

A sunset over a field with a lake in the background. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the water reflects the golden light. The foreground is a field of tall grass, and a few small figures can be seen in the distance.

The Gospel According to John

An Introduction

John 20:30-31

An introduction to the introduction.

A purpose of preaching

A posture for hearing

John 20:30-31

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.



An Introduction

Who wrote this Gospel?

Clues from the text

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten
from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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from the Father, full of grace and truth.

If we take the author at his word, he was a witness of Christ along with the other Apostles.

Clues from the text

John 19:35

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true;
and he knows that he is telling the truth,
so that you also may believe.

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John 21:24

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things **and wrote these things**, and we know that his testimony is true.

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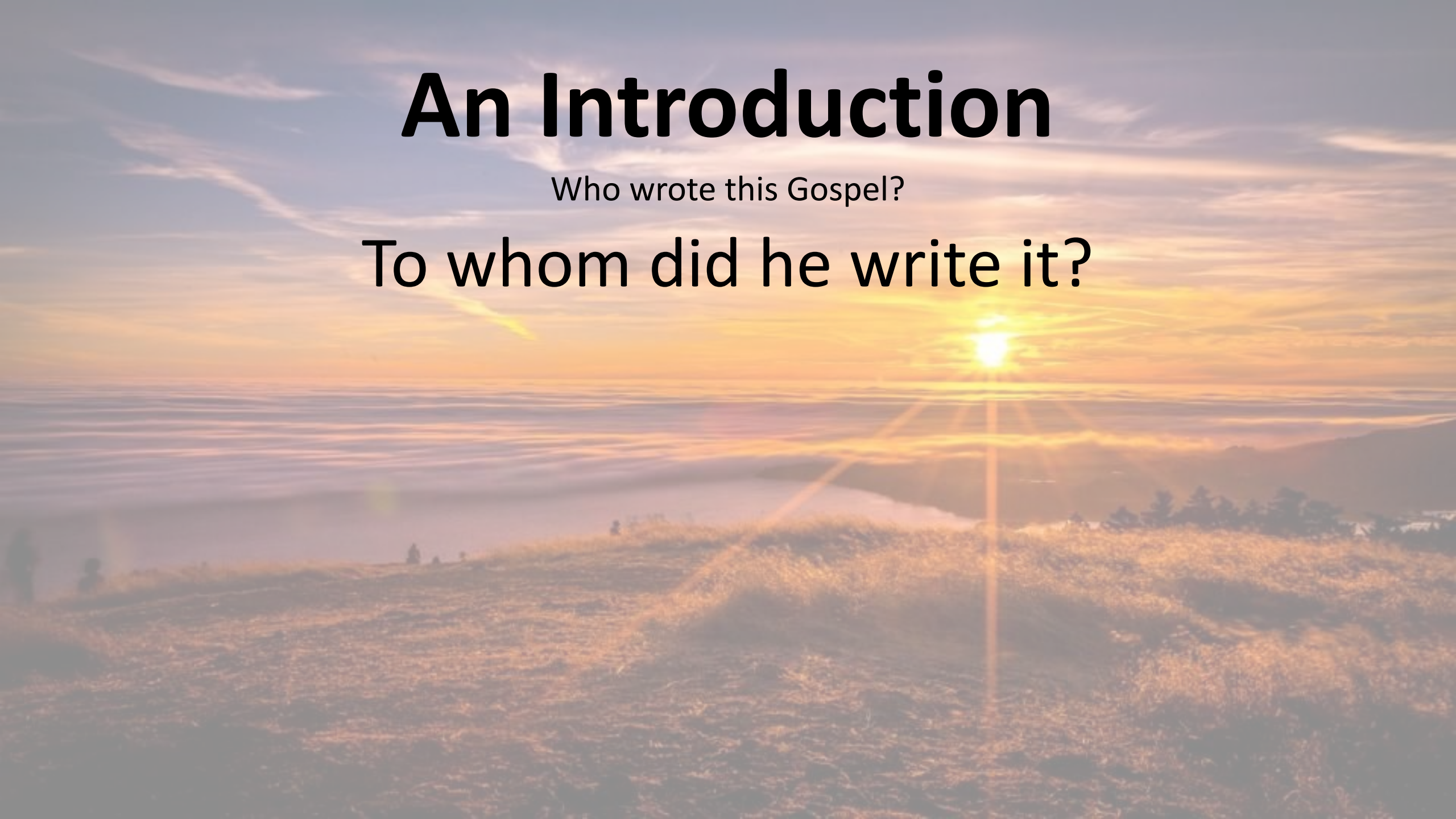
This disciple is the “beloved” disciple who mediated the discussion between Peter and Jesus at the last supper.

Most of the objections to John's authorship and to the authenticity of the book in general are leveled by those who enter the discussion having dismissed the possibility of the supernatural.
Understanding objections in general.

An Introduction

Who wrote this Gospel?

To whom did he write it?



John 1:11-12

He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.

To His own *in the flesh*

John 1:11-12

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even to those who believe in His name.

These were primarily Gentiles!

John 1:11-12

He came to His own, and those who were His own

did not receive Him. But **as many as received Him,**
to them He gave the right to become
children of God,
even to those who believe in His name.

These, who had not been “His own”
became His own, not by physical birth
but by spiritual birth.

John 10:14-16

“I am the good shepherd, and **I know My own and My own know Me**, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.”

John 10:14-16

“I am the good shepherd, and I know My own
and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me
and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

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and they will become one flock with one shepherd.”

One People!

