

The Four Gospels:
Matthew Mark, Luke, and John

The Gospels



Luke

- Luke was the beloved physician
- **At least bi-lingual, probably multi-lingual**
- **Early history states he was born in Antioch**
- **Joins Paul's team at Troas (Acts 16)**
- **Luke was with Paul in last days (2Ti 4:11)**

Theophilus

- **Theory that is gaining ground:**
- **Theophilus ben Ananus, High Priest**
 - **37-41 AD** **Son of Annas**
 - **Sadducee** **Bro-in-law to Caiaphas**
- **Would explain Zacharias, Anna and Simeon in the Temple, Jesus at Temple when 12, no mention of Caiaphas, argues against Sadducee doctrine...**

Theophilus

- *Or*
- **Mattathias benTheophilus, High Priest**
 - 60-66 AD
 - Sadducee
 - Son of Theophilus
- **He was the last Jewish High Priest at start of Jewish Revolution (66-70 AD)**
- **Taking the date we give for Luke's writing, this "Theophilus" fits beter**

Distinctions

- Formal preface / statement of purpose
- **Narrative on John the Baptist's family**
- **Jesus in the Temple at 12**
- **Genealogy of Mary**
- **Scripture reading in Synagogue**

Distinctions

- Raising Widow's son
- Good Samaritan
- **Friend asking help at night**
- **Healing Crippled Woman on Sabbath**
- **Lost Sheep, Lost Silver, Lost Son**
- **Lazarus and Rich Man**

Distinctions

- Emphasizes compassion, healing, sacrifice
- **No Hebraisms (Golgotha, etc)**
- **Power of the Holy Spirit in Christ's life**
- **Respect for women**
- **Gentile conversions**

Distinctions

- 35 miracles – 19 only found in Luke
- **20 parables – 6 only found in Luke**
- **Greatest passage on Hell in Luke 16**
- **Uses title “Son of Man” 25x**
- **A polished, literary masterpiece**

Perea

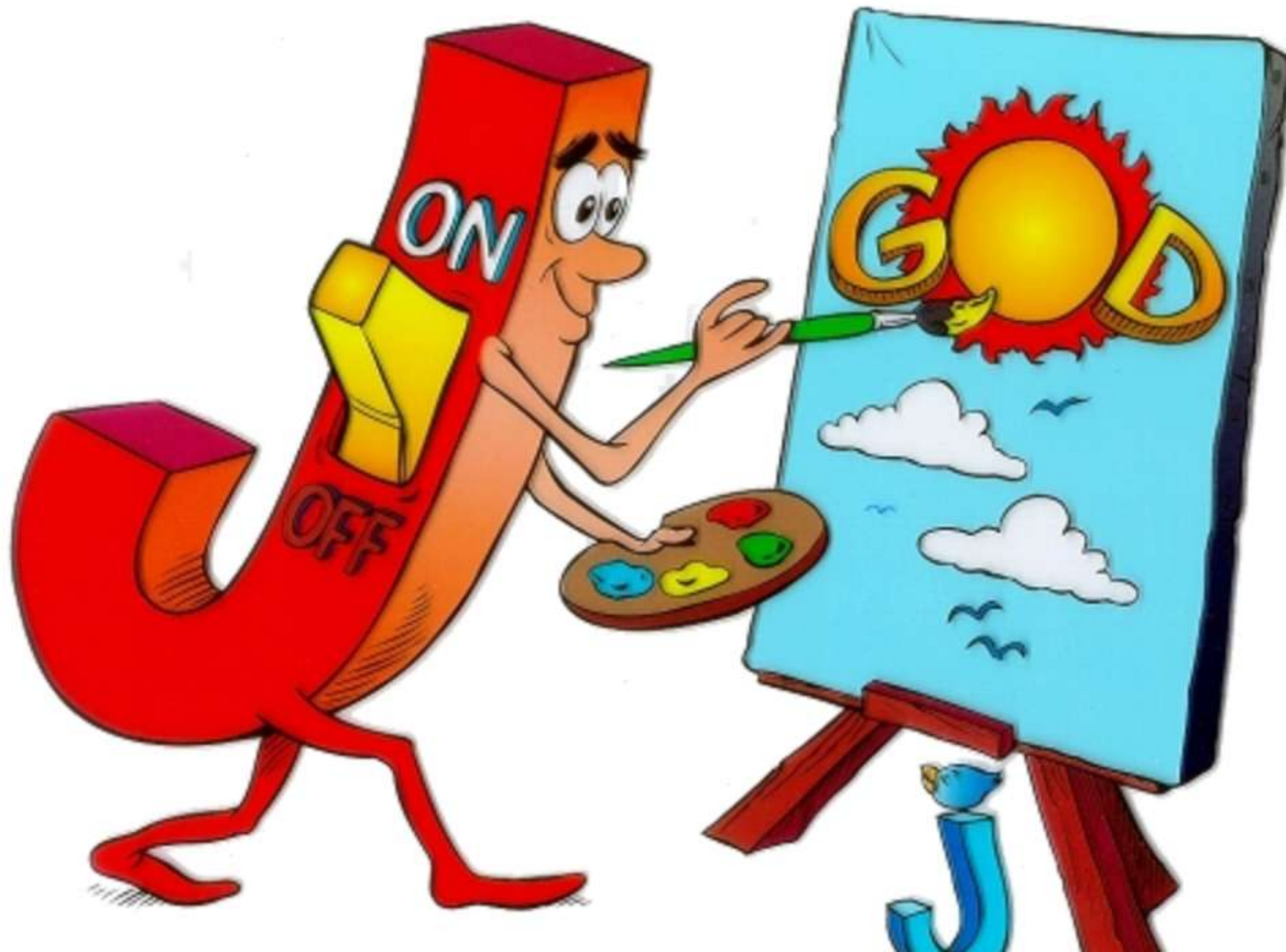
- OT times belonged to Ammon and Moab
- **After Solomon was Gilead (homeland for Elijah)**
- **Reconquered by John Hyrcanus after being out of Israel's control for 600 years**
- **Augustus assigned to Herod**
- **Called the area "beyond Jordan"**

