



Johannine writings;

The gospel and letters of John

Riverside Vineyard,
Summer 2003

Introduction to VBI

- 'Empowering the local church through distance education'
- Directed by Derek Morpew
- Modular
- Discipleship program
- Academic program
- Diplomas in Biblical theology & Kingdom of God theology
- Future diplomas in practical theology & pastoral theology
- Further details & registration at www.vineyardbi.org
- Information also available at www.vbilondon.org

What are we aiming for?

- An environment where we can learn & grow together
- Motivation for those who find studying alone difficult (most of us!)
- Bible training
- Equipping
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Aims of the Johannine course

- Familiarity with the differences and similarities between John's gospel and the Synoptic gospels
- Awareness of the critical issues in John's gospel
- Understand the structure and purpose of John's gospel
- Familiarity with the themes and key issues of John's letters

Course layout

3 week course (12th & 19th May, 2nd June)

Week 1 - Comparing John with the synoptics, Authorship
(pp 1-26)

Week 2 - Structure of John's gospel, key concepts (pp27-48)

Week 3 - Key terms & conflicts, outlines of John's letters
(pp 48-58)

There is no homework, but please consider reading ahead
(notes & John's gospel)!

Comparing John with the Synoptics

- Synoptics gospels - Matthew, Mark & Luke
- *syn* = 'together' + 'optic' = seeing
- General consensus - Matthew & Luke used Mark as a major source

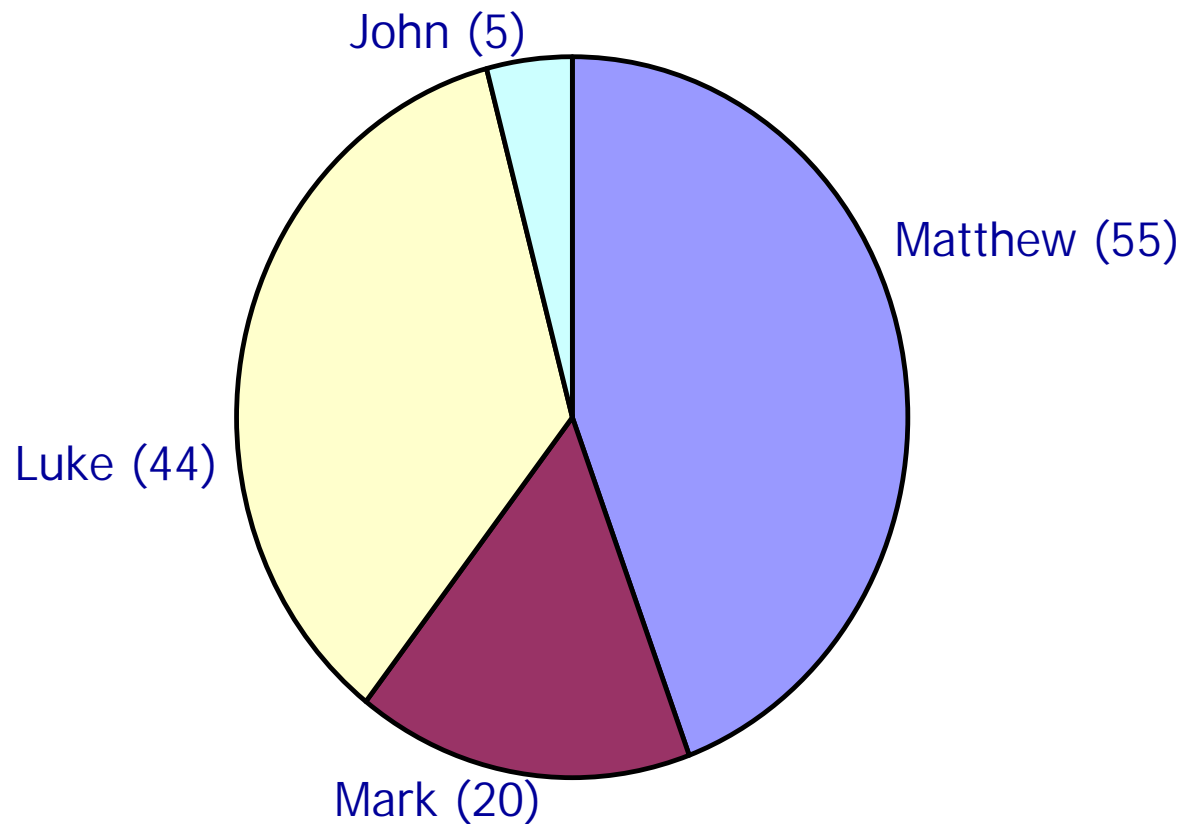
- Similarities between John & the Synoptics seem to be overshadowed by their differences

