only (canonical) Gospel to make such a claim directly.
- ✪ But common in later, heretical Gospels:
 - ✪ Gospel of Peter
 - ✪ Gospel of Thomas
 - ✪ Gospel of Barnabas



Resulting Attitudes toward John

✚ Bultmann

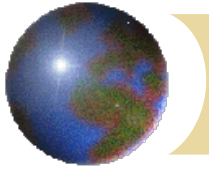
- ✚ Contains 3+ sources, 2 editors
- ✚ Completed AD 80-120

✚ Brown

- ✚ By Johannine school, completed c AD 100

✚ Hengel

- ✚ By John the Elder, completed c AD 110



Attestation and Authorship

⊕ Internal Evidence

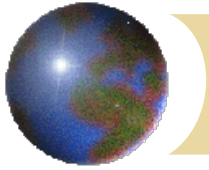
- ⊕ Indirect

- ⊕ Direct

⊕ External Evidence

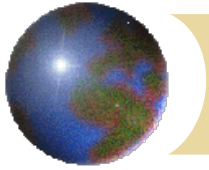
- ⊕ Allusions

- ⊕ Statements



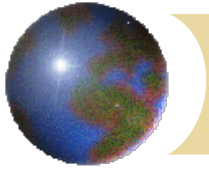
Westcott's Arguments

- ✪ Religious knowledge → Jew
- ✪ Geographic knowledge → Palestinian
- ✪ Standpoint of the narrative →
eyewitness, apostle, one of inner 3



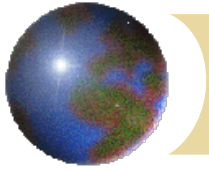
Direct Internal Evidence

- ✪ John 1:14 "we beheld" → author was beholder, eyewitness
- ✪ John 1:6,15,19, etc. Calls John the Baptist just "John"
- ✪ John 21:24-25 "this is the disciple... who wrote these things"



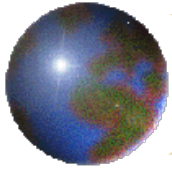
External Evidence

- ✪ 1 Clement (c 95) does not mention
- ✪ Ignatius to Philadelphians (c 115)
- ✪ Pseudo-Barnabas (c 135)
- ✪ Justin Martyr (c150)
- ✪ Tatian, *Diatessaron* (c 170)
- ✪ Muratorian Canon (c 170)
- ✪ Irenaeus (c 170)



Ignatius, Philadelphians ch 7

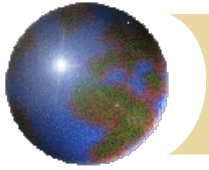
"For even though certain persons desired to deceive me after the flesh, yet the spirit is not deceived, being from God; for 'it knoweth whence it cometh and where it goeth,' [John 3:8] and it searcheth out the hidden things."



Pseudo-Barnabas, sect. 11

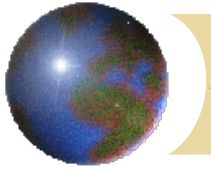
In the midst of a somewhat allegorical exegesis of several OT passages, quotes John 6:51:

"And whosoever shall eat of these shall live forever."



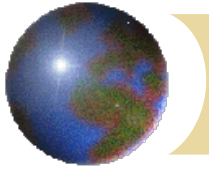
Justin Martyr

- Mentions the "memoirs of the apostles, called Gospels"
- Calls Jesus "the Logos" in *Dialogue with Trypho*, 127-28.
- Cites John 3:5 in *Apology* 61:
 - "Except ye be born again, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven"
- In *Dialogue* 91, explains serpent as Jesus does in John 3:14.



John the Man

- ✚ Background
- ✚ Jesus' Disciple in Palestine
- ✚ Jesus' Disciple Elsewhere



John's Background

✚ Family

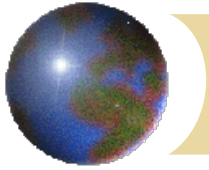
- ✚ Zebedee, Salome, James

✚ Fishermen

✚ Connection with Jerusalem?

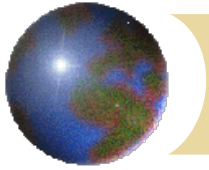
- ✚ Known to high priest
- ✚ Have a home there?

✚ Disciple of John the Baptist?



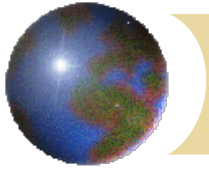
Jesus' Disciple in Palestine

- Involved in many incidents in Gospels
 - One of "inner three"
 - Present at transfiguration, cross
 - Races Peter to tomb
- Recedes into background in Acts
- Important figure in church of Jerusalem
 - Called "pillar" in Gal 2:9



Jesus' Disciple outside Palestine

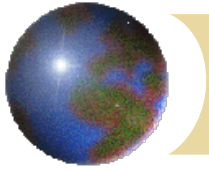
- ✪ Presumably left before AD 70
- ✪ Settled in Ephesus
- ✪ Exiled to Patmos about 95
- ✪ Lived very long life, dying about AD 100 or shortly thereafter.



