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…
Theophillus

- **Or**
- **Mattathias ben Theophillus, High Priest**
  - 60-66 AD Son of Theophillus
  - Sadducee
- 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 “Theophillus” fits better
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”
• 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
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
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<td>7</td>
<td>11:1-46</td>
<td>Raising of Lazarus</td>
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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

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Ezekiel and the 4 Gospels?

The Face of a LION  Matthew
The Face of an OX  Mark
The Face of a MAN  Luke
The Face of an EAGLE  John
An Overview of the Four Gospels

New Testament Survey
J. Michael Lester