Exercise

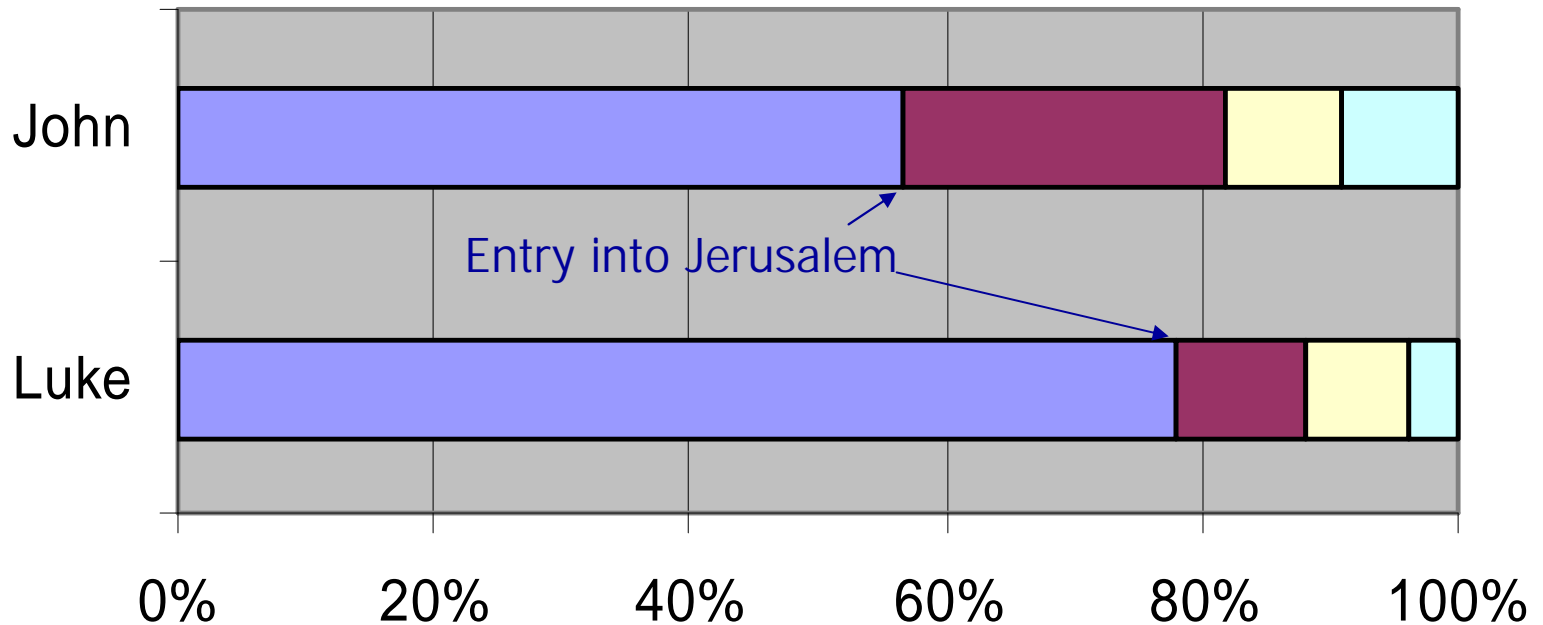
Compare John's gospel to Luke's in the following ways:-

- Compare the narratives of Jesus' birth.
- Approximately how many miracles are recorded in each gospel? [count the feeding of the 5000 as one miracle!]
- To what extent do these gospels use narrative parables (e.g. Luke 8)?
- Using a concordance, how often is the Kingdom mentioned in each gospel?
- Consider the emphasis given to Passion Week in the 2 gospels. Are there any significant differences in the events recorded?