Perea

- Site of John the Baptist
- **Jesus took Jordan Valley road through Perea (from Southern end of Sea of Galilee to the ford at Jericho) on His way to Jerusalem**
- **Luke gives us details of Christ's ministry into Perea**

Judaea Province in the First Century





The Unique Gospel

- John, the son of Zebedee
- **His mother was Salome**
- **Possible that Salome and Mary were sisters (John 19:25)**
- **John does not name himself**
- **He does not name his brother at all**
- **He does not name his mother**
- **The focus is JESUS**

Distinctions

- No parables
- **Chooses 7 signs**
- **Individual encounters with Jesus**
- **Emphasizes deity of Christ**

Seven “I Am” statements

1. 6:35 – the BREAD of life
2. 8:12 – the LIGHT of the world
3. 10:9 – the DOOR
4. 10:11 – the GOOD SHEPHERD
5. 11:25 – the RESURRECTION
6. 14:6 – the WAY, TRUTH, and LIFE
7. 15:1 – the VINE

Seven “signs” statements

1. 2:1-11 **Water to Wine**
2. 4:46-51 **Nobleman’s son healed**
3. 5:1-9 **Pool at Bethsaida**
4. 6:1-14 **Feeding of 5000**
5. 6:16-21 **Walking on Water**
6. 9:1-7 **Blind man healed**
7. 11:1-46 **Raising of Lazarus**

John – Purpose of His Gospel

- John spells out his purpose in John 20:31
- *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

John – Outline

- **Public Ministry as Soul Winner (1-12)**
- **Private Ministry as Spiritual Instructor (13-16)**
- **Christ as Supplicator (17)**
- **Christ as Sacrifice (18-19)**
- **Christ as Shepherd (20-21)**

