

The Formation of the Gospel of John

Close study of the Gospel of John indicates that the book went through several stages of composition before reaching its final form. Scholars have debated the what, why, and how for over 150 years. As believers who trust in the inspiration of the Scriptures, we believe that the Holy Spirit was active in the formation of the books of the Bible throughout the entire process (*ie.*, Stages 1 – 5 here in John). God did not turn the authors into mindless robots during the writing, but inspired them to proclaim the message of the Christ in terms understood by their contemporaries as well as us today. As the *Paraclete* worked in Jesus' day to spread his truth, so he is also at work today in and through the Gospel of John. This schema on the formation of the Gospel of John is based on the work of Raymond Brown, one of the top Johannine scholars.

