

THE MESSAGE IN A NUTSHELL...

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1 MATTHEW

TO: JEWS

AS: KING

WHAT

HE: SAID

2 MARK

TO: ROMANS

AS: SERVANT

WHAT

HE: DID

3 LUKE

TO: GREEKS

AS: GOD/MAN

WHAT

HE: FELT

4 JOHN

TO: CHURCH

AS: GOD

WHAT

HE: MEANT

THE FOCUS OF THE FOUR GOSPELS

Gospel	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Audience	Jews	Romans	Hellenists	Greco-Romans
Focus	Jesus is the Messianic King of the promised Davidic Kingdom who fulfills the Old Testament prophecies and covenants.	Jesus is the authoritative Son of God. He is God's triumphant envoy come to suffer and die in order to claim victory over sin and death.	Jesus is the perfect Son of Man, the Messiah prophesied by the prophets, who came to save and to minister to people of all nations through the power of God the Holy Spirit.	Jesus Christ is the fully divine Son of God who existed before Creation. He is the true Lamb of sacrifice through whom we receive the gift of eternal life.
Some Key Words	Kingdom of Heaven; fulfilled	Kingdom of God; immediately /now	Kingdom of God; Son of Man	Word of God; only begotten Son; believe; eternal life



	<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Luke</i>	<i>John</i>
<i>Portrait of Jesus</i>	King	Servant	Teacher	Son of God
<i>Original readers</i>	Jews	Romans?	Greeks	Church
<i>Key phrase</i>	Kingdom of heaven	Immediately	Son of man	Believe
<i>Prominent sections</i>	Sermons	Miracles	Parables	Teachings
<i>Genealogy</i>	Traced back to Abraham	None	Traced to Adam	None
<i>Geographic Emphasis</i>	Emphasis on the ministry of Jesus in Galilee			Ministry in Judea
<i>Time Sequence</i>	Only one Passover mentioned during the ministry of Jesus			3 Passovers plus an unnamed feast in John 6

The Four Gospels Compared

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	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Author	<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Luke</i>	<i>John</i>
Job before Saved	Tax Collector	None (Youth)	Medical Doctor	Fisherman
Race	Jew	Jew	Gentile	Jew
Office and / or Spiritual Gift	Apostle	Service or Pastoring	Service or Teaching	Apostle
Readers				
Ethnically	Jewish	Roman	Gentile (Greek)	World
Interest	Signs (1 Cor. 1:22)		Wisdom (1 Cor. 1:22)	
Spiritually	Unbelievers	Believers	Unbelievers	Unbelievers
Primary Need:	Messiah and Kingdom Offer	Model in Suffering (exhorts)	Universality (and kingdom expansion)	Deity

The Four Gospels Compared

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	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Date Written	40s	64-68	57-59	late 60s
Place Written	Antioch or Syria	Rome	Caesarea or Rome	Ephesus
Place Sent	Palestine	Rome	To Theophilus	Asia, etc.
Jesus is...	King of Israel (Messiah)	Suffering Servant (Deity)	Ideal Man (Messiah)	Son of God (Deity)
Key Verse	21:5	10:45	19:10	20:31
Themes	Law	Power	Grace	Glory
Literary Emphasis	Sermons	Miracles	Parables	Allegories
Arrangement	Topical	Chronological	Chronological	Topical
Genealogy	Abraham to Joseph	None	None	None

AUTHOR: JEWISH, TAX COLLECTOR, APOSTLE, DIED A MARTYR

DATE: A.D. 50-60

AUTHOR: DISCIPLE OF PETER, COUSIN OF BARNABAS

DATE: A.D. 50-70

INTENDED AUDIENCE: JEWS AND JEWISH CONVERTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE FAMILIAR WITH PROPHECY

INTENDED AUDIENCE: GENTILES AND ROMAN BELIEVERS

THEME: CHRIST IS THE KING AND THE PROMISED MESSIAH OF ISRAEL

THEME: THE DEEDS AND MIRACLES OF JESUS; CHRIST AS A SUFFERING SERVANT OF GOD

INTERESTING FACT: OVER 60 REFERENCES TO OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES

INTERESTING FACT: WRITTEN IN BASIC GREEK, EXPLAINS JEWISH CUSTOMS, AND DEFINES ARAMAIC WORDS TO HELP THE NON-JEWISH READERS

UNIQUE TO BOOK: SERMON ON MOUNT, CHRIST AS A CHILD

UNIQUE TO BOOK: MORE FOCUS ON WORKS OVER WORDS

KEY VERSE: GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. MATTHEW 28:19

KEY VERSE: FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY. MARK 10:45

SPECIAL INSIGHT: MATTHEW WAS AN EYEWITNESS TO MANY OF THE MIRACLES, THE RESURRECTION, AND THE ASCENSION.

SPECIAL INSIGHT: MARK WROTE THIS BOOK USING THE TEACHINGS AND THE TESTIMONY OF PETER THE APOSTLE.

