

The Gospel of John differs significantly in theme, content, time duration, order of events, and style, reflecting a Christian tradition different from that of the synoptics.^[2]

Some differences:

Item	Matthew, Mark, Luke	John
First event mentioned	Jesus' birth (Matthew), Jesus' baptism (Mark), Foretelling of the birth of John the Baptist (Luke)	The assertion that the <u>Word of God</u> is God, and has always been God
Authors: according to conservative Christians	Apostle Matthew; Mark, secretary of Peter; and Luke, co-worker of Paul	Apostle John
Authors: according to liberal Christians	Unknown authors	2 or more unknown authors
Virgin birth	Mentioned in Matthew, Luke	Not explicitly mentioned
Jesus as Son of God...	From the time of his birth or baptism	From the time that the universe was created
Description of Jesus	Jesus' humanity emphasized in Luke for Gentile audience. Messianic secret, Jesus did not tell the disciples who he was in Mark.	Jesus' deity emphasized ^[3]
Jesus' baptism	Described	Not Mentioned
Preaching style	Brief one-liners; parables	Essay format
Jesus teaches as:	A sage ^[citation needed]	A philosopher and mystic ^[citation needed]
Exorcism	A main function of his ministry	None performed
True parables	Many	None
Theme of his teaching:	Kingdom of God/Heaven ^[citation needed]	Jesus himself. Kingdom of God is a background theme. ^[citation needed]
Jesus' theology	Deviated little from 1st century AD liberal Judaism. Similar to beliefs taught by <u>Hillel the Elder</u> . (eg. "golden rule") ^{[4][5]}	Largely independent of Judaism and in opposition to much of its teaching. ^[citation needed]
Response expected from the reader	Respond to God's will as expressed in the Mosaic law ^[citation needed]	Respond to Jesus as the definitive expression of God's will or revelation ^[citation needed]

Involvement with the poor and suffering	Focus of his ministry	Rarely mentioned
Involvement with Scribes (Jewish teachers)	26 references to scribes, who are puzzled and angered by Jesus' teachings	No references at all. ^[citation needed]
Miracles performed by Jesus	Many "nature miracles", healings, and exorcisms	Few; all "nature miracles"
Jesus references to himself	Rare	Focus of the gospel, including the many "I am" sayings
Duration of ministry	1 year	3 years
Location of ministry	Mainly Galilee	Mainly Judea, near Jerusalem
Clearing of the money-changers from the Temple	Near the end of his ministry	Near the start of his ministry
Date of the Last Supper	Passover eve	Night before Passover eve
Ceremonial event at the Last Supper:	Communal meal	Foot washing
Who carried the cross?	Simon	Jesus
Visitors to the tomb on Sunday with Mary Magdalene?	One or more additional women	None; Mary Magdalene went alone
Who was present in the tomb?	One angel or two men	Two angels
Burial shroud	A single piece of cloth	Multiple pieces of cloth, as was the Jewish practice at the time. (John 20:5-7)
Jesus' first post-resurrection appearance to disciples	At Emmaus or Galilee	Jerusalem

However, the origin of the *concept*, per se, stems from much earlier: As early as the 4th century, these three books were "seen together with the same eyes", starting with the Church historian Eusebius of Caesarea, who had devised a method that enabled scholars to find parallel texts.