

John

Studying To Show
Ourselves Approved

“There was the true Light which, coming
into the world, enlightens every man”
(John 1:9)

By Charles Willis

John

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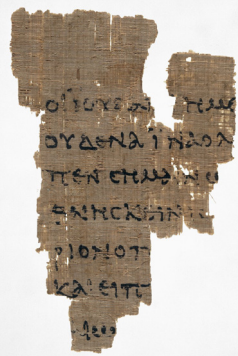
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The author of the book is clearly the apostle John. In Mark 3:17 Jesus refers to John and his brother James as “sons of thunder.” John was a follower of John the Baptist (1:19–51) who then became a disciple of Jesus (Luke 5:1–11), and was one of the chosen to be an apostle (Luke 6:12–16). He did much work in the early church, being mentioned three times in the book of Acts. After serving a long life as an apostle, he was imprisoned on the isle of Patmos where he received the glorious Revelation of Jesus Christ and wrote it down for us (the book of Revelation). In the gospel of John, the author refers to himself as the disciple “whom Jesus loved” (13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20). He writes from the position of being an eye witness of the things recorded (1:14; 19:35; 21:24–25). Non-biblical accounts agree, particularly a disciple of the apostle John (Polycarp) whose disciple, Irenaeus, wrote in his *Against Heresies* (185 A.D.) that John was the author, and that John lived until the time of the Roman Emperor Trajan (98–117 A.D.).



The Rylands Library Papyrus P52, also known as the St. John’s fragment, is a fragment from a papyrus codex, measuring only 3.5 by 2.5 inches (8.9 by 6 cm) at its widest; and conserved with the Rylands Papyri at the John Rylands University Library Manchester, UK. The front (recto) contains parts of seven lines from the Gospel of John 18:31–33, in Greek, and the back (verso) contains parts of seven lines from verses 37–38. The fragment of papyrus was among a group acquired on the Egyptian market in 1920 by Bernard Grenfell. The original transcription and translation of the fragment of text was not done until 1934, by Colin H. Roberts. Since 2007, the papyrus has been on permanent display in the library’s Deansgate building. Rylands P52 is generally accepted as the earliest extant record of a canonical New Testament text, arguably dated to 125 A.D.

The gospel of John is a unique writing in the New Testament. It does not follow the pattern of the synoptic gospels, but rather prosecutes the point of presenting evidence intended to cause belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. John 20:30–31 serves very well as the theme of the gospel account: “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” The letter begins with a very unique prologue that sets the tone for the remainder of the letter, followed a presentation of Christ from several vantage points. Then come seven miracles (only seven) interspersed with the seven “I am” statements of Christ. John specifically chose these seven miracles and statements as strong evidence to be weighed by the reader which would be convincing.

A Brief Outline

I. Prologue (1:1–18)

II. Presentation of Christ (1:19–6:71)

- A. To His disciples (1:19–2:12)
- B. To the Jews (2:13–3:36)
- C. To the Samaritans (4:1–5:4)
- D. To the Jewish leaders (5:1–47)
- E. To the multitudes (6:1–71)

III. Opposition to Christ from Jewish Leaders (chapters 7–12)

- A. Over Moses (7:1–8:11)
- B. Over Abraham (8:12–59)
- C. Over who the Messiah is (9:1–10:42)
- D. Over His miracles and power (11:1–12:36)
- E. They would not believe (12:37–50)

IV. The Outcome (chapters 12–21)

- A. The faith of the disciples (13–17)
- B. The unbelief of the Jews (18–19)
- C. The victory of Christ (20–21)

