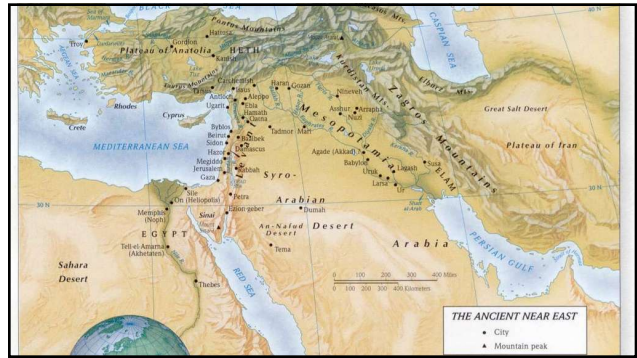


1



2

The Bible

- 73 Books in the Catholic Bible
- 46 Books in the Old Testament
- 27 Books in the New Testament

3

Old Testament

- **Pentateuch (5):** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- **Historical books (16):** Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees
- **Poetic Books (7):** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach
- **Prophetic books (18):** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

4

New Testament

- **The Gospels (4):** Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- **Historical book (1):** Acts of the Apostles
- **Pauline epistles (13):** Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
- **Hebrews (1)**
- **General epistles (7):** James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
- **Prophetic book (1):** Apocalypse of John

5

Official Catholic Canon of the Bible

- Started at the Council of Rome in 382
- Finalized at the Council of Trent of 1546

6

Canon of Gospels

- Gospels: Matthew was the most popular
- John was popular in Asia Minor.
- Many gospel-like stories circulating
- Not all were picked up by Christian communities
- A lot of confusion and discussion
- Even more oral stories told

7

St. Irenaeus (130-202)

"But it is not possible that the Gospels can be either more or fewer in number than they are. For since there are four zones of the world in which we live, and four principal winds, while the church has been scattered throughout the world, and since the 'pillar and ground' of the Church is the Gospel and the spirit of life, it is fitting that she should have four pillars, breathing incorruption on every side, and vivifying human afresh. From this fact, it is evident that the Logos, the fashioner demiourgos of all, he that sits on the cherubim and holds all things together, when he was manifested to humanity, gave us the gospel under four forms but bound together by one spirit."

8

Synoptic Gospels

Synoptic (Greek): seen + together

Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark & Luke

Earliest surviving complete copies of the Gospels date to the 4th century

Earlier only fragments

9

Chronologically

- Mark: c. 68-73,
- Matthew: c. 70-100; some conservative scholars argue for a pre-70 date, particularly those that do not accept Mark as the first gospel written
- Luke: c. 80-100, with most arguing for somewhere around 85
- John: c. 90-110; the majority view is that it was written in stages, so there was no one date of composition

10

Augustinian Hypothesis (5th century) - abandoned

Augustinian hypothesis

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      Matthew --> Mark
      Matthew --> Luke
      Mark --> Luke
    
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11

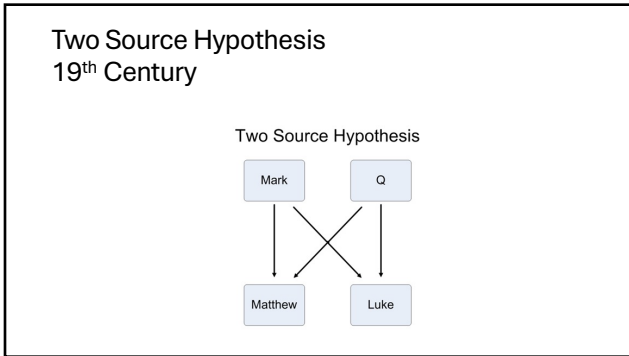
Farrer Hypothesis - 1955

Farrer hypothesis

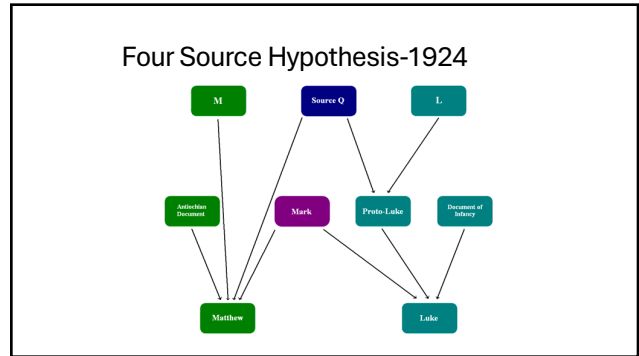
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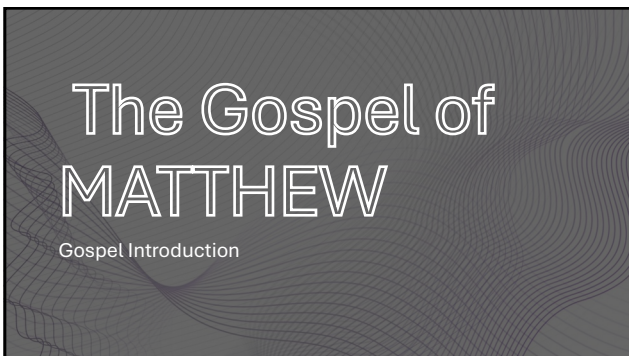
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13



14



15

The Gospel of Matthew

- Date of the gospel is not precisely known
- The majority of scholars date the gospel between the years 70 and 100
- Jesus refers to the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 22:7), so this gospel must have been written after the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by Romans in 70 CE.
- 18th century: questions whether Matthew wrote the Gospel

