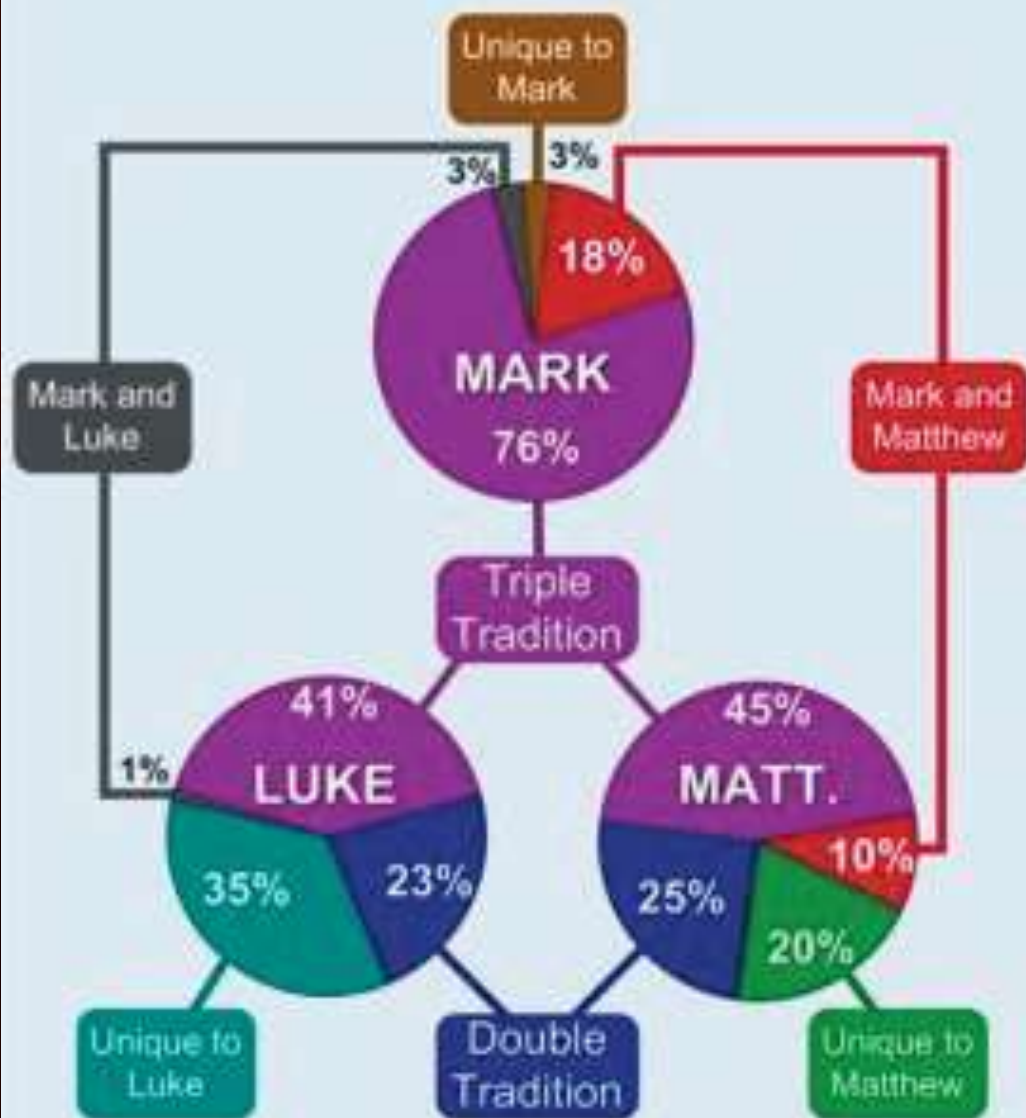


The Four Gospels:
Matthew Mark, Luke, and John

The Synoptic Gospels

Relationships between the Synoptic Gospels





The Four Gospels: **Matthew**

- Matthew is first book in NT, may not be written first.
- Records facts that form basis of our faith.
- Explains details revealed about Christ's earthly life.
- **“Good news”**
 - Every valuable fact about Jesus learned ONLY from the gospels!