Date of John's Gospel

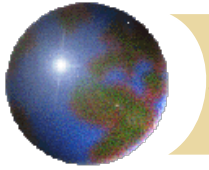
✦ Variety of Datings

- ✦ Narrower range now than earlier
- ✦ Liberals – early 2nd century
- ✦ Conservatives – end 1st century
- ✦ Early dating – before AD 70



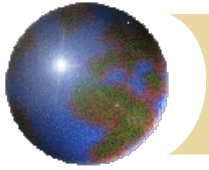
Date of John's Gospel

- ⊕ Not after Ignatius (107-115)
- ⊕ John already old (John 21)
 - ⊕ After death of Peter (c 68)
 - ⊕ No textual support to put ch 21 later
- ⊕ Most conservatives put in 90s
- ⊕ A few (even liberals) put earlier



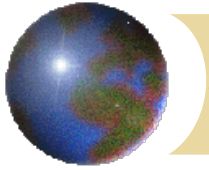
Purpose of Gospel

- Stated by author John 20:30-31
 - That readers believe in Jesus
 - That they have eternal life
- Supplement other Gospels?
- Refute Jewish opposition?
- Teaching about life in church?
- Refute Gnosticism?



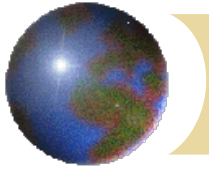
Characteristics & Techniques

- ✚ Distinctive Vocabulary
- ✚ Explanatory Notes
- ✚ Misunderstandings
- ✚ Irony
- ✚ Double Meaning
- ✚ Inverted Parallelism (Chiasm)
- ✚ Variation



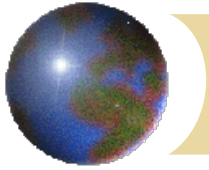
Characteristics & Techniques

- ⊕ OT Allusions
- ⊕ Symbolism
- ⊕ Dualism
- ⊕ Hyperbole
- ⊕ Inclusion (*Inclusio*)
- ⊕ Repetition
- ⊕ Apparent Contradiction



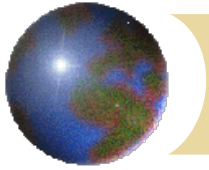
John's Theology (IH Marshall)

- ✚ John as Revelation
- ✚ Signs & Witnesses
- ✚ Person of Jesus
- ✚ Work of Jesus
- ✚ The New Life
- ✚ The People of God
- ✚ Eschatology



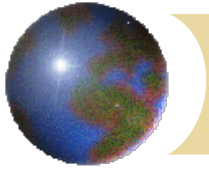
John as Revelation

- To reveal Jesus' glory as Son of God
 - Shared w/ Father before incarnation
 - Demonstrated by signs
 - Supreme glory in passion
- To reveal truth
 - Jesus brings truth
 - Is true bread for souls of men



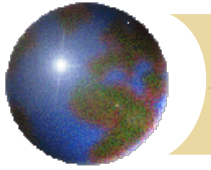
Signs and Witnesses

- ✪ Jesus' miracles as signs
- ✪ Jesus' word-signs
- ✪ Jesus' glory attested by witnesses
 - ▣ Jesus
 - ▣ John Baptist
 - ▣ Disciples
 - ▣ Scriptures
 - ▣ Father



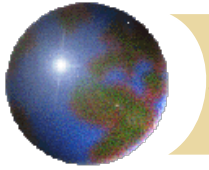
Person of Jesus in John

- ⊕ Word
- ⊕ Messiah
- ⊕ Son of Man
- ⊕ Son of God
- ⊕ God



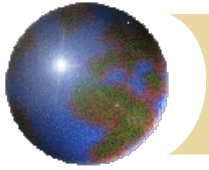
Work of Jesus in John

- ☩ Life
- ☩ Light
- ☩ Way
- ☩ Good Shepherd



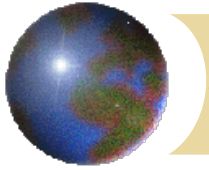
The New Life in John

- ✦ Savior
- ✦ New Birth
- ✦ Faith
- ✦ Knowledge
- ✦ Love
- ✦ Abide, in



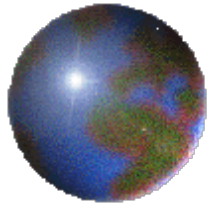
The People of God in John

- "Church" does not appear
- Flock
- Vine
- Love/unity
- Sending



Eschatology in John

- ✪ Continuing life of the church
- ✪ Spirit as replacement for Jesus
- ✪ "Already" eschatology
- ✪ "Not yet" eschatology



The End

... but the beginning of a lifetime of study of the Gospel of John