

Synoptic Gospels and Acts Outline

Synoptic Gospels

From Greek “synopsis”

Early Church Fathers: they are in Bible in order of publication

Modern view: Mark was first while Matthew and Luke used unknown source called “Q”

Q=Quelle (source)

Gospel = Good News

Matthew

Author: apostle Matthew – tax collector/scribe

Written for Jews in particular but message meant for Gentiles as well

Continuity between OT and NT – fulfilling OT

Focused on preaching “the kingdom”

5 long sermons are backbone

Starts with genealogy – connects with David, Abraham, and Adam

Birth narrative more from Joseph’s perspective

Three wise men from the East – Eastern wise men coming to Solomon (1 Kings 4:29-34)

Slaughter of holy innocents probably around 12-20 so most not notice

Flee to Egypt (like earlier Joseph)

Book 1: Jesus Announces the Kingdom (3-7)

John the Baptist prepares way of the Lord

Baptism has many references to OT

Temptation in the desert: Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 3 times

Focus is Sermon on the Mount (5-7)

Book 2: Jesus Sends Forth the Disciples (8-10)

Book 3: Jesus Teaches on the Hidden Kingdom (11-13)

Chapter 13 includes 7 parables about the kingdom (sower, weeds, mustard seed)

Book 4: The Merciful Kingdom (14-18)

Multiplication of loaves and fishes, Peter given keys to kingdom

Homily on sin and forgiveness

Book 5: Jesus Teaches on the End of the Kingdom (19-25)

Servant leadership

Jesus has “wisdom contest” in Jerusalem

Ends with three parables about preparation for end

Passion of Matthew

Last Supper and institution of Eucharist (26)

Great commission: go and make disciples of all nations

Mark

Author: traditionally follower and interpreter of Peter; John Mark of Acts

Accompanied Barnabas and Paul on first missionary journey

From text: Greek-speaking who was not eyewitness of Jesus

Mark is full of joy – Jesus has changed history

Likes to use “immediately” – urgency to his story

Apostles and even Jesus are more human – defects in apostles more pronounced

8:27 is dividing line – proclaims necessity of suffering, death, and resurrection

Luke

Author: physician (?) (Colossians 4:14); well-educated in Greek culture

Knew Mary well (and painted portrait?)

Only Gentile author (maybe) – written primarily for Gentiles

Companion of Paul

With Acts wrote ¼ of NT

Full of joy – begins with 5 Joyful Mysteries

Emphasizes importance of prayer and Holy Spirit

4 sections:

Infancy narratives (1-2)

Early ministry (3-9)

Final journey to Jerusalem (10-19)

Passion narrative (20-24)

Final journey begins with Transfiguration

Walk to Emmaus unique – recognition in breaking of bread (Covenant)

Birth

Matthew: Chapters 1 and 2

Genealogy – focus on Abraham and David and Babylonian Exile

Birth – more of a Joseph focus (dream of Joseph)

Visit of Magi – importance of including Gentiles

Flight to Egypt – Joseph as guardian; Hosea 11:1 – out of Egypt (Israel)

Massacre of Infants – link to Moses and quotation from Jeremiah

Return from Egypt – again Joseph

Mark: none (starts with John the Baptist in desert)

Luke: Chapters 1-2

Significantly longer and more from Mary's perspective

Annunciation, visitation, etc.

Canticle of Mary (Magnificat) and Canticle of Zechariah

Shepherds and angels

Presentation in the Temple (Canticle of Simeon) and finding in temple

Genealogy (3:23-38) – back to Adam (and God)

Feeding of 5000

Matthew: 14:13-21/Mark: 6:34-44/Luke: 9:10-17

Death

Matthew: Chapters 26-28

Chief priests and elders conspire

Judas: “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?”

Last Supper – my body and my blood of the new covenant

Peter’s denial

Agony in the Garden

Jesus goes to Sanhedrin then Pilate

Freeing of Barabbas

Mockery by soldiers

Mention of two revolutionaries but nothing more

Eli, Eli, lema sabachtani?

Veil of sanctuary torn

“Truly, this was the Son of God!”

No John at the cross

Joseph of Arimathea tomb

Mark: Chapters 14-15

Nothing from Judas at Last Supper

My body and my blood of the covenant

Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachtani?

Almost word-for-word

Luke: Chapters 22-23

My body which will be given for you; cup of the new covenant in my blood

To Sanhedrin then Pilate then Herod and back to Pilate

Adds Daughters of Jerusalem to Way of the Cross

Adds more taunting on the Cross

Adds dialogue of criminals

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”

No John – only unnamed women

Acts of the Apostles

Author: Luke

History of early Church

Gospel is what Jesus *did*, Acts is what he *continues to do* through the Church

Key to tying together NT – context for Paul’s letters

Scriptural proof of Ascension, Pentecost, martyrdom of Stephen, etc.

Theme: kingdom of God (opens and closes book)

1-12 mostly Peter

13-28 mostly Paul

Chapter 1: Jesus spends 40 days with disciples and Ascends into heaven (1:11)

Matthias chosen to replace Judas (apostolic succession)

Chapter 2: Pentecost

Chapter 6: first deacons (7) so apostles can focus on what matters: preaching

Chapter 7: martyrdom of Stephen

Similar to passion of Christ

Chapter 8: Philip the deacon baptizes but fullness of Holy Spirit comes from apostles

Chapter 9: conversion of Saul

“Jesus, whom you are persecuting”

Chapters 9-11: no need for Gentiles to convert to Judaism first and follow kosher laws

11:26 – at Antioch first called Christians

Chapter 12: persecution continues including execution of St. James the Greater (brother of John)

Peter places James in charge of Jerusalem

Peter is outlaw and will minister in hiding for rest of life

Chapters 13-14: Paul in Turkey

Chapter 15: First Ecumenical Council in Jerusalem

Chapters 16-18: Turkey and Greece

Chapters 19-21: Turkey, Greece, and Jerusalem

Chapters 22-27: Paul imprisoned in Judea

Chapters 27-28: Jerusalem to Rome

As Roman citizen Paul invokes right to be tried by Romans

Next up: March 24, Writings of John/Epistles