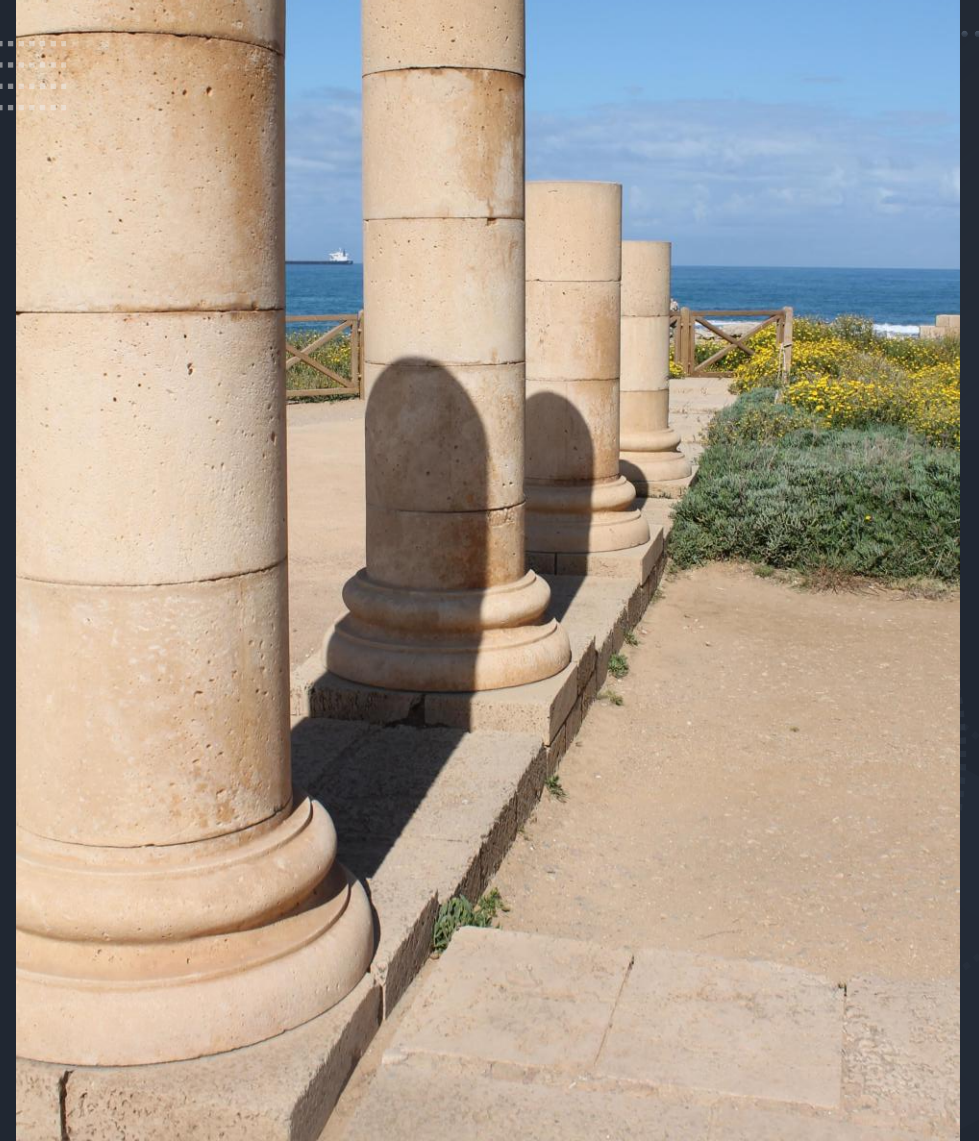


New Testament Survey

Lecture 2

The Gospels and Acts (Part 3)



Introduction:

- This lecture continues our survey of the Gospels and Acts.
- So far, we've covered Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts.
- Today we will provide an overview of the Gospel of John.
- Some commentators have noticed the correlation between the four living creatures of Ezekiel 1 and the four Gospels.