1. From 1:1, define the “Word” (Greek is “logos”).
2. How is “the Word” presented in 1:1–5? What is affirmed?
3. What is the “Light” (1:5, 8–9)?
4. What was the role of John the Baptist (1:6–8)?
5. Who is the “He” in 1:10?
6. Describe the meaning of each of these:
 - A. He was in the world (1:10)
 - B. The world did not know Him (1:10)
 - C. Those who were His own did not receive Him (1:11)
7. Who received Him, and what right were they given (1:12–13)?
8. John wants us to see the deity of Christ. What evidence is presented in 1:14–18?
9. What was meant by the questions to John the Baptist, “*Are you Elijah?*” and “*Are you the Prophet*” (1:21)?
10. Who does John say he is (1:22–23)?
11. Why was John baptizing (1:24–28)?
12. How did John know who Jesus was? What does He testify about Him (1:29–34)?
13. How did Simon come to meet Jesus (1:35–42)?
14. What was Nathanael’s attitude about Jesus, and how did it change (1:45–49)?
15. What did Jesus say Nathanael would see (1:50–51)?

The First Miracle (2:1–11)

1. What was Jesus' first miracle?
2. Why did He do this miracle?
3. What did Jesus mean "My hour has not yet come" (2:4)?

The Passover

4. Why did Jesus drive people out of the temple (2:13–16)?
5. What did the disciples associate this with (2:17)?
6. What did the Jews associate this with (2:18)?
7. What sign does Jesus offer to demonstrate His authority (2:18–22)? Explain the meaning.
8. What was the purpose of the miracles of Jesus (even those not specifically named in this book) (2:23)?
9. Explain 2:24–25.

Meeting With Nicodemus

10. Who was Nicodemus, and what is revealed of his faith and character (3:1–12)?
11. To what kingdom does Jesus refer (3:3, 5)?
12. Explain being born of water and the spirit (3:3, 5–6). Try to provide additional Scriptures to help with the understanding.
13. What does Jesus argue that should cause Nicodemus to believe (3:12–13)?
14. What comparison is made to the serpent lifted up in the wilderness (3:14–15)?
15. Why did God send His Son (3:16–18)?
16. Compare 3:19–21 with 1:9–13. From John 3, what is the "Light"?
17. Explain 3:20.

1. What was the baptism in 4:1–3?
2. What was the problem with Jesus speaking to the woman at the well (4:7–9, 27)?
3. What approach does Jesus use to cause the woman to believe He is the Christ (4:10–26)?
4. Explain the meaning of worshipping “*in spirit and in truth*” (4:24).
5. What does the woman testify about Jesus (4:28–29)? What was the result of her testimony (4:39)?
6. What was Jesus’ food, and what does this mean (4:31–34)?
7. Explain the imagery in 4:35–38.
 - A. What is the field?
 - B. Who are the reapers?
 - C. Who were the “others” who have labored (4:34)?
8. What was the result of Jesus’ teaching (4:40–42)? What did they believe?
9. Jesus said, “*a prophet has no honor in his own country*” (4:44). What does this mean in the context?

The Second Miracle (4:46–54)

10. What condemning statement does Jesus make of the people (4:46–48)?
11. How does the royal official show himself to be different than others (4:49–54)?
12. Why did Jesus perform this miracle?

The Third Miracle (5:1–9)

1. How did Jesus heal the man at Bethesda (5:1–9)?
2. Why were some of the Jews upset (5:9–16)?
3. What was Jesus' response (5:17)? Explain the meaning.
4. How was this response received by the Jews (5:18)?

Arguments From Jesus

5. Make a list of the arguments Jesus makes in 5:19–24 to support the assertion He is the Son of God.
6. Identify the two resurrections Jesus speaks about (5:25–29).
7. We could Jesus do nothing on His own initiative (5:30)? Isn't He God?
8. Who is the other who testifies about Jesus (5:32)?
 - A. 5:33–35
 - B. 5:36
 - C. 5:37–38
 - D. 5:39

Condemnation of the Jews

9. What scathing remarks does Jesus make about the Jews (5:40–44)?
10. How would Moses accuse the Jews (5:45–47)?

The Fourth Miracle (6:1–14)

1. Describe the miracle. What did the apostles see? what did the people see?
2. What was the purpose of this miracle (6:14)?