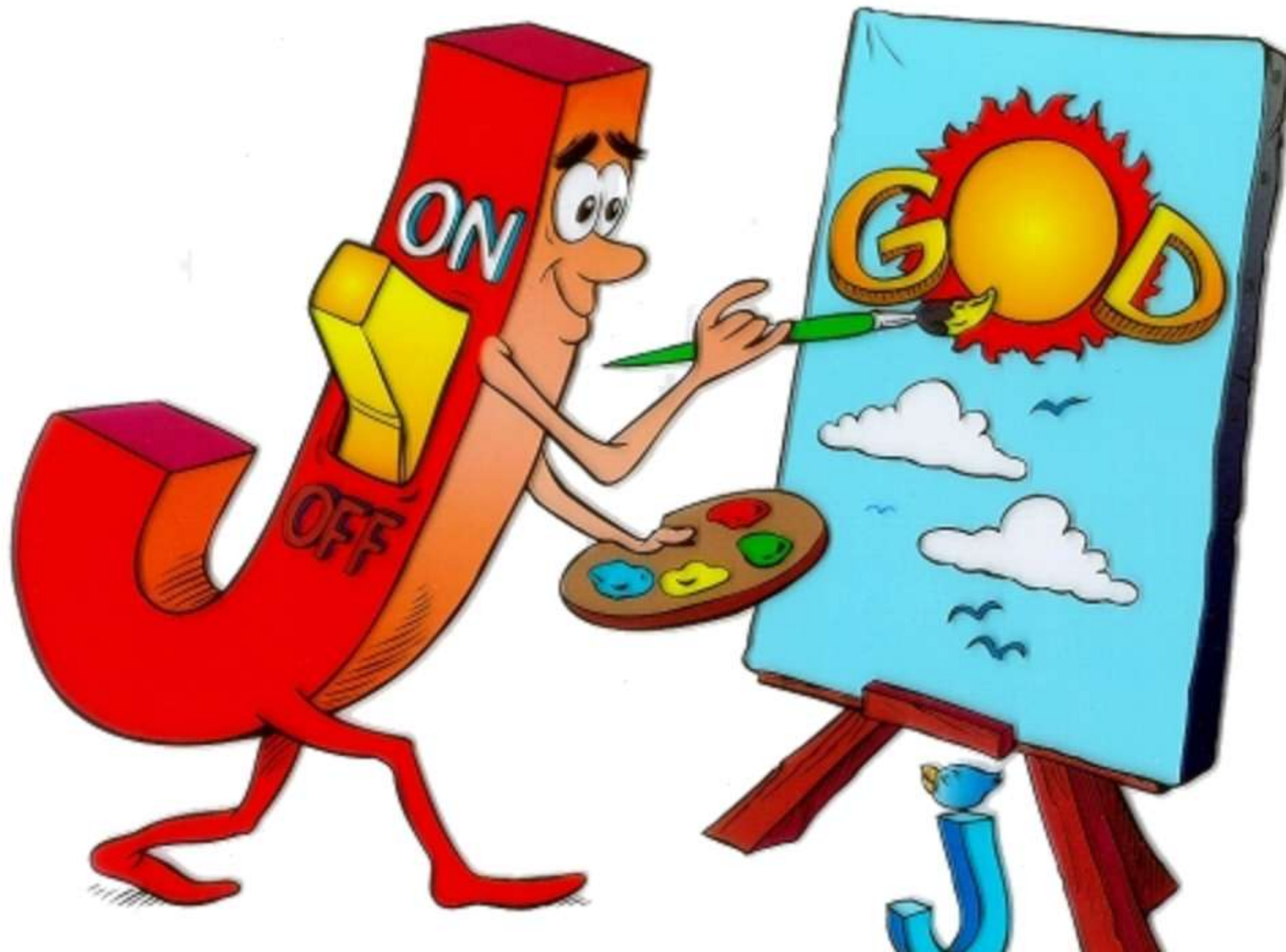
The Four Gospels

| | Matthew | Mark | Luke | John |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Portraits of Christ | King of Kings | Immediate Servant | Son of Man | Son of God Giver of Life |
| Outlook & Style of Writer | As a Teacher | Like a Preacher | Like an Author | As a Theologian |
| Culture of Readers | Jews (Jesus is the Son of Abraham) | Romans (No Genealogy Has Action) | Greeks (Jesus is the Son of Adam) | All Mankind (Jesus is equal with God) |
| Outstanding Section | Sermons | Miracles | Parables | Doctrines |
| Prominent Ideas | Law | Power | Grace | Glory |
| Broad Divisions | Synoptic Gospels (Historic): Humanity of Christ is in View | | | Interpretive Gospel Deity of Christ is in View |









Ezekiel and the 4 Gospels?



The Face of a LION
The Face of an OX
The Face of a MAN
The Face of an EAGLE

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

An Overview of the Four Gospels

New Testament Survey
J. Michael Lester