Ezekiel's Vision



The Four Gospels and the Four Faces of the Living Creatures in Ezekiel 1

Ezekiel 1:10 cp. Revelation 4:7

The Four Gospels	The Four Living Creatures	Messianic Emphasis
Matthew—Jesus, King of the Jews	Face of a Lion	Royalty
Mark—Jesus, Servant of Yahweh	Face of an Ox	Ministry (Service)
Luke—Jesus, the Perfect Man	Face of a Man	Humanity
John—Jesus, the Savior of the World	Face of an Eagle	Deity (the Heavenly Gospel)

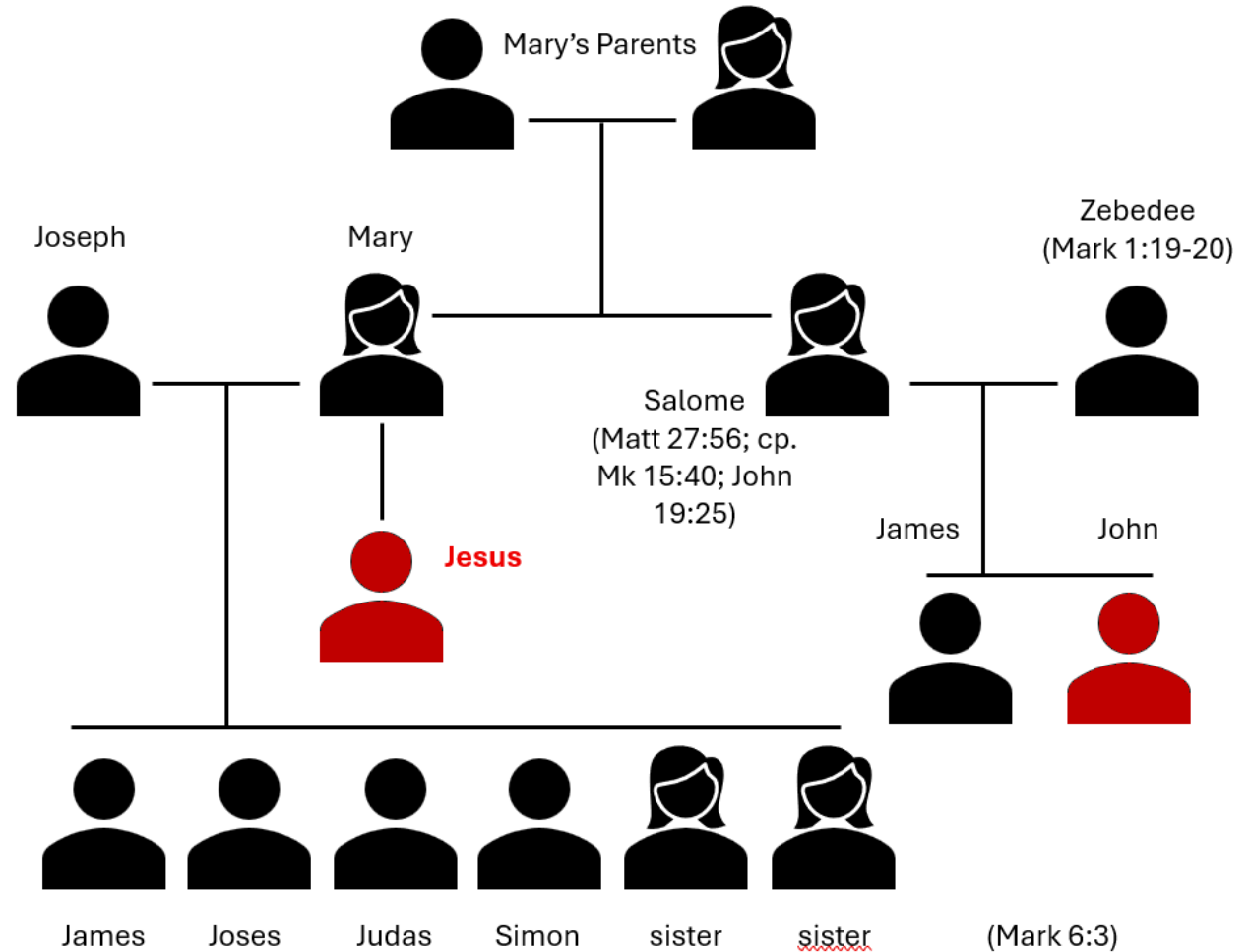
The Gospel of John

- The Author
 - One of the inner three disciples of Jesus
 - He was the son of Zebedee and Salome



