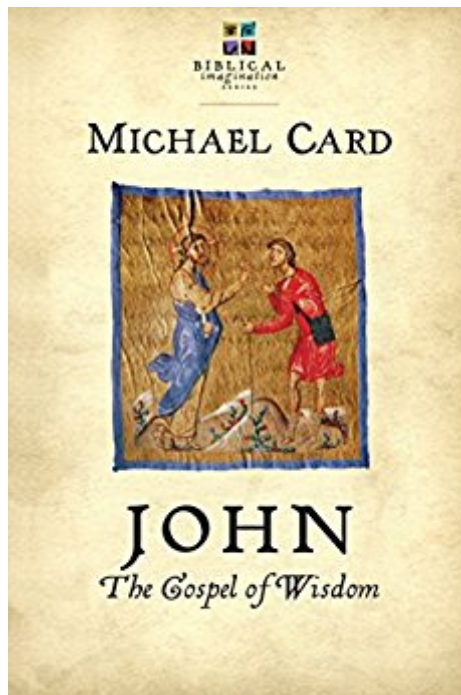


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John: The Gospel Of Wisdom (The Biblical Imagination Series)



Synopsis

"When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth." - John 16:13 "He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth." - John 19:35 With time and experience comes wisdom. John, the longest-surviving of the apostles, recorded in his Gospel a portrait of Jesus that displays the depth of years of reflection on who Jesus is and what he means to the world. Writing in light of the philosophies of his day, John describes Jesus as the incarnate Word, the divine Logos, the embodiment of all truth and wisdom. In this last volume of the Biblical Imagination Series, Michael Card completes his work on the four Gospels. He shows how John stands alongside the other Gospel writers to fill out the picture of Jesus' divine identity, with stories and sayings of Jesus not recorded by the others. This Jesus reorients our understanding of ourselves and the world around us, offering us nothing less than the way, the truth and the life. Like John before him, Card has written these words so that we may better believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing we have life in his name.

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Customer Reviews

The Gospel of John has long been a favorite of scholars and layman alike. Somewhat different in scope and focus than the other gospels, it begins with a reminder of who Jesus is, namely the Word who is God and who has always been, the logos. Furthermore, the Gospel of John is often the first book of the Bible, except perhaps for the Psalms or Proverbs, that many new believers gravitate towards or are encouraged to read in their initial forays into Scripture. In the final installment of his Biblical Imagination Series, noted musician and author Michael Card engages this beloved Gospel in his book aptly titled *John: The Gospel of Wisdom*. Michael Card definitely has the gift of writing. This gift has long been demonstrated in the lyrics to his long and distinguished Christian music career. His ability to put pen to paper in a way that is scholarly yet accessible and that captures the true overarching message of the Gospel of John is also quite evident in this final volume of the Biblical Imagination Series. Card captures the attention of the reader, bringing them into the world of the biblical author while never failing to drive home the biblical concepts and principles found in John's Gospel. As with the other volumes in this outstanding series, Michael Card begins his discussion with the necessary background information regarding the Gospel of John. A unique element found in the Gospel of John is the underlying theme of wisdom, an approach not found to a large degree in the other gospel accounts. Card aptly notes, "In fact, the inadequacy of wisdom is the fundamental theme of John's Gospel."

Perhaps the highest praise I could give for *John: the Gospel of Wisdom* by Michael Card is that it creates a desire to become a better student of the Scriptures. This sentiment applies to any of the four commentaries, one for each gospel, which Card has authored over the last four years. I greatly esteem his work as a musician, songwriter and recording artist, for which he is probably best known. He gave us "El Shaddai," the song made popular by Amy Grant. And yet, for all his accomplishments in music and as an author of many books, I think this four volume commentary set is his most significant work. His exposition of the Scriptures over the years in song and book have brought him to the place where he can make the gospel accounts of Christ come to life in the imagination of his readers. One of the beauties of this effort is that these commentaries are made to be read instead of just being a work you consult. They are scholarly but accessible, detailed but brief. Card has achieved a wonderful balance. His intent goes beyond providing information. Card sets an example of gathering facts in the service of a sanctified use of imagination. It's like

gathering wood so that you can enjoy a fire. It's seeing the Scriptures come alive through gaining a clearer picture. Card writes, "It is always the informed imagination. We must become committed to doing the work, to finding the best sources, beginning with the primary sources, the earliest writings: Mishnah, Talmud, Josephus, Pliny, Suetonius and Tacitus. These ancient sources do not exist only for the scholars. They are all readily available, now more than ever with electronic books. (Many of them are free!)" (13) •So the greatest benefit may not be reading Card's exposition.

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