

FIFTEEN REASONS WHY I THINK
THE APOSTLE JOHN WROTE TO ISRAELITES IN
THE DISPERSION, AND WHY HE WROTE
HIS FIVE NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS AFTER
THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM IN AD 70

Over the years various proposals have been put forth as to when John wrote his five New Testament books. Since papyrus P^{52} was dated to about A.D. 125, the theory that he wrote in the 2nd century (or later) was effectively demolished (and thus the theory that the writer was not one of the original 12). In the last several decades (1970s — 1990s) it has become “fashionable” (in Daniel Wallace’s words) to date John’s writings as pre-AD 70, as noted in J. A. T. Robinson’s work, *Redating the New Testament*, 1976.

Daniel Wallace also agrees to a pre-A.D. 70 dating, and uses the present tense verb form $\epsilon\sigma\tau\iota\nu$ as seen in John 5:2 as one of his major premises for a pre-A.D. 70 dating. However, the pool of Bethesda (spelling per the NASB) survived the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, and was still standing when John in the late first century (A.D. 90 - 98) wrote his gospel account. Refer to *The Pool of Bethesda* an article by E. Jerry Vardaman in *The Bible Translator*, volume XIV, 1963, published by the United Bible Societies, London.

In 1991, this writer sent a lengthy essay demonstrating in detail most of the 15 following reasons as to who and when John wrote his works, to Daniel Wallace of Dallas Theological Seminary. He complimented me on the work but did not respond to the challenge it posed to his theory.

God has designed His written Word as food for many souls living in various ages. Many of the prophetic books contain information for peoples in a later time period (which information is useful to the present readers as well!). The Apostle John was sent to minister to Israel and her proselytes. This he does, and unlike Paul he is not an Apostle to the nations (or Gentiles). John writes specifically for the dispersed Jews who are alive just prior to the tribulation age. He prepares them for what comes and explains many events to them, as well as a historical account of Jesus in his gospel. In doing so, John also provides the readers of this present age with many precious passages and truths. 15 reasons why I date John as circa A.D. 95/98, follow...

COMPARATIVELY SPEAKING

[By “comparatively speaking” is meant a comparison with the synoptic gospels and their linguistic styles.]

- (1) Accusative case usurps the realm of the other cases.
- (2) Articular infinitive only used 5x in all of John’s 5 books.
- (3) John uses the middle voice less.
- (4) John translates various Hebrew words, as his audience perhaps was no longer cognizant of such terms in their dispersion.
- (5) Nowhere does John press evangelism in his gospel account, there is no commission, as the temple had already been destroyed (post A.D. 70).
- (6) John never uses the optative mood.
- (7) Writing late, he can be referred to as the “Elder” and he refers to his audience as “little children”.
- (8) He refers to the Sea of Galilee as the “sea of Tiberias”, a late connotation.
- (9) He uses words which did not exist earlier, such as ἀποσυναγωγους. He also uses many words which were only starting to become vogue in the late first century, and hence many of his terms are still evident in later Byzantine phrases.
- (10) John uses singular results from grammatically plural word forms, a usage which is more popular in a later period of the first and second century AD. (Such as “bloods” in John 1:13).
- (11) Mandilaras, notes that John uses less -mi verbs than the other writers. (Though I wonder if the -mi verbs are indeed older than the -o- conjugations).
- (12) Only John speaks of Lazarus, as by now (late first century) Lazarus has again died, and he could not then become some sort of public spectacle.
- (13) John’s writings are primarily directed to dispersed Jews, which they became after A.D. 70.
- (14) John’s readers are being prepared to enter a great tribulation, a future judgment promised to Israel, which occurs after this present age! John knows of Paul’s commission to the nations, but continues on in his commission to Israel.
- (15) John is declared by tradition, to have written his materials late in Asia Minor, and some of his language usage indicates this: his use of ερος is typical of Asia Minor Greek.