The Fifth Miracle (6:15–21)

3. How far from shore were they when they saw the miracle? Why is this detail important?
4. What was the purpose of this miracle?
5. How did the people recognize something had happened (6:22–25)?
6. What is wrong with this phrase: “*What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?*” (6:30)?
7. Who does Jesus affirm gave them bread (6:31–35)?
8. Explain the figurative language in 6:35.
9. What was the will of Jesus (6:36–38)?
10. What was the will of the Father (6:39–40)?

Grumbling (6:41–65)

11. Why did the Jews grumble (6:41–43)?
12. How does God draw men to Him (6:44–45)?
13. How does Jesus describe Himself (6:51–58)?
14. Why did Jesus say “*no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father*” (6:65)?
15. What is Peter’s confession (6:66–71)?

1. Why did Jesus' brothers make the statement in 7:4?
2. What does Jesus mean by "My time has not yet fully come" (7:6–8)?
3. Describe the atmosphere of the Feast of Booths when Jesus began to teach (7:10–14).
4. What were the Jews surprised by (7:15) and how does Jesus answer them (7:16–19)?
5. How does Jesus address the accusations made against Him from 5:18 (7:16–29)?
6. What were the responses to Jesus' teaching (7:20, 25–26, 30–32)?
7. What does Jesus mean by "*a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me*" (7:33–36)?
8. Explain 7:39.
9. Who is "*the Prophet*" (7:40)?
10. What was known about the coming of the Christ (7:42–43)?
11. Why did the officers not arrest Jesus (7:44–53)?
12. What was the purpose from bringing the adulterous woman to Jesus, and what was wrong with what the scribes and Pharisees did (8:1–6)?
13. How does Jesus handle their "test" (8:7–11)?
14. What figurative language does Jesus apply to Himself (8:12, compare with 1:9)?
15. Why could Jesus affirm His testimony was true (8:14–20, compare with 1:17)?
16. List the questions from the Jews, and how Jesus answered them (8:21–38).
17. How are disciples of Jesus recognized (8:31–32)?
18. Of what does Jesus accuse the Jews (8:39–47)?
19. What does Jesus affirm about Abraham and the relation with the Jews, and with Himself (8:48–59)?

The Sixth Miracle (9:1–42)

1. Why was the man born blind (9:1–4)?
2. How did the statement in 9:5 relate to 9:6?
3. What was the controversy about with the Jews (9:13–17)?
4. Who was called to witness about the man's blindness (9:18–23)?
5. What great things does this man testify about Jesus (9:24–31)?
6. Why did the Jews put him out (9:32–34)?
7. Explain Jesus' statement in 9:39. (Consider also 9:40–42.)

The Good Shepherd (10:1–21)

8. Looking at the parable (10:1–5) and Jesus' explanation (10:6–21) explain the following figures of speech.
 - A. *"I am the door of the sheep"*
 - B. *"I am the good shepherd"*
 - C. *"I have other sheep, which are not of this fold"* (10:16)
9. Why does the Father love Jesus (10:17–18)?
10. What was the reaction of the Jews (10:19–21)? Compare with the reaction today.
11. How does Jesus answer the statement, "If you are the Christ, tell us plainly" (10:24–30)?
12. What is Jesus' argument about their charge of blasphemy (10:31–38)?
13. How did Jesus elude this crowd in the temple (10:39–42)?

The Seventh Miracle (11:1–57)

1. Why did Jesus two days longer after He was told Lazarus was sick (11:1–6)?
2. What did the disciples think about returning to Judea (11:7–16)?
3. Why was Jesus going to perform this miracle (11:11–15)?
4. What did Martha know of Lazarus rising again? What does Jesus say to confirm this (11:17–27)?
5. What is significant about “Jesus wept” (11:35)?
6. Why did the sisters finally move the stone from the tomb (11:38–40)?
7. Why does Jesus pray about the reason for the miracle (11:41–42)?
8. What did Jesus do to raise Lazarus (11:43–44)?
9. What was the response to the miracle (11:45–48)?
10. What did Caiaphas prophesy (11:49–53)?

