

The Gospel of John

The "Other" Gospel

The Synoptics and John

- Synoptic = “see together”
- Common sources
- Shared material
- Unique witnessed in dialogue

The Gospel of John

- “A spiritual gospel”
- No birth narrative, but a prologue
- John 1
- “In the beginning...”

- John 1 midrash on creation story
- *Logos* the principle of order, reason which stands in contrast to chaos.
- *Logos* is personified Wisdom
- Jesus as the intersection between time/space, spiritual and everything else...

Differences between John and the Synoptics

- No birth narrative
- John the Baptist/Baptizer
- Several journeys into Jerusalem in John vs. one in the synoptics
- Synoptics – 1 year ministry
- John – 3 year ministry

- Last Supper was a Passover meal in Synoptics.
- In John, the last supper was the day before the Passover and the crucifixion was on the day the Passover lambs were sacrificed.
- Jesus' teachings are presented as long discourses in John versus individual units in the Synoptic Gospels.
- Fewer parables
- Signs instead of miracles

Stories unique to John's Gospel

- Calling of Andrew, Philip and Nathaniel (1:35-51)
- Changing of Water into Wine (2:1-12)
- Nicodemus (3: 1-21)
- Samaritan woman at well (4:1-42)
- Crippled man at the pool of Bethesda (5:1-18)

- Rescue of Adulterous woman from stoning (7:53-8:11)
- Healing of Man born blind (9:1-41)
- Raising of Lazarus (11:1-44)
- Washing of Disciples' feet (13:1-20)
- Prayer for believers to be united (17:1-26)
- Resurrection appearance to Thomas (20:24-29)

Structure of John

- Layering
- Story line...
- Real story is expressed in “I am” sayings

I am...

- John 6:35 I am the bread of life
- John 8:12/9:5 I am the light of the world
- John 8:58 Before Abraham was, I am
- John 10:9 I am the gate
- John 10:11 I am the good shepherd

■ John 11:25
the life

I am the resurrection and

■ John 14:6

I am the way the truth and the life

■ John 15:1

I am the true vine

Themes in John

- Jesus the true Revelation of God/ Incarnation
- Jesus is God
- Jesus' death=glorification
- The *Paraclete*
- The world and the Jews
- Loving one another