

Comparison of the Gospels

MATTHEW (A Levite, tax collector, apostle of Jesus; Matt:9:9)

Time/Place: 60+AD

NOTE: Most *prophetic* gospel; quotes much from OT

FOCUS: Teachings of Jesus the Messiah King

TIMELINE: Birth of Jesus to resurrection appearances; concludes with *Great Commission*

KEY VERSE: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Matthew 5:17)

LUKE (Gentile missionary-doctor; colleague of Paul; Col 4:14)

Time/Place: 60-62 AD

NOTE: Mostly *historical* gospel; Detailed account of life/ministry of Jesus, describing His character/virtue

FOCUS: Jesus as divine *Son of Man*

TIMELINE: Birth of Jesus to resurrection appearances; concludes with *Great Commission*

KEY VERSE: “For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.” (Luke 19:10)

MARK (Early believer/helper to Apostles Peter and Paul ACTS 12:12; COL 4:10)

TIMELINE: 50's AD

NOTE: Most *practical*; Possibly earliest of four gospels; life/ministry of Jesus, describing His character/virtue

FOCUS: Humanity of Jesus; Jesus's actions as *divine servant*

TIMELINE: Fast-paced, action-oriented narrative from baptism to resurrection; shortest of Gospels

KEY VERSE: “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all. (Mark 9:35)

JOHN (Part of Jesus' *inner* circle of disciples - Matt 4:21)

TIMELINE: Later part of 1st century

NOTE: Mostly *theological* gospel

FOCUS: Jesus, as Son of God *incarnate* (divine WORD made flesh; contains lengthy teaching/detailed miracle accounts (not in other gospels)

TIMELINE: Beginning ministry to resurrection appearances

KEY VERSE: “For GOD so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)