Entrance Into Jerusalem (12:1–50)

11. Why was Judas upset, and what was Jesus’ response (12:1–8)?
12. What was the plan of the chief priests (12:9–11)?
13. Why did the people meet Jesus with palm branches (12:12–19)?
14. What sign did Jesus indicate the Greeks would receive (12:20–26)?
15. What sign came from heaven (12:27–30)?
16. List the momentous events Jesus foretells (12:31–33)?
17. How does Jesus answer “*Who is this Son of man*” (12:34–36)?
18. Why were the people unbelieving (12:37–43)?
19. Who will be judged (as in condemned) (12:44–50)?

1. Why was Judas upset with Mary, and what did He tell Judas (12:1–8)?
2. What was the reaction of the chief priests to the resurrection of Lazarus (12:9–11)?
3. What was the reaction of the people to the resurrection of Lazarus (12:11–19)?
4. Explain Jesus' meaning, "*If it dies, it bears much fruit*" (12:24).
5. Is 12:25 about Jesus or others?
6. What was Jesus' purpose (12:27, 47)?
7. What does the Father mean by His statement in 12:26?
8. Why did Jesus say the voice spoke (12:30)?
9. Compare 12:31 with 1 John 3:8. How will Satan be cast out (12:30–31)?
10. In response to the question "*who is this Son of Man*" (12:34), Jesus teaches about the light. Compare 12:35–36 with 1:4–5 and 1:10. Explain the symbolism, and the phrase "*sons of Light*" (12:36).
11. Why did people not believe because of the signs Jesus performed (12:37–41)?
12. Why did some not confess Jesus (12:42–43)? Is this still a deterrent for some?
13. What is the "*darkness*" (12:46)?
14. What is the standard by which we will be judged (12:48)?
15. List three points from 13:1–3.
16. Why did Jesus wash the disciples feet (13:5–17)?
17. Why was Jesus troubled in His spirit (13:21)?
18. What is meant by "*Satan then entered into*" Judas (13:27)?
19. What was Jesus' new commandment (13:34–35)?
20. List at least two examples from chapter 13 that demonstrate what Jesus said in 13:19, "*I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.*"

1. In context, why does Jesus make the statement in 14:1?
2. What was the way which Jesus was going (14:4–7)?
3. How does Jesus say we can believe He and the Father are one (14:7–11)?
4. Is 14:12–13 a statement to the apostles or all men?
5. What was the role of the “*Helper...Spirit of truth*” (14:16–17, 26)?
6. “*In that day you will know...*” (14:20). What day? Will know what?
7. Who loves Jesus (14:21–24)? How do we know Jesus loved the Father (14:31)?
8. What has Jesus told them before it happens that they may believe (14:27–29)?
9. Why does “*the ruler of the world*” have “*nothing*” in Jesus (14:30)?
10. Identify the following from the imagery in John 15:1–11.
 - A. The Vine
 - B. The Vinedresser
 - C. The Branches
 - D. How is the Father glorified?
11. Why did Jesus choose the apostles (15:16).
12. How do the commands to love one another (15:12, 17) fit the greater context (15:1–11)?
13. What were the apostles to expect from the world (15:18–21)?
14. Explain what Jesus means in 15:22–25 regarding “*they would not have sin.*”
15. Why did Jesus perform miracles (15:22–25)?

1. What does Jesus warn the apostles of (16:1–4)? How can this shown to be fulfilled in the book of Acts?
2. Why was the Helper coming to the apostles (16:8–15)?
3. What is Jesus foretelling in 16:16–20?
4. Why would the apostles have joy (16:21–22)?
5. What did the apostles say Jesus spoke plainly about, and what did they believe (16:24–31)?
6. Explain 16:32–33.
7. How did Jesus glorify the Father (7:4)?
8. How did Jesus want the Father to glorify Him (17:1–5)?
9. How was Jesus glorified in the apostles (17:10)?
10. What Scripture was fulfilled regarding the “*son of perdition*” (17:12)?
11. What does Jesus ask of the Father:
 - A. 17:11
 - B. 17:15
 - C. 17:17
 - D. 17:20–21 Why does He ask this?
12. Why is unity among the believers so important (17:22–23)?
13. From chapter 17, be prepared to discuss the relationship of the Father and the Son.