'Kingdom' word count in the gospels (Strong's exhaustive concordance)



Simplified overview by number of chapters



■ Pre-Passion week

■ Teaching

■ Last supper & crucifixion

■ Resurrection

Differences between John & the Synoptic gospels

Omissions

- The birth narratives
- The temptation
- Narrative parables
- Kingdom of God theme is all but absent
- Demon expulsions
- Peter's messianic confession
- The transfiguration
- Institution of the Lord's supper
- Agony in Gethsemane

Additions

- Water to wine miracle
- Raising of Lazarus
- Extended farewell disclosure & prayer
- Extended dialogues & discourses

Tensions

- Predominant location
John is in Judea, Synoptics are mainly in Galilee
- Jesus revealed as the Christ
- Cleansing of the temple
- Ministry of John the Baptist
- Miracles
- Passover & crucifixion
- Vocabulary
- Historicity



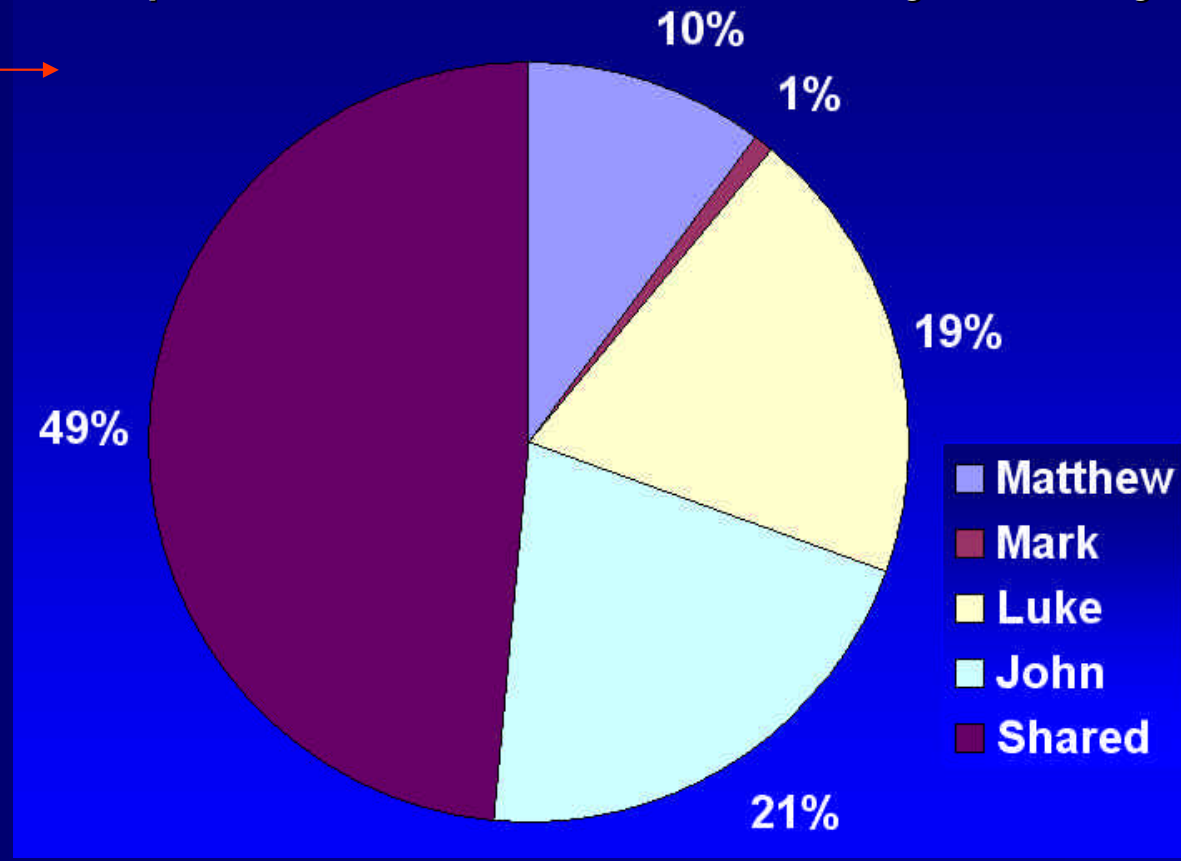
Differences Explained

The NIV Harmony of the Gospels – Robert L. Thomas and Stanley N. Gundry

Omissions →

- Additions
- Location
- Revelation of Christ
- Cleansing of Temple
- John the Baptist
- Miracles
- Passover
- Crucifixion
- Vocabulary

