

## Introduction to The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John is easily distinguished from the first three Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) which agree extensively in language, material and order. Because of these similarities the first three Gospels are often called “Synoptic Gospels” — from the Greek word “synopsis” (seeing together) — “syn” = *together with*; “optic” = *seeing*. Unlike the Synoptics which present Jesus as a man of many miracles who teaches in picturesque parables (nearly 60), the Gospel of John presents Jesus as a measured teacher who performs seven symbolic signs which are connected to seven discourses (but no parables). While the Synoptics present a “linear history” of the life of Jesus, the Gospel of John presents a “spiritual synthesis” of the life of Jesus. John’s Gospel was most probably composed after years of profound meditation on the meaning of Christ.

# Gospel

*of*

# John