John's Relation to Jesus

Jesus' Earthly Relatives



The Gospel of John

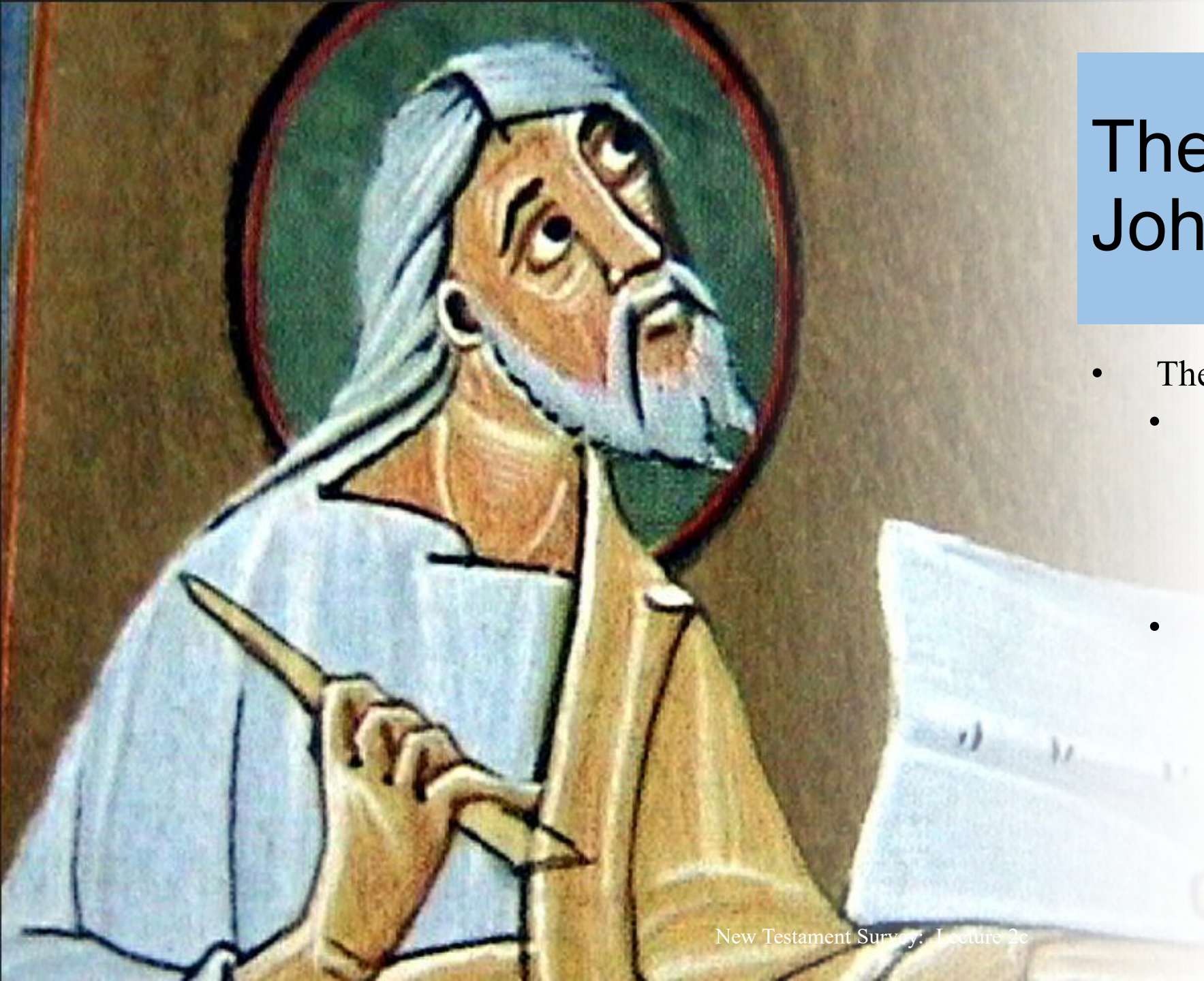


- The Author
 - John was first a disciple of John the Baptist before he followed Jesus.
 - He was one of the first two disciples to follow Jesus (John 1:35-40)
 - His call to full-time discipleship came beside the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11).

The Gospel of John



- The Author
 - He was one of the apostolic leaders of the early Jerusalem Church.
 - In the latter part of his life, he served as apostolic leader of the Church in Ephesus.
 - During this time, he wrote the Gospel of John and his three epistles.
 - In the epistles he identifies himself as “the elder” (3 John 1).



