The Apostle John is the author of this Gospel account. He also authored the three epistles of John and The Revelation. John was one the three disciples, along with Peter and James, his brother, who were allowed to see things the other disciples didn't (the raising of Jairus' daughter, the transfiguration, they were singled out in the Garden of Gethsemane).

John's Purpose – (John 20:30-31) <sup>30</sup>Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>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.** 

John's Prologue introduces key themes to be developed in throughout the rest of the Gospel Account (life, light, darkness, belief and unbelief)

# Structure: Introduction to the Word

# The Preexistent Glory of the Word (1:1-2)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He (lit. "This One") [the Word] was in the beginning with God.

# The Power of the Word – Creator of All Things (1:3)

All things came into being through Him, [the Word] and apart from Him no thing/nothing came into being that has come into being.

# The Word as the Source of Life and Light (1:4-5)

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend/overcome it.

# The Preexistent Glory of the Word (1:1-2)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He (lit. "This One") [the Word] was in the beginning with God.

### "In the beginning"

### Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

#### <u>1John 1:1</u>

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—

# "was the Word"

**"was"** – "existing before time" The Word was before the beginning/creation. "The Word has no origin, for its (His) existence is beyond time and history." (Klink, ECNT, p. 87)

"the Word" - Communication and Revealer of God to man. "Word reflects the truth that it is the very nature of God to reveal Himself." (Ibid.)

John 1:18

John 12:44; 14:8-9

# "the Word was with God"

### John 17:5

"Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

### "the Word was God"

#### Philippians 2:5-8

**5**Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6**who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

#### Colossians 1:15-17

**15**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16**For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. **17**He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

### The Power of the Word – Creator of All Things (1:3)

All things came into being through Him, [the Word] and apart from Him no thing/nothing came into being that has come into being.

### Genesis 1

### 1 Corinthians 8:6

yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him.

#### Colossians 1:16

For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

#### Hebrews 1:2

in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

### The Word as the Source of Life and Light (1:4-5)

In Him was life,

and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness,

and

the darkness, the darkness did not comprehend/overcome it.

# "life" - physical (creation) and spiritual

# John 11:25-26

**25**Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, **26**and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?

# <u>John 14:6</u>

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

1John 5:11-13

John 20:31

# "light" and "darkness"

### John 3:19-21

**19** "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. **20** "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. **21** "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

John 8:12; 12:46

1John 1:5-7

# 'comprehend it or overcome it"

John 12:35

# Application:

Be in awe of who God is and how He has revealed Himself through Jesus Christ for our salvation.

Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:31)