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and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me
and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.
I have other sheep, which are not of this fold;
I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice;

and **they will become one flock
with one shepherd.”**

Just as Jesus came into the world *for*
the world, John's Gospel is written
to the world *for* the world.

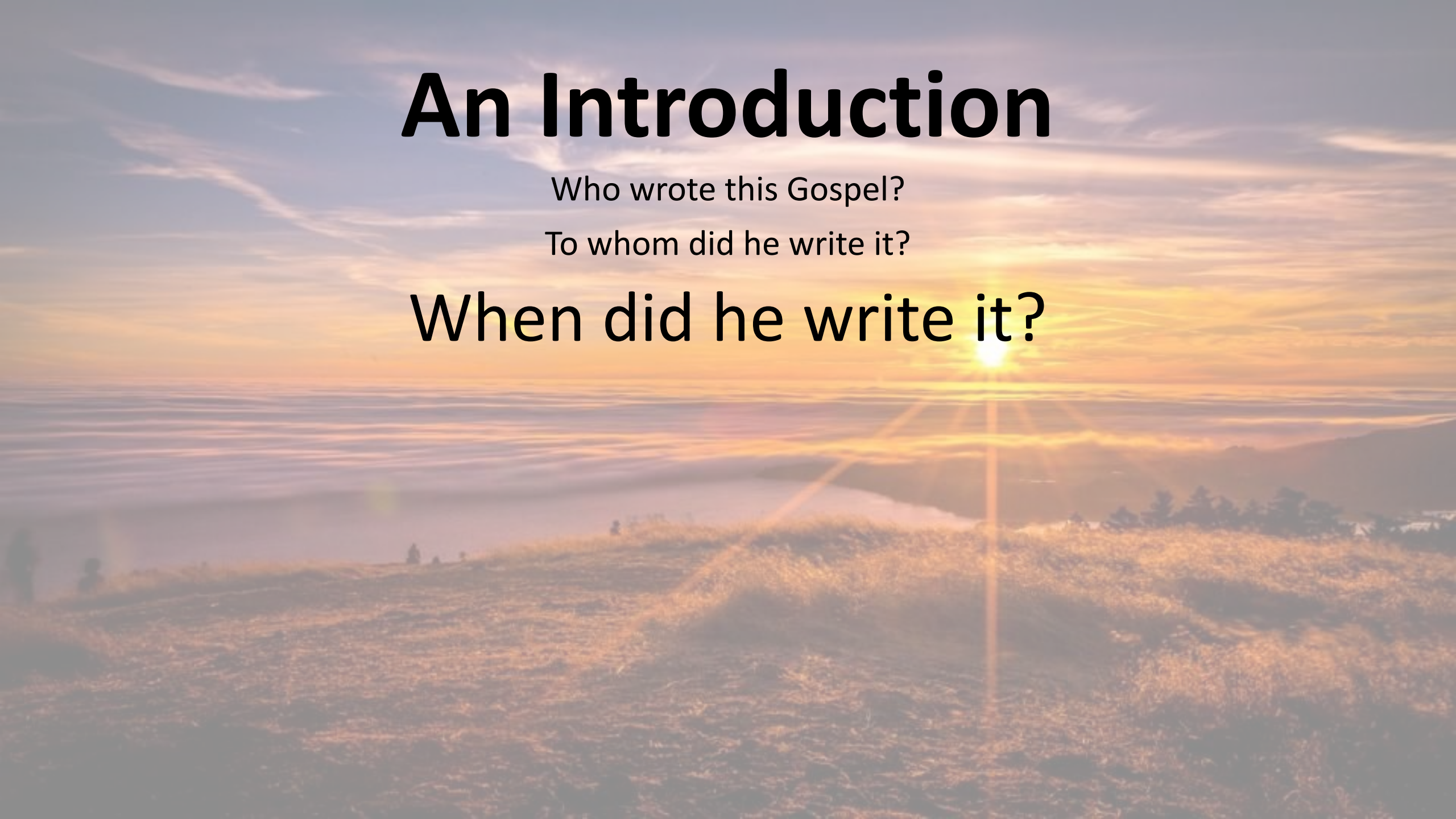
In other words, it is written for you!

An Introduction

Who wrote this Gospel?

To whom did he write it?

When did he write it?



Internal Clues

John 21:18-19

“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.” Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death [Peter] would glorify God.

Peter was martyred between 64-68 A.D.

Internal Clues

John makes no reference to the destruction of Jerusalem or the temple which took place in 70 A.D.

Internal Clues

John's Gospel is different from the synoptics in many ways and addresses themes that seem to reflect a more settled theology.

External Witness

The early church widely believed that John had written his Gospel late.

A fragment that includes a portion of chapter 18 and dates ~130 A.D. means a date much sooner than this.

Though it is an educated guess, 80-90 A.D. would be likely.

An Introduction

Who wrote this Gospel?

To whom did he write it?

When did he write it?

Why did he write it?

Different from the Synoptics

Why assume that a Gospel must be synoptic in order to qualify as an authentic Gospel?

John's Gospel includes much that the others do not.

[This provides helpful context to the others.]

John's Gospel leaves out much that the others include.

[Much was known already from the others.]

The purposes and themes of each Evangelist were different--John simply used a different structure.

John's purpose?

He tells us himself!

John 20:30-31

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.

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life in His name.**

Conclusion

Do you trust in the faithfulness of God
to have accurately preserved His Gospel for us
and will you listen and respond?

Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and are you assured that you have life in His name?

Suggestions for further preparation