The Gospel of John

- The Author
 - When he was an old man, during the reign of the emperor Domitian, John was banished to the island of Patmos.
 - During his exile he wrote the Book of Revelation.

The Gospel of John

- The Author
 - He was set at liberty after Domitian's death and returned to Ephesus.
 - He died not long afterward in Ephesus (c. AD 95-96).
 - At the time of his death, he was the last living apostle (cp. John 21:20-23)

The tomb of the apostle John in Ephesus (modern-day Selçuk, Turkey)



The Gospel of John

- The Author
 - John identifies himself as the author without naming himself; he calls himself “the disciple” (John 21:24).
 - References: 1:35-40; 13:23; 19:26, 35; 20:2; 21:7, 20-24



The Gospel of John

- Date and Place of Writing
 - The Gospel was written in Ephesus c. AD 85-90.
 - One of the earliest NT manuscripts available to us today is a small papyrus scrap of the Gospel of John.
 - Mss. P52, John Rylands University Library
 - Portion of text from John 18
 - Where discovered: Egypt
 - Dated: c. AD 125-135



Image Credit:
Wikimedia Commons

Gospel of John

- Audience
 - Written for Gentiles
 - Universal Perspective
 - Written for the World at Large



Purposes and Themes of John's Gospel

- **Key Verse:** John 20:30-31

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

- **A Practical Purpose:** to convince readers that Jesus is the human Messiah and the divine Son of God.
- **A Motivational Purpose:** to convince readers to believe on Jesus as the Messiah and Savior of the world so that they may personally receive eternal life.

Purposes and Themes of John's Gospel

- **Theological Focus:** John was written as a refutation of Gnostic heresy about the person of Christ.
 - A heretical group that developed late in the 1st Century.
 - Philosophical dualism: Spirit (god) is good; the body (material world) is bad. God has no contact with the material world.
 - God created a series of intermediary beings (demi-gods) the mediated between God and the material world.
 - Heretical views about the person of Christ
 - Docetic Gnosticism denied the humanity of Christ. They claimed Jesus' humanity was an illusion.
 - Cerinthian Gnosticism denied the deity of Christ. They claimed that Jesus was a man indwelt by the divine logos that departed at his death.

Purposes and Themes of John's Gospel



- **Theological Focus:** John was written as a refutation of Gnostic heresy about the person of Christ.
- To combat these errors, John emphasizes the theological teaching of the union of the two natures (divine and human) in the one person of Christ.

Purposes and Themes of John's Gospel



- **Unique Focus:**

- John includes material that is not found in any of the other Gospels.
- It focuses on Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem and Judea.
- The only two miracles that John records in common with the other Gospels are...
 - The Feeding of the Five Thousand
 - Walking on the Water

Purposes and Themes of John's Gospel

- **Key Words** used by John:
 - “sign” (*semeion*) 20X used for miracles with a purpose.
 - Three different words used for miracles in the New Testament:
 - *Dunamis*, literally “power” (e.g., Luke 10:13, “mighty works”), emphasizes the supernatural power of God that performed the miracle. It focuses on the **SOURCE of the miracle**.
 - *Teras*, literally “wonder” (e.g., Acts 15:12), emphasizes the unusualness of the event and the amazement it produced in those who observed it. This word focuses on the **EFFECT of the miracle** on those who saw it.
 - Finally, *semeion*, literally “sign” (e.g., John 2:11), emphasizes that the miracle should cause the observer to consider the deeper significance to which it pointed. It focuses on the **MEANING of the miracle**.
 - John uses the word “sign” for Jesus’ miracles because they should cause people to look deeper to discover what they tell us about Jesus’ person. (He is the Messiah and Son of God.)

