

John's Gospel: The Author Who Is Present in the Story

Literary analysis can help us to see more in any written text, and Scripture is no exception. Without giving up on historicity, we will trace in this workshop how the 'narrator' functions in John's gospel, how he is ever present, and what we can learn from this.

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1) Some Theory:

- a) Real Author and Implied Author (the narrator)
- b) Real Audience and Implied Audience
- c) Narrative Time

2) The Narrative Time in John

- a) Looking back on completed events
 - i) Jn 1:10-11
 - ii) Jn 1:14
- b) Looking forward
 - i) Numbering the signs, Jn 2:11, 4:54
 - ii) After the resurrection, Jn 2:22
 - iii) Events after the ascension of Jesus, Jn 21:23
 - iv) Time between telling the story and the events
 - v) Later events shaping the way a story is told

3) The Narrator and the Author

- a) In 'true testimony' the two overlap
- b) The narrator as actor in the story

- c) The narrator present in the closing of the book Jn 21:20-24
- d) The beloved disciple

4) Conclusions

- a) Complex ideas in simplistic language
- b) John's gospel is aware of what it is doing a literature
- c) Playing with language: Jn 16:5