Historicity →



Harmony of Gospels only 49%

John contains 10.27%



Differences Explained

Omissions

Additions →

Location

Revelation of
Christ

Cleansing of
Temple

John the
Baptist

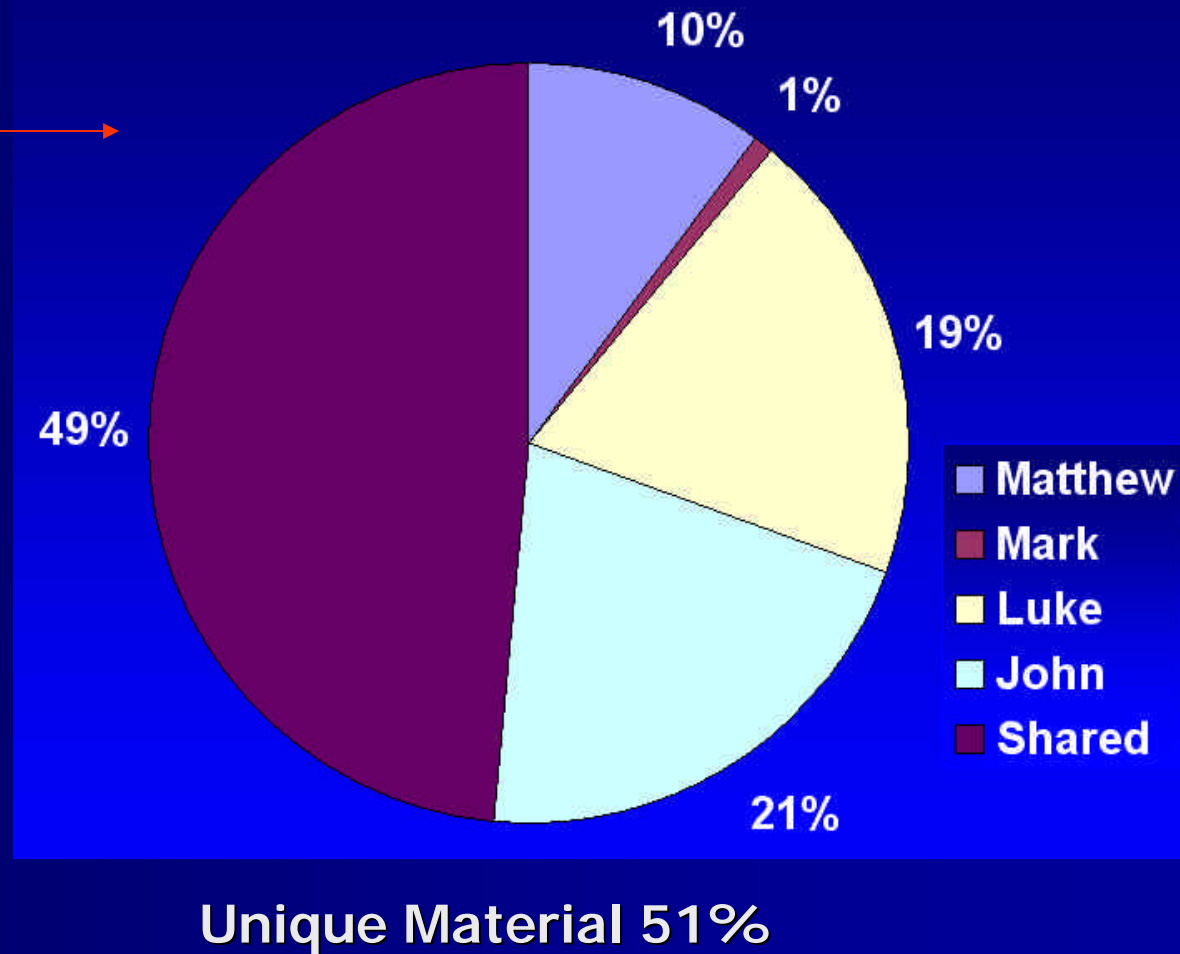
Miracles

Passover

Crucifixion

Vocabulary

Historicity





Differences Explained

Omissions

Additions

Location

Revelation of
Christ

Cleansing of
Temple

John the
Baptist

Miracles

Passover → Jewish Day begins at Sunset (Genesis)
Crucifixion Therefore both the Supper and crucifixion
could have occurred on the same day

Vocabulary

Historicity



Differences Explained

Omissions →	John contains historical data, but did not aim to write a historical book
Additions	
Location	John gives a greater background on the same events as other gospels
Revelation of Christ	
Cleansing of Temple	John's focus is on Judea, not Galilee
John the Baptist	John's language is different
Miracles	<u>Traditional View:</u>
Passover	John writes to Jews/Jewish believers to set straight misconceptions of who Jesus is
Crucifixion	
Vocabulary	
Historicity	



Differences Explained

Similarities

Subtle Parallels
Interlocking
Traditions
Christological
Confession
conflict



Spirit's anointing of Jesus as testified by
John the Baptist

Contrast between Baptist's baptism and
Messiah's baptism with the Spirit

