

# JOHN THE APOSTLE

## AT-A-GLANCE

### BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John and 3 John, The Revelation

### TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Gospels (John is the fourth of four gospels.) The three books of John are general epistles. Revelation is the only book of prophecy in the New Testament.

### PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

80-90 AD (gospel), 90-95 AD (the three epistles), 95 AD (The Revelation)



### AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

John was considered to be the disciple closest to the heart of Jesus. He and his brother James were among the first disciples whom Jesus told to follow him. They were the sons of Zebedee, who owned a successful fishing business in Galilee.

During Christ's ministry John, along with his brother James and Simon Peter, were the only disciples privileged to watch certain miracles. They included the raising of the 12-year-old daughter of Jairus and the Transfiguration. Upon Jesus' death, John was told to look after Jesus' mother, Mary, as if she were his own mother. At the Resurrection, John and Peter ran to the tomb to see if the story Mary Magdalene told them was true. She said she had seen the risen Lord. John was the first to enter the empty tomb.

John was younger than the other disciples, possibly a teen. He lived to be older than any of the others and was the only apostle not to die a martyr's death.



### UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

John is thought to have written the Book of Revelation while imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos. It is basically a giant rock with little vegetation, great winds, and little hope. He was either released or escaped, as he died a few years later as a free man.



### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

John was the only author in the New Testament to receive prophecy with visions. He states in the Revelation, the New Testament's only book of prophecy, that he was taken up into heaven to see the chapters in the book unfold.