

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

The Four Gospels

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell us about the coming of Jesus Christ and how he lived, what He taught, why He died and finally that He rose from the dead making Him different from any man who ever lived. Each of the Four writers have a different perspective of Jesus' mission, yet all four form the complete picture to the understanding of Who God is in relationship with man.

Matthew

- Matthew was written to Jewish readers
- Theme: **Jesus Is King and Messiah**
- Messiah is the Jewish term meaning "the anointed"; Christ is the Greek equivalent
- The key phrase, "this was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet...." Occurs some 16 times in Matthew.
- Matthew writes to show that Jesus as the rightful Messiah of Israel

Matthew 2:1-2

- 1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "**Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?** For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.



“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham”—Matt. 1:1

- This phrase would have drawn the attention of Matthew’s Jewish readers
- It was used as a connection with the book of Genesis in which this phrase was used as a connection with Adam the head of the human family
- We have a new head of the human family now and He is Jesus
- Who is from Abraham
- Who is from David

Mark

- Mark writes to demonstrate Jesus as **the servant of man**
- Mark is the son of Mary who had a large house that was used as a meeting place for the disciples—Acts 12:12
- It was also in the upper room of this house that the last supper of Jesus was taken
- Peter called Mark “my son” in 1 Peter 5:13 so it is believed that through this close association that Peter was the primary source for Mark
- Mark was the certain young man in Gethsemane who ran away naked in Mark 14:51-52
- Mark is the first of the gospels that was written

Mark 10:45

- 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
- The **“Son of Man”** is a key phrase for Jesus in Mark



Luke

- **Luke focuses on the humanity Jesus**
- Luke was the only New Testament writer who was not Jewish
- He writes to Greeks and demonstrates that Jesus is the perfect man
- Luke shows how Jesus is descended from Adam, the first man, and so is related to us all.
- He is instructed by Theophilus to write a true account of Jesus—Luke 1:1-4
- Luke was a doctor and was a good friend of Paul (Col. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:11)

Luke 19:7,9-10

- 7 But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”
- 9 And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 **for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**”

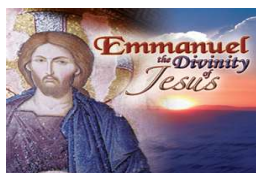


John

- John focuses his writing on **the divinity of Jesus**
- In John chapter 1:1-14, John calls Jesus the Word
- He says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**”-vs.1
- John also says, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”vs. 14
- This would have taken John’s readers back to Genesis chapter 1: **“In the beginning God....”**
- **“Son of God”** is a key phrase used by John

John 1:18

- 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.
- John 1:18 NU-Text reads *only begotten God*.



The Images Of Jesus In The Gospels

- Matthew: Jesus is the King of the Jews
- Mark: Jesus is the suffering servant
- Luke: Jesus is the perfect man
- John: Jesus is God
- These images of Jesus match the images of Ezekiel’s living creatures in Ezekiel 1:10 and Revelation 4:6-8

The Living Creatures of Ezekiel

- “As for the likeness of their faces, *each* had the **face of a man**; each of the four had **the face of a lion** on the right side, each of the four had the **face of an ox** on the left side, and each of the four had the **face of an eagle**.”—Ez. 1:10

- **The Lion:** Kingship and authority
- **The Ox:** Strength and service
- **The Man:** Identity and understanding
- **The Eagle:** Divinity and majesty



The Perspective Of The Gospels

- Matthew, Mark, and Luke are historical documents
- Matthew, Mark, and Luke use mostly parables to convey their message of day to day practical living in relationship with Jesus
- John is focused on the Person of Christ and uses symbols to express his message, i.e. bread is my body, light of the world, living water etc.

The Time of Jesus' Birth

- “But **when the fullness of the time had come**, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law....”-- **Galatians 4:4**
- Probably was somewhere between 8-4 B.C., But no one can precisely know for sure
- WE DO KNOW THAT HE WAS BORN!



