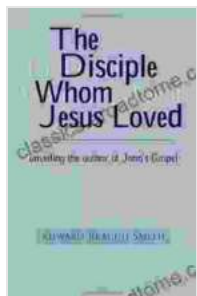


# Unveiling the True Author of the Gospel of John: A Historical Investigation



## The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved: Unveiling the Author of John's Gospel by Edward Reaugh Smith

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 682 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 96 pages



The Gospel of John, one of the four canonical Gospels of the New Testament, holds a unique position within the Christian tradition. It is often hailed as the most spiritual and theological of the Gospels, offering profound insights into the nature of Jesus Christ and his relationship with God. However, the question of who wrote this profound account has been a subject of debate and discussion for centuries.

Traditionally, the Gospel of John has been attributed to the apostle John, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This attribution is based on the internal evidence of the Gospel itself, which refers to the author as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23). However, this traditional view has been challenged by a number of scholars who have suggested that the Gospel was actually written by someone other than John.

## Historical Evidence

To determine the true author of the Gospel of John, we must examine the historical evidence. The earliest mention of the Gospel is found in the writings of Bishop Papias of Hierapolis, who wrote around 125 AD. Papias states that the Gospel was written by John the Elder, a presbyter of the church in Ephesus. This tradition was later repeated by other early church fathers, such as Polycarp, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, and Origen.

However, there is also evidence to suggest that the Gospel of John was not written by John the Elder. The Gospel itself contains a number of passages that appear to be written by someone who was not an eyewitness to the events described. For example, the Gospel refers to Jesus as "the Word" (John 1:1), a term that is not used in any of the other Gospels. Additionally, the Gospel contains a number of anachronisms, such as the mention of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD (John 2:19-21).

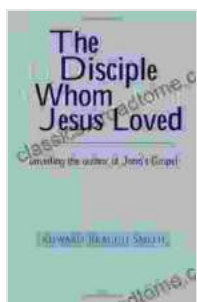
### **The Beloved Disciple**

One of the key figures in the Gospel of John is the mysterious "beloved disciple." This disciple is mentioned several times in the Gospel, and he is often identified with the author of the Gospel. However, there is no consensus among scholars as to who the beloved disciple was.

Some scholars believe that the beloved disciple was John the son of Zebedee, the brother of James the Greater. This view is based on the fact that John was one of the disciples who was present at the Last Supper (John 13:23-26). However, there are other scholars who believe that the beloved disciple was not John the son of Zebedee, but rather another disciple who was close to Jesus.

The question of who wrote the Gospel of John is a complex one that has been debated by scholars for centuries. The historical evidence is inconclusive, and there is no consensus among scholars as to who the true author was. However, the most likely is that the Gospel was written by someone who was close to Jesus, but who was not one of the twelve apostles. This person may have been John the Elder, the presbyter of the church in Ephesus, or he may have been another disciple who was inspired by Jesus' teachings.

Ultimately, the question of who wrote the Gospel of John is less important than the message that the Gospel contains. The Gospel of John is a profound and moving account of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and it has been a source of inspiration and comfort for Christians for centuries. Regardless of who wrote it, the Gospel of John is a timeless masterpiece that continues to speak to the hearts of believers today.



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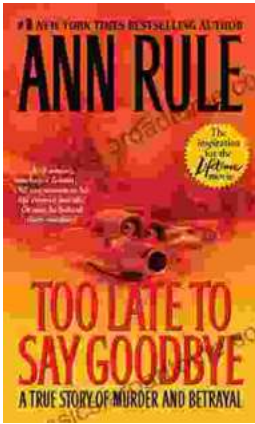
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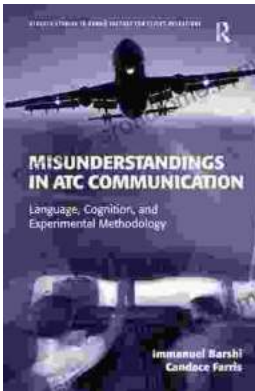
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