AUTHOR: GENTILE, COMPANION OF PAUL, PHYSICIAN, AUTHOR OF THE BOOK OF ACTS
DATE: AD 60

AUTHOR: INNER CIRCLE OF JESUS' DISCIPLES, FISHERMAN, AND ALSO WRITER OF BOOK OF REVELATION

INTENDED AUDIENCE: SPECIFICALLY WRITTEN TO THEOPHILUS, A ROMAN DIGNITARY. PERHAPS NEW TO CHRIST

DATE: A.D. 80-90, WRITTEN IN EXILE

THEME: SALVATION IS FOR EVERYONE

INTENDED AUDIENCE: WRITTEN FOR UNBELIEVERS SO THAT THEY MAY FIND ETERNAL LIFE, AND FOR BELIEVERS SO THAT THEY MAY FIND ASSURANCE

INTERESTING FACT: SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON WOMEN AS MAJOR ROLES IN THE FAITH

THEME: THE DEITY OF CHRIST, ETERNAL LIFE

UNIQUE TO BOOK: RICH MAN AND LAZARUS, SALVATION OF THE THIEF ON CROSS, AND THE PRODIGAL SON

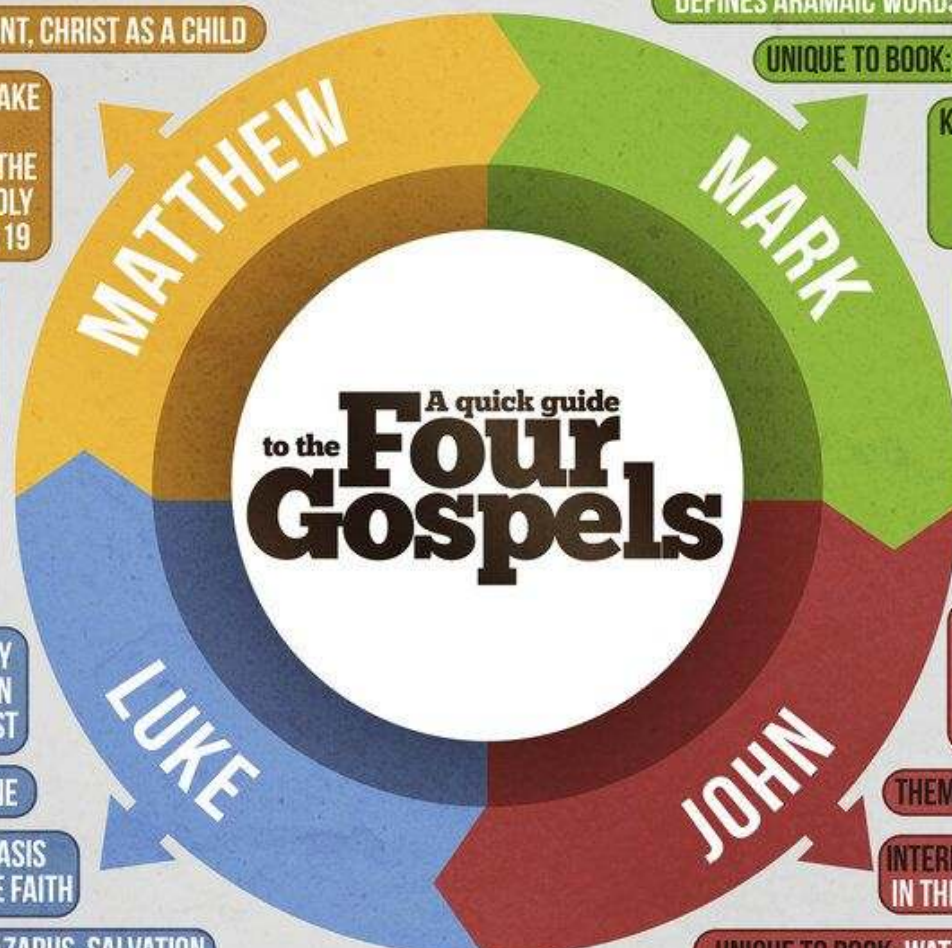
INTERESTING FACT: JOHN REPLACES HIS NAME IN THIS GOSPEL WITH "WHOM JESUS LOVED"

KEY VERSE: FOR TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID THERE HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU A SAVIOR WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD. LUKE 2:11

KEY VERSE: FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, SO THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. JOHN 3:16

SPECIAL INSIGHT: LUKE WAS A HISTORIAN AND HE INCLUDED ALL OF THE TINY DETAILS, FACTS, AND DESCRIPTIONS IN HIS BOOK. LONGEST OF ALL FOUR GOSPELS

SPECIAL INSIGHT: JOHN WAS ONE OF CLOSEST DISCIPLES TO CHRIST, WITNESSED THE TRANSFIGURATION, FIRST TO EMPTY TOMB, LIVED LONGEST OF DISCIPLES



Synoptic Similarities

NIV Study Bible, 1471

- **Matthew, Mark and Luke are noticeably similar, while John is quite different.**
- **How do the first three Gospels agree?**
 - Language
 - Material they include
 - General order of the events and sayings from Christ's life
- **The math facts:**
 - 91 percent of Mark is found in Matthew
 - 53 percent of Mark is found in Luke
- **Such agreement raises questions as to the origin of the Synoptic Gospels. Did the authors rely on a common source? Were they interdependent?**