16

The Gospel of Matthew

- Thought to be composed in Greek
- Extended discussion about the possibility of an earlier version in Aramaic
- GOAL: Christ's fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies
- Jesus is represented as a new lawgiver whose miracles are a confirmation of his divine mission
- Possibly written in Syrian Antioch
- The Gospel replies to the current Jewish explanation about the alleged empty tomb

17

The Gospel of Matthew

- The author uses his knowledge of the Old Testament in defense of the Christian claims
- Due to author's rabbinical background, he avoids using the holy word "God" in the expression "Kingdom of God", and instead prefers the term "Kingdom of heaven"

18

Compared to other Gospels

- Jesus talks more about the Kingdom of God (heaven) than about himself
- Jesus identifies himself as the true vine; the bread of life; the way, the truth and the life
- Jesus teaches primarily using short parables or short sayings
- Only in Matthew: Joseph's perplexity on learning that Mary is pregnant, the homage of the Wise Men, the flight into Egypt to escape Herod's soldiers, the massacre of the innocents, and the return of the holy family from Egypt

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The Gospel of Mark

Gospel Introduction

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Introduction

- The earliest gospel
- Mission proclamation of early Christians
- Gospel of Mark – “a witness document”
- Not a bio or historical treatise
- It is a proclamation
- Point: Jesus is the Messiah

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Introduction

- First half: Caesarea Philippi (8:29)
- Second half: Centurion at crucifixion (15:39)
- Mark calls people to faith
- He started a new literal form, a Gospel
- Written 60-70 AD
- For Christians in Rome and Italy

22

Author

- Really anonymous
- Traditionally: John Mark (Acts 12:25)
- Jewish Christian from Jerusalem
- Unrefined style
- Simple sentence construction
- Very vivid and concrete report: putting the reader on the scene
- Some explanations for the reader

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The Gospel of John

Synoptic Gospels

24

The Gospel of John

The authorship is unknown and still being disputed

It's not about WHO wrote it, but rather WHAT is written

Strange expression "the Beloved Disciple"

Strange way to write this way if it was JOHN (author)

Three special apostles: Peter, James and John

He has access to events that only involved these three

James died early (Acts 12:2)

So someone close to Peter, maybe John

25


Synoptic Gospels vs. John (selected)

Synoptic Gospels	John
Messianic Secret	Overt messianism
Lord's Supper	Washing of the Feet
Gospel of the Kingdom	Spiritual rebirth
John baptizing Jesus	John witnessing Jesus
Exorcism of demons	Raising of Lazarus
Hades and Gehenna	No mention of hell
Nativity of Jesus	"Hymn to the Word" prologue
Genealogy of Jesus	"The only begotten god"
Sermon on the Mount	Seven "I Am" declarations
Ascension of Jesus	Doubting Thomas

26

7 I am's

1. "I am the bread of life"
2. "I am the light of the world"
3. "I am the gate for the sheep"
4. "I am the good shepherd"
5. "I am the resurrection and the life"
6. "I am the way and the truth and the life"
7. "I am the true vine".



27

The Gospel of Luke

Synoptic Gospels

28

Luke 101

It is a "narrative" or "orderly account" (not as a Gospel)

In Roman antiquity: historiography and biography

Historiography: events

Biography: people

Here: new kind of narrative

The focus is on visualization of the reality, **specific aspects of experience**

29

Luke 101

Luke should be analyzed together with Acts (Luke-Acts)

There are some parts of historiography (3:23-28; 4:16-30; Acts 27:1-28:14)

Also a biography: life of Jesus Christ, Acts

Luke is **theology** based (not historian)

30

Luke-Acts

Two volumes-one story	They may have been completed separately	Luke became a gospel
Acts became a connector between gospels and Paul's mission (letters)	Luke speaks of narratives (stories); not familiar with the term "gospel"	It starts with the story of Jesus and continues with a story of early church's mission

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Luke-Acts

- Luke and Acts share the same author
- Acts are sequel to Luke: "In the **first book**, Theophilus, I dealt with **all that Jesus did and taught** until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen." (Acts 1:1)
- The division does not mean that one thing ended and other has begun that is focused on a different subject matter.
- More technical issue connected with papyri.

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Luke-Acts

The max length of a papyrus was 35 ft	Luke 19,400 words and Acts 18,400 words	Both would require a near full-size roll
They became symmetrical	Both narratives begin in Jerusalem	Both cover about 30 years

33

How to read it?

- Series of event-accounts
- It's incomplete if analyzed separately
- There is a sequence
- Must not be taken as "events", "pericopes" in isolation; it's not a preaching or popular Bible reading
- It's text full of references: miracles, demons, angels, science, yet what is the actual purpose (meaning) of it? Divine purpose

34

Genre

Alternative worldview	Several contexts intertwined	It's not a "reality show"
Luke created its own culture (environment)		KEYS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Luke has "ordered" events in order to serve a particular theology • How people will be shaped by the episodes he has written

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Key terms

- Webs of relationships of a given text to:
 - **Co-text** (text surrounding the particular word, phrase, sentence, paragraph, etc; e.g. what happened before)
 - **Intertext** (shaping of a text meaning by another text; e.g. quotes from the OT)
 - **Context** (the situation in which something happens: the group of conditions that exist where and when something happens; social, historical), thus big need for biblical anthropology

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Authorship

It's not really that essential

It could have been Luke (physician and companion of Paul)

Name not included

"According to Luke" was added only decades later

Let's keep "Luke"...

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The prologue 1:1-4

¹ Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us,

² just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us,

³ I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus,

⁴ so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.

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