The Four Gospels

- **Events that paved the way for the spread of the gospel:**
 - **Career of Alexander the Great**
 - **Rise of the Roman Empire**
 - **Dispersion of the Jews**
 - **Greek gave the world unity of language.**
 - **Rome brought social order & roads for travel.**
 - **Scattering Jews undermined heathen religions**

The Four Gospels

- Gospel was first preached in Jerusalem
- Preached in Greek
- Early Christians were scattered throughout the Roman world.
 - **Inscription above the cross was in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin languages.**
 - **Testimony of Christ's claims. He suffered to unite all nations into one family of God!**

The Four Gospels

- In many ways, Matthew, Mark, and Luke are alike, while at the same time being unlike John.
- This is why Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called synoptic gospels.
- The synoptic gospels dwell on Jesus' ministry in **Galilee**; John features the ministry in **Judea**.

The Four Gospels

- Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us the detail of one of Jesus' visits to Jerusalem—the one that ended with His crucifixion.
- John records the four Jerusalem visits prior to that last one.
 - **First three: miracles, parables, addresses to the multitudes—more objective**
 - **Fourth: emphasizes spiritual meaning and is more subjective**

The Four Gospels

- Each writer had a distinctive purpose in view.
 - **Matt 1:1; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:1-4; John 20:30,31**
- Written gospel messages were preceded by the oral preaching of the messages.
- Each gospel was directed toward certain people groups
 - **Matthew** primarily to the Jews
 - **Mark** wrote from the Roman point of view
 - **Luke** addressed the Greeks
 - **John** is sometimes called the universal gospel.

The Four Gospels

- The Spirit's superintending power is seen in selection of contents of each book
 - **John 15:26; 2 Peter 1:20,21**
- Use human personalities, experiences, and abilities with Divine guidance from the Holy Spirit
- Books begin with Jesus' birth; conclude with His ascension.

Matthew – the Author

- Matthew was well-equipped for the task of writing to the Jews.
- A tax collector under Herod Antipas
- Knew Hebrew and Aramaic
- Name changed from Levi to Matthew
- Humble; referred to himself as a publican
- Recorded no incidents concerning himself—a humble and retiring position

Matthew – When Written

- First of the four gospels written
- The church would need such a history from pen of an apostle
- Predated destruction of Jerusalem (**Matthew 24**)
- Probably written between A.D. 45 and 50

Matthew – Purpose of His Gospel

- Link between Old and New Testaments.
- Beginning of NT appropriate time for Jewish reader.
- Gospel of Messiah—*the anointed one*
- Trace Christ's genealogy to Abraham

Matthew – Purpose of His Gospel

- **Two-fold purpose:**
 - **Connect message of OT with gospel**
 - **Demonstrate fulfillment of the OT prophecies through the coming of Jesus of Nazareth as Messiah-King**

Matthew – Calls Attention to...

- **Jesus as the Messiah, King**

- kingdom—57x

- kingdom of heaven—33x

- kingdom of God—5x

- the King

- **Matthew 2:2; 21:5; 22:11; 25:34;
27:11, 37, 42**



Matthew – Calls Attention to...

- Only Matthew traces genealogy to Abraham
- Matthew gives the story of the visit of the Magi who brought gifts to the newborn King.
- Only Matthew refers to Jesus being born *king of the Jews*.
- Only Matthew cites the prophecy of the ruler coming out of Bethlehem.
- Only Matthew gives the Baptist's message, *"the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Matthew – Calls Attention to...

- **Christ's kingship is asserted, confessed, & proven through fulfillment of prophecy.**
 - **Recognition of His person (Matt.16:13-18)**
 - **Pronouncement of His authority (Matt.28:18-20)**
 - **His claim that His teaching constituted law (Matt.7:24-29)**
 - **Contrast between human genealogy and miraculous birth (Matt.1)**

Matthew – Calls Attention to...

