

The Four Gospels of the Bible, Introduction

Background

The years (roughly four centuries) between the Old Testament and New Testament are described as the “silent years” – or the years in which little is recorded. Still, history marks the “silent years” as the prelude to the Gospels – the coming of Messiah...and manifestation of the New Covenant.

Literature

Before the Holy Bible – and the compilation of 66 books – was a collection called the Apocryphal books. These books are described as the primary source of history for Christians as recent as the Protestant Reformation. Among the other collections was the canonical Scripture based on the original Hebrew language. Discovery of the *Dead Sea Scrolls* in 1947 is coined the “greatest discovery of modern times”.

Gospels

Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the Synoptic Gospels because of the similarity; the book of Mark is thought to be the original of the three. John is the standalone version that may have been written for a Greek audience – rather than Hebrew...

The Gospels are the accounts and stories of Christ, the Messiah. A chronicle of the Gospels is:

Childhood

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|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Birth of Christ | Luke 2:1-7 |
| 2. Visit of Shepherds | Luke 2:8-20 |
| 3. Presentation in the temple | Luke 2:21-40 |
| 4. Visit by the Magi | Matthew 2:1-12 |
| 5. Escape to Egypt | Matthew 2:13-18 |
| 6. Return to Nazareth | Matthew 2:19-23 |
| 7. Visit to Temple | Luke 2:41-52 |

Inauguration

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|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Baptized in the Jordan | John 1:29-39 |
| 2. Tempted by Satan in the Desert | Matthew 4:1-11 |
| 3. First Miracle in Canaan | John 2:1-11 |
| 4. Cleans Temple | John 2:14-20 |
| 5. Visit by Nicodemus in Jerusalem | John 3:1-21 |
| 6. Samaritan Woman at the Well | John 4:5-42 |
| 7. Healing of Nobleman's Son | John 4:46-54 |
| 8. Dishonored in Hometown | Luke 4:16-31 |

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Popularity

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| 1. Preaching in Galilee | Luke 4:42-44 |
| 2. Calling of First Disciples | Matthew 4:18-22 |
| 3. Matthew Follows Jesus | Matthew 9:9-13 |
| 4. The 12 are Chosen | Luke 6:12-15 |
| 5. Sermon on the Mount | Luke 6:20-49 |
| 6. Daughter Returned to Life | Luke 8:40-56 |
| 7. 12 to Preach & Heal | Luke 9:1-6 |

Opposition

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|---|-------------------|
| 1. John the Baptist Killed | Matthew 14:1-12 |
| 2. Feeding 5,000 | Matthew 14:13-21 |
| 3. Walks on Water | Matthew 14:22-33 |
| 4. Jesus Withdraws | Matthew 15:21-28 |
| 5. Feeding 4,000 | Matthew 15:32-39 |
| 6. Peter call Jesus son of God | Matthew 16:13-20 |
| 7. Jesus says He will Die | Matthew 16:21-26 |
| 8. Transfiguration | Matthew 17:1-13 |
| 9. Jesus pays Taxes | Matthew 17:24-27 |
| 10. Feast of Tabernacles | John 7:11-52 |
| 11. Blind Man is Healed | John 9:1-41 |
| 12. Mary/Martha Visited | Luke 10:38-42 |
| 13. Lazarus Raised from the Dead | John 11:1-44 |
| 14. Last Trip to Jerusalem | Luke 17:11 |
| 15. Blesses the Children | Luke 18:15-16 |
| 16. Talks to Rich Young Man | Luke 18:18-30 |
| 17. Tells again of his Death/Resurrection | Luke 18:31-34 |
| 18. Heals Blind Bartimaeus | Luke 18:35-43 |
| 19. Talks to Zacchaeus | Luke 19:1-10 |
| 20. Visits Mary/Martha | John 11:55 – 12:1 |

Last Week

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Triumphal Entry | Matthew 21:1-11 |
| 2. Curses Fig Tree | Matthew 21:18-19 |
| 3. Cleans the Temple | Matthew 21:12-13 |
| 4. Has His Authority Questioned | Matthew 21:23-27 |
| 5. Teaches in Temple | Matthew 21:28 – 23:39 |
| 6. Jesus Anointed | Matthew 26:6-13 |
| 7. Plot Against Jesus | Matthew 26:14-16 |
| 8. Last Supper | Matthew 26:17-29 |
| 9. Comforts the Disciples | John 14:1-16 |
| 10. Gethsemane | Matthew 26:36-46 |
| 11. Arrest and Trial | Matthew 26:47-56 |
| 12. Crucifixion and Death | Matthew 27:27-56 |
| 13. Burial of Jesus | Matthew 27:57-66 |

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Parables

Soon to be developed...

Notes:

All information contained above, and scriptures used throughout this study, are obtained from:

1. The [New International Version \(NIV\)](#) Study Bible
2. *The Message* by Eugene Peterson

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