What We Do Know:

- Quirinus was Governor of Syria and took a census
- Quirinius was Governor of Syria the first time in 10—7 B.C. There is a lot of questions as to the time when Quirinius was Governor
- Lots of question as to when Herod died 1-4 B.C.
- Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem to register and while they were there Jesus was born (Luke 2:6)

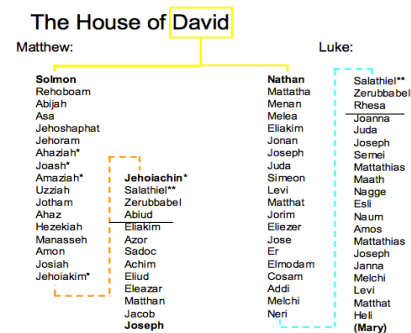
- The reason Joseph would have gone to Bethlehem was because the census that was being taken was a tax census, and the home in which they returned is where they owned property. Thus, Joseph, as well as, Mary being of the lineage of David and from Bethlehem probably owned property there.
- There were shepherds living out in the field, therefore it would have probably been in spring or summer months, not December. In fact December 25th was actually a pagan holiday celebrated by the Romans, in celebration of Saturnalia , therefore, early Christians were pulled into the celebration of this day probably when Constantine united Christianity with Rome. Lambing time was in the spring and summer. **Matt. 24:20**; “but pray ye that your flight be not in the winter...”

A Good Theory

- **Luke 3:1**; John the Baptist began his ministry in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. Tiberius began his reign in 14 A.D. , That would make it 29 A.D. When John began his ministry. According to **Numbers 4:3**, the beginning age of ministry was 30 years old. Jesus was 5 months younger than John, that would place their birth in 1.B.C.

Virgin Birth

- **Problem:** God pronounces a blood curse on the royal line through Jeconiah in Jeremiah 22:28-30
- **Two genealogies:**
- **Matthew:** Matthew focuses on Jesus as Messiah; He traces the legal line from Abraham through David, then Solomon and through the royal line to Joseph, the legal father of Jesus.
- **Luke:** As a physician Luke focuses on the humanity of Jesus and the blood line from Adam through David, then through Nathan (another son of David) to Mary the mother of Jesus
- **Solution:** Is 7:14 = virgin birth



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

- Gospel is from the Anglo-Saxon word "godspel" or literally "good story"
- (The word gospel is an Anglo-Saxon word which meant "the story concerning God." In the New Testament the Greek word euaggelion, means "good news." It proclaims tidings of deliverance.
- To proclaim the gospel is to report the story of God and His redemption

GOSPEL: THE STORY OF GOD'S PASSION TO REDEEM MAN

The Agony And Death Of Jesus On The Cross At Calvary

- It is the crux of the Christian faith
- "Crux": Cross
- We get our English word excruciating from crucifixion
- "It is arguably the most painful death ever invented by man..." Dr. Mark Eastman

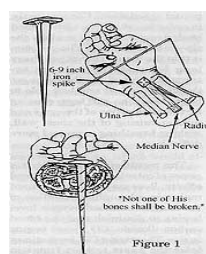


Figure 1

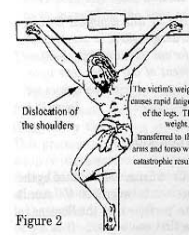


Figure 2

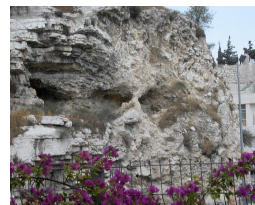
- To slow the process of death the executioners put a small wooden seat on the cross, which would allow the victim the privilege of bearing his weight on his buttocks. The effect of this was that it could take up to nine days to die on a cross.

The Tomb



Make it as secure as you know how. So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard." Matt. 27:65,66 An iron shaft was driven into the rock. This would have prevented the stone from being rolled backward.

The Place of Crucifixion



200 yards east of the Garden Tomb is Skull Hill, or Golgotha - Place of the Skull, or the Latin equivalent - Calvary. "And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him." John 19:17,18.

Shroud of Turin



The Image on the Shroud



An artist rendering based on the Shroud

And Joseph having got the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn in the rock; and having rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, went away." Matt 27:59-60