

Biographical Sketch of the Apostles of Jesus Christ

John

Personal Information		Scripture References: Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:18; 15:40; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13 Matthew 27:55-56; Mark 15:40-41
Name: John	Nickname: Son of Thunder, Beloved Disciple	
Hometown: Bethsaida, Capernaum	Region: Galilee	
Father: Zebedee	Age when called:	
Mother: Salome (Matthew 27:56; Mark 16:1)	Occupation before meeting Jesus:	What he accomplished during Jesus ministry years He was part of the inner circle (Peter, James and John and sometimes included Andrew). He was one of the disciples at the Garden of Gethsemane He was vengeful and judgmental (Luke 9:54; Mark 9:38) He was at Jesus transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-6; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36) He was at the trials of Jesus
Spouse:	Fisherman	
Address:	Manner of death: Died of natural death around 90 -100 AD at Ephesus	
Family: Brother of James the Apostle. Father had hired servants and a fishing business (Mark 1:20).	Their writings: The Gospel of John; 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Revelation	Major accomplishments after Jesus ministry: On resurrection day, ran with Peter to the tomb of Christ (John 20:2-8) Preached to the churches in Asia Minor (Acts 3-4:8). Totally changed after Pentecost (Acts 4:13; 1 John 4) Wrote the Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Revelation of Jesus Christ Banished to the Isle of Patmos, Revelation 1:1, 9
Special Events in his life:		
Passage	Event	Remarks
Matthew 4:21, Mark 1:19; Luke 5:10	Calling	John and his brother James were called together
Mark 9:38-40	Wanted to call fire out of heaven	Learned humility
Mark 10:35-45	Wanted to sit at Jesus side in the Kingdom	Learned humility
John 19:26-27	Given watch care of His mother	At the cross
John 20:4, 8	Raced to Jesus tomb after the resurrection	

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Notes:

John continually emphasized that Jesus was Christ, the Son of God

Never mentions himself by name in his epistles. He referred to himself as “the disciple who Jesus loved” (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7; 21:20). In the Revelation of Jesus Christ, he mentions himself by name in Revelation 1:4, 9; 21:2; 22:8.

John spoke of signs (miracles) 17 times. Signs were only mentioned 28 times in the other Gospels.

John wrote about believing 98 times. The other Gospels on mention believing 29 times combined.

John is the only Gospel that tells of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples.

He was present at the resurrection of Jarius’ daughter, at Jesus transfiguration, and at the Garden of Gethsemane before Jesus was arrested. Paul later describes John as a pillar of the Jerusalem church.

To illustrate the brother’s fiery temperament and earning of the nickname of “Boanerges, or Sons of Thunder”, when a Samaritan village rejected Jesus teaching, James and John asked if they should call down fire from heaven to destroy the place (Luke 9:54).

John was known by the household of Caiaphas and was allowed by his servants to be present in the high priest's house during Jesus' trial (John 18:15). On the cross, Jesus entrusted the care of his mother, Mary, to an unnamed disciple, probably John, who took her into his home (John 19:27).

1st, 2nd, and 3rd John speak of truth, love, faith and fellowship. In 1st John, the word “know” or “known” are mentioned 26 times in relating to our relationship with Christ and knowing we are saved. 2nd John teaches of the truth and love and warns of deceivers in the world. 3rd John teaches hospitality, sincerity and Christian Character. The Revelation was written while John was in exile on the isle of Patmos for preaching the Gospel. He writes of the deity of Christ and identified himself as a servant of Christ.

John saw things in black and white, no grays. He was an advocate of love, but never compromised truth. See 1 John 1:6-10.

John served the church in Jerusalem for many years, then moved to work in the church at Ephesus. He was then exiled to the island of Patmos. John supposedly outlived all of the disciples, dying of old age at Ephesus, perhaps about A.D. 98. However, he did suffer for preaching the Gospel.



The Gospel of John is not included in the “synoptic” Gospels as only 20% of its content is found in the other Gospels.

John emphasized that Jesus was sent by the Father to take away the sins of the world. John uses many symbols for the titles of Jesus: Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Lamb of God, resurrection and repeatedly quoting Jesus using the phrase "I Am.,"

A chalice with a snake on it, or with a book or an eagle is his symbol.