Feeding the 5000

Walking on Water

Parallel Sayings



Differences Explained

Similarities

Subtle Parallels → Jesus' use of colourful metaphors and proverbs

Interlocking

Traditions

Christological

Confession

conflict

Jesus' unique sense of Sonship to His Heavenly Father

Authority of Jesus and His teaching

Jesus' unique use of the title: Son of Man

Son of Man in Aramaic vs Son of Man in Daniel

The Messianic Secret

Preservation of ambiguity



Differences Explained

Similarities

Subtle Parallels

Interlocking →

Traditions

Christological

Confession

conflict

John's Judean Ministry

Mk 14:49 Jesus teaches often in temple

Mk 10:32 Final trip viewed with fear

Mk 11:1-7 Jesus' ability to find a colt

Mk 14:12-16 Ability to secure a room

Mk 14:58, 15:29 Jesus' threat to destroy the temple

Mark gives no reason why Jesus had to appear before Pilate

Why could Peter be in the High Priest's courtyard?

The calling of the Disciples



Differences Explained

Similarities

Subtle Parallels

Interlocking

Traditions

**Christological
Confession
conflict**



Synoptics have an emerging awareness

John has an early awareness + frequent misunderstandings

Placed together we see the clear picture of growing faith



Authorship

External Evidence →
Internal Evidence
Solution

Irenaeus (180 AD)