1. Who came with Judas to arrest Jesus (18:1–3)?
2. What caused the men to fall to the ground (18:6)?
3. Of whom did Jesus say “*let these go their way*” (18:8)?
4. Why did Peter attack the High Priest’s slave (18:10) and what was Jesus’ response (18:11)?
5. Who was:
 - A. Annas (18:12, 19–24)
 - > What did he question Jesus about (18:19)?
 - > Why was Jesus struck, and how did Jesus respond (18:20–23)?
 - B. Caiaphas (18:12–14, 24; 11:49–53)
6. How did Peter gain access to the High Priest’s courtyard (18:15–16)?
7. List Peter’s denials in order.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D. Give conclusions as to why Peter denied Christ based on the text of John 18:17–18; 25–27.
8. What is the “*Praetorium*” (18:28) and who is “*Pilate*” (18:29)? Why do they bring Jesus to him (18:29–32)?
9. What does Jesus tell Pilate about His kingdom (18:33–38)?
10. Why was Barabbas released (18:39–40)?

1. For each of the following, consider what Jesus' physical state would have been.
 - A. Scourged (19:1)
 - B. Crown of thorns (19:2)
 - C. Slaps in the face (19:3)
2. What was Pilate's ruling on Jesus (19:4)?
3. Why did the chief priests and officers cry "crucify, crucify" (19:6)?
4. What is Pilate's reaction when he finally hears a charge brought against Jesus (19:7-9)?
5. How does Jesus answer Pilate's remark about his authority over Jesus (19:10-11)?
6. Why did Pilate condemn the innocent man (19:12-16)?
7. What was Jesus' physical state while bearing his own cross (19:17)? Try to determine how far Jesus went from the Praetorium (19:9) to Golgotha (19:17).
8. Why did Pilate put the inscription over Jesus (19:15, 19-22)?
9. How did the soldiers at the cross fulfill Scripture (19:23-25)?
10. Who was "the disciple whom He loved," and what did Jesus tell him (19:26-27)?
11. Describe Jesus' mental state while on the cross:
 - A. 19:26-27
 - B. 19:28
 - C. 19:30 What was finished?
12. Why were the soldiers breaking the legs of those on the crosses, and why didn't they break Jesus' legs (19:31-37)?
13. Why does John include the quotations in 19:24, 28, 36, 37?
14. Who were Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (19:38-39)? [see also Mark 15:43 and John 3:1]
15. What approaching Jewish religious day did all these events revolve around (19:31, 42)?

1. What day did Jesus rise again (20:1)?
2. What was the purpose of Jesus' resurrection (20:1–9)? [see also 1 Corinthians 15:12–20]
3. Why was Mary asked why she was weeping (20:11–18)? [see also 16:20, 22]
4. Why did Jesus appear to Mary Magdalene (20:11–18)?
5. Why does Jesus twice say “*Peace be with you*” (20:19–21)?
6. What occurs in 20:22–23? [Compare with Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:1–4.]
7. How did Jesus come to the apostles the second time (20:24–26)? How does He demonstrate He knows all things?
8. How are we blessed who have not seen Jesus (20:29)?
9. What was the purpose of miracles, and the writing of the gospel of John (20:30–31)?
10. What is the last miracle John records (21:1–11)?
11. Why did Jesus appear to the disciples three times after His death (21:14)?
12. From John 21:15–17
 - A. Jesus uses the Greek word *agapao* translated “*love*.” What does it mean?
 - B. Peter uses the Greek word *phileo* translated “*love*.” What does it mean?
 - C. What does Jesus want Peter to do?
 - D. Why is this recorded for us?
13. What kind of death Jesus signify for Peter (21:18–19)?
14. Peter asks, “*what about this man?*” (obviously about how he would die). How does Jesus respond (21:20–24)?
15. Who was that disciple that would “*remain*” (21:24)?
16. What testament does John make about the miracles of Jesus (21:25)?