- All in His line of descent were transient, but He is eternal. (Hebrews 7:23-25)
- All in His human lineage were sinful, but He lived without sin.
- They were earthly; He was heavenly (*second Adam*).
- They were Jews; He was God's Son. (Jno.1:1-11; Heb.10:5; Phil.2:5-11)

Matthew – Gospel of Fulfillment

- **Cites 40 proof passages from OT**
 - Genesis 12:3; 2 Samuel 7:12
- **Some of the prophetic fulfillments:**
 - Mic 5:2-place of birth (2:1)
 - Isa 7:14-born of a virgin (1:18-23)
 - Jer 31:15-massacre of infants (2:16)
 - Hosea 11:1-flight into Egypt (2:14,15)
 - Zech 11:12-sold for 30 silver pieces (26:15)

Jesus, the Promised Messiah

- Refers to OT scriptures with which the Jews were familiar.
 - *“that it might be fulfilled which was written in the prophets, saying..”*
- Contrasts Christianity with Pharisees’ concept of righteousness.
- Words righteous and righteousness occur more often in Matthew than in the other three gospels combined!

Matthew – Sermon on the Mount

- Sets forth spiritual principles of righteousness and the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus affirmed regard for law. **(5:17)**
- Demands standard of righteousness far above outward appearances of Pharisees. **(5:20)**
- God, the perfect example. **(5:48)**
- Christ's authority - superior to the authority of Moses.
– *“But I say unto you...”*



Matthew – Sermon on the Mount

- Differences in conformity; not just outward requirements—but requirements for the heart!
- Obedience a must (7:21-27)
- God’s judgment against the Jewish nation and impending destruction in retribution for unfaithfulness (24)
- Justice and righteousness part of God’s nature



Matthew – Contents and Character

- **Introduction—(1:1—4:11)**
 - The genealogy
 - Jesus' birth and childhood
 - Preparatory work of John the Baptist
 - Jesus' baptism
 - Temptations in the wilderness



Matthew – Contents and Character

- **Jesus' ministry—(4:12—16:21)**
 - Galilee, the starting place
 - Jesus' words and acts
 - Sermon on the Mount and ten miracles
 - Sermon to the twelve—call to apostleship
 - His teaching—seven consecutive parables
 - Human traditions make void the word of God.

Matthew – Contents and Character

- ***“From this time forth”*—(16:21—21)**
 - Transfiguration (17:1-8)
 - Need for humility in the kingdom (18:15-20)
 - Open rejection from religious leaders
 - The rich young ruler (19:16-22)
 - Foretelling His suffering (20:26-28)
 - Triumphant entry into Jerusalem (21)
 - Rejection and unbelief (22)

Matthew – Contents and Character

- **Conflict with leaders, and death ending in victory—(23:1—28:20)**
 - **Rebuking the hypocrites (23)**
 - **Foretelling Jerusalem’s destruction (24)**
 - **Parables-10 Virgins and Talents (25:1-30)**
 - **A glimpse into final judgment (25:31-46)**
 - **Plot to take His life and the betrayal (26)**
 - **Crucifixion (27)**
 - **Resurrection, ascension, and Great Commission (28)**





Mark – Who was he?

- **Cousin of Barnabas**
- **Companion of Paul and Peter**
- **Founded church in Alexandria**
- **Martyred by being dragged through streets of Alexandria**

Mark – Why his Gospel?

- **For the Romans**
- **Given as a narrative, rather than a collection of stories**
- **Remembered as Interpreter of Peter**
- **To show Jesus was a Saviour for more than the Jews**

Mark – Outline

- **Prologue – vs 1-13**
- **Galilean Ministry 1:14-8:30**
- **Road to the Cross 8:31-13:37**
- **The Passion 14:1-16:8**
- **The Commission 16:9-20**