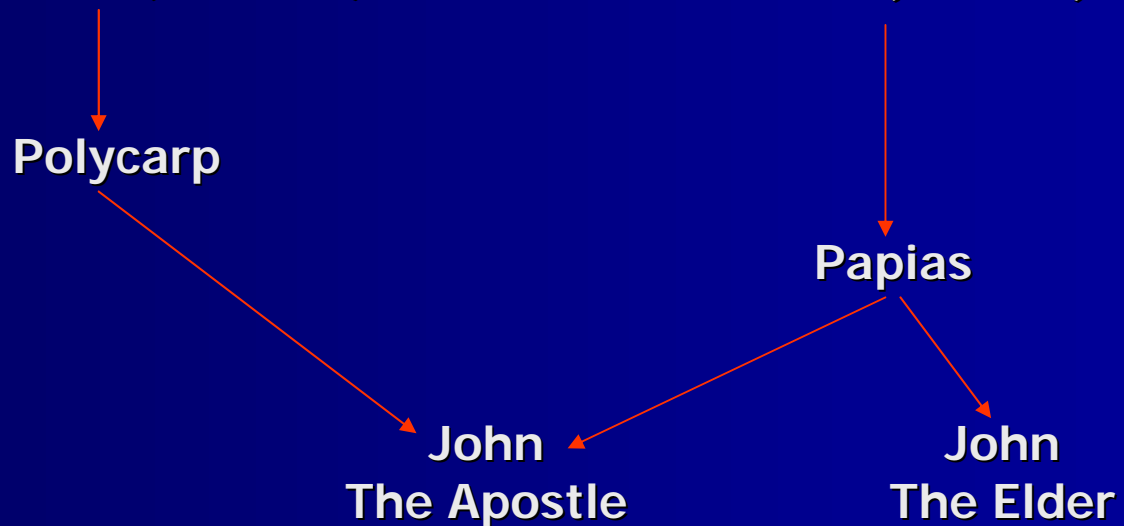
Polycarp

Eusebius (325 AD)

Papias

John
The Apostle

John
The Elder





Authorship

External Evidence

Internal Evidence →

Solution

Semitic Literary Style

Rabbinic debate terminology

Knowledge of Palestinian customs

Accurate topographical allusions

The disciple whom Jesus loved

John does not name himself –

humility vs evidence against authorship

Significance of 7 signs

Was the gospel of John edited?

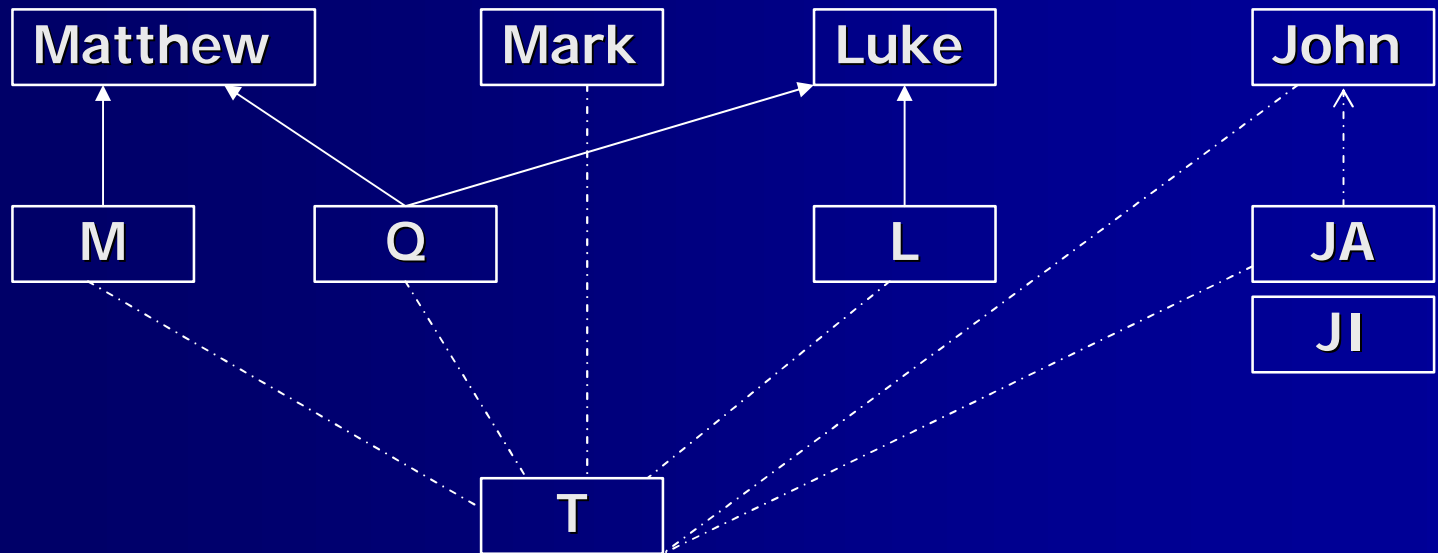


Authorship

Stages of composition
Core Palestinian apostolic source
Theological Redaction
Later publication and church backing

External Evidence
Internal Evidence
Solution →

T = Common primitive tradition
JA = John's own material
JI = Material John shares with Synoptics
M = Material unique to Matthew
L = Material unique to Luke
Q = Tradition shared by Matthew and Luke



The Four Gospels: A study in Origins – Streeter, B.H.

Next week

- Structure of John's gospel & key concepts
- Pages 27-48 in the notes
- Andrew Lamb & Steve Clark