The Sign Miracles in John

- Seven Great Signs (public ministry, pre-crucifixion)
 1. Water to wine (2:2-11)
 2. Healing of the nobleman's son (4:46-54)
 3. Healing of the impotent man (5:1-15)
 4. Feeding of the five thousand (6:1-14)
 5. Walking on the water (6:15-21)
 6. Healing of the blind man (9:1-41)
 7. Raising of Lazarus from the dead (11:1-44)



The Sign Miracles in John

- Two Additional Signs (post-crucifixion)
 1. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead—the greatest sign (20:1-31)
 2. The great catch of fish (21:6-11)

Image: The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem



Purposes and Themes of John's Gospel

- **Key Words** used by John:
 - “believe” 101X
 - Supports the purpose of the book to lead readers to faith in Jesus as the promised Messiah and the Son of God.
 - Supports a major teaching about the role and necessity of faith.
 - “life” 56X. Christ is the source of life, which he gives to those who believe.
 - “light” 23X. Often contrasted with darkness; Jesus brings the light of God's revelation and truth to mankind.
 - “glory” 19X. This term is used to describe the revelation of God's person to his disciples and to the world.
 - “Father” 136X. As a title for God, John uses this more than any other NT book. Jesus uses it of his own unique relationship with the Father; He also brings those who believe in him into a relationship with God as Father.

Purposes and Themes of John's Gospel

- **Key Words** used by John:
 - Jesus' "hour" 26X.
 - 2:4; 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 28^{2x}; 13:1; 16:25, 32; 17:1
 - The supreme crisis of Jesus' earthly life
 - The focal point of the book
 - = Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection

Image: The Crucifixion of Christ by Pietro Perugino



Purposes and Themes of John's Gospel

- John's Prologue (1:1-18)
 - No birth narrative; he traces Christ's origin back to before Creation. He is "the Word," the Creator God who offers life to all who believe in him. The proof of this claim is given in the body of the book.
 - Jesus is identified as God in human flesh who reveals the Father to men.
- John frequently organizes and enumerates things in groups of seven, such as *the seven great sign miracles* of Jesus' earthly ministry. Note the additional instances:

Seven Witnesses to Christ's Identity

- These seven witnesses are found in two passages: John 5:31-40; 15:26-27)
 - Christ's witness to himself (5:31)
 - John the Baptist's witness (5:33)
 - Christ's miracles testify to him ("works," 5:36) = "signs"
 - The Father bore witness to His Son (5:37)
 - The Scriptures testify to Christ (i.e., the OT, 5:39)
 - The Holy Spirit will testify to Christ (after Pentecost, 15:26)
 - The Apostles will testify to Christ (after Pentecost, 15:27)

Seven “I am” Statements of Christ

- These are claims to deity (cp. 8:58; 10:30, 36)
 - I am the bread of life (6:35)
 - I am the light of the world (8:12; 9:15)
 - I am the door (10:7)
 - I am the good shepherd (10:11, 14)
 - I am the resurrection and the life (11:25)
 - I am the way, the truth, and the life (14:6)
 - I am the true vine (15:1)





Purposes and Themes of John's Gospel

- **Key Focus:** The Feasts of the Jews
 - The First Passover (2:23)
 - An Unnamed Feast (5:1)
 - A Passover (either the 2nd or the 3rd Passover; 6:4)
 - The Feast of Tabernacles (7:2)
 - The Feast of Dedication (10:22)
 - The Last Passover (13:1)

The Structure of John's Gospel

1. The Prologue (1:1-18)
2. The Revelation of Christ's Person through His Words and Works (1:19—12:50)
3. The Revelation of Christ's Person through His Death and Resurrection (13:1—20:31)
4. The Epilogue (21:1-25)

Outline and Survey of John's Gospel



1. Christ and the Individuals (1-4)
 - a. Christ the word (1)
 - b. Christ the Creator (2)
 - c. Christ the Savior (3)
 - d. Christ the water of life (4)

Outline and Survey of John's Gospel

2. Christ and the Multitudes (5-12)
 - a. Christ the Judge (5)
 - b. Christ the bread of life (6)
 - c. Christ the divider (7)
 - d. Christ the light of the world (8-9)
 - e. Christ the Good Shepherd (10)
 - f. Christ the resurrection and life (11)
 - g. Christ the center of attraction (12)



Outline and Survey of John's Gospel

3. Christ and the Disciples (13-17)
 - a. Christ the servant (13)
 - b. Christ the comforter (14)
 - c. Christ the vine (15-16)
 - d. Christ the intercessor (17)



Outline and Survey of John's Gospel

4. Christ and His Passion (18-21)
 - a. Christ the sacrifice (18-19)
 - b. Christ the victor (20)
 - c. Christ the Chief Shepherd (21)



Image: The Miraculous Draught of Fishes by Sebastiano Ricci