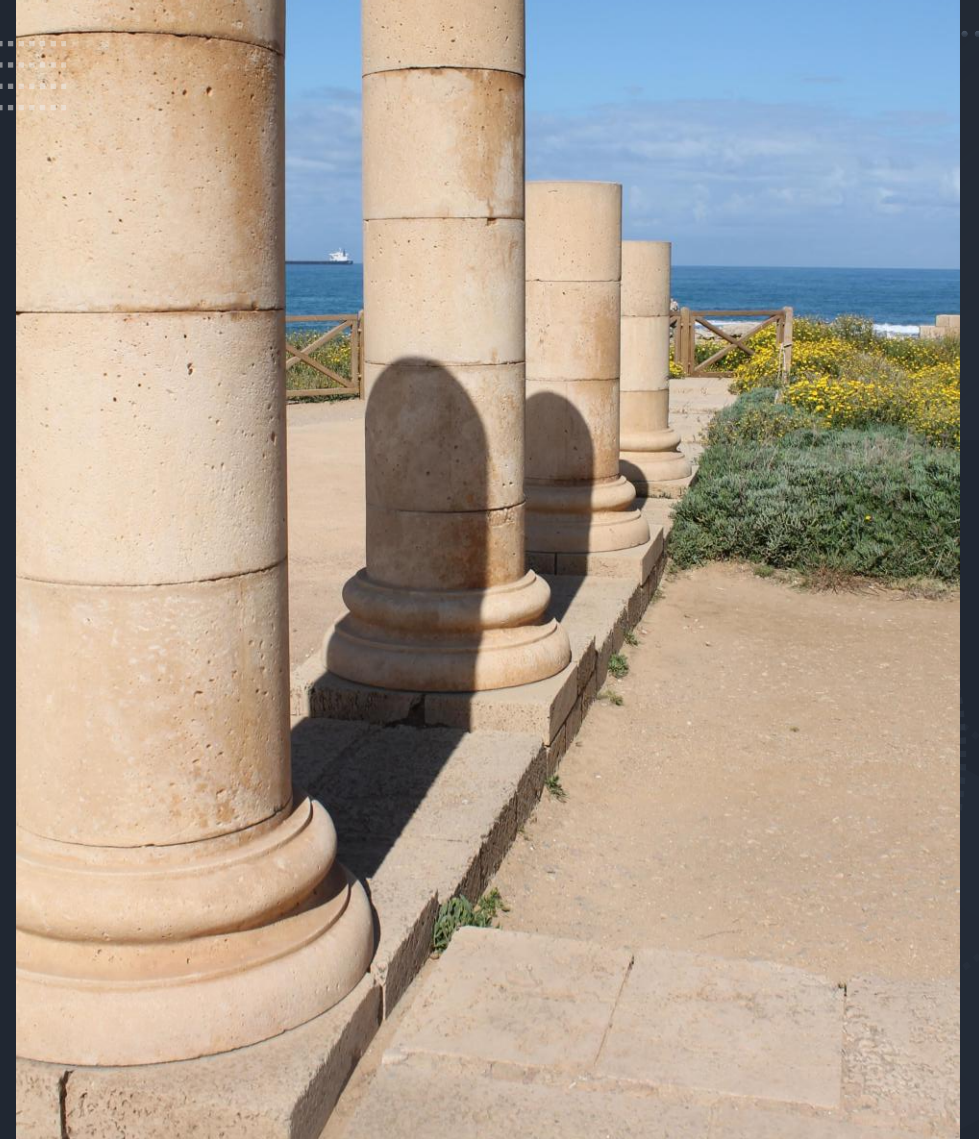


New Testament Survey

Lecture 2a

The Gospels & Acts (part 1)



Introduction

- Content of this lecture: the Historical Books of the NT
 - The Four Gospels- the period from about 5 BC to AD 33
 - The Acts of the Apostles- the history of the early church from about AD 33 through AD 60.
- Today we will give an introduction of the four Gospels and survey Matthew's and Mark's Gospel.

Introduction to the Four Gospels

- Definition of “Gospel”
 - From the Greek verb *euangelizō*, “to proclaim good news,” and the noun *euangelion*, “good news that is proclaimed.”
 - It is used as a technical title for the four New Testament documents containing the good news about the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Messiah.
 - Mark’s self-identification as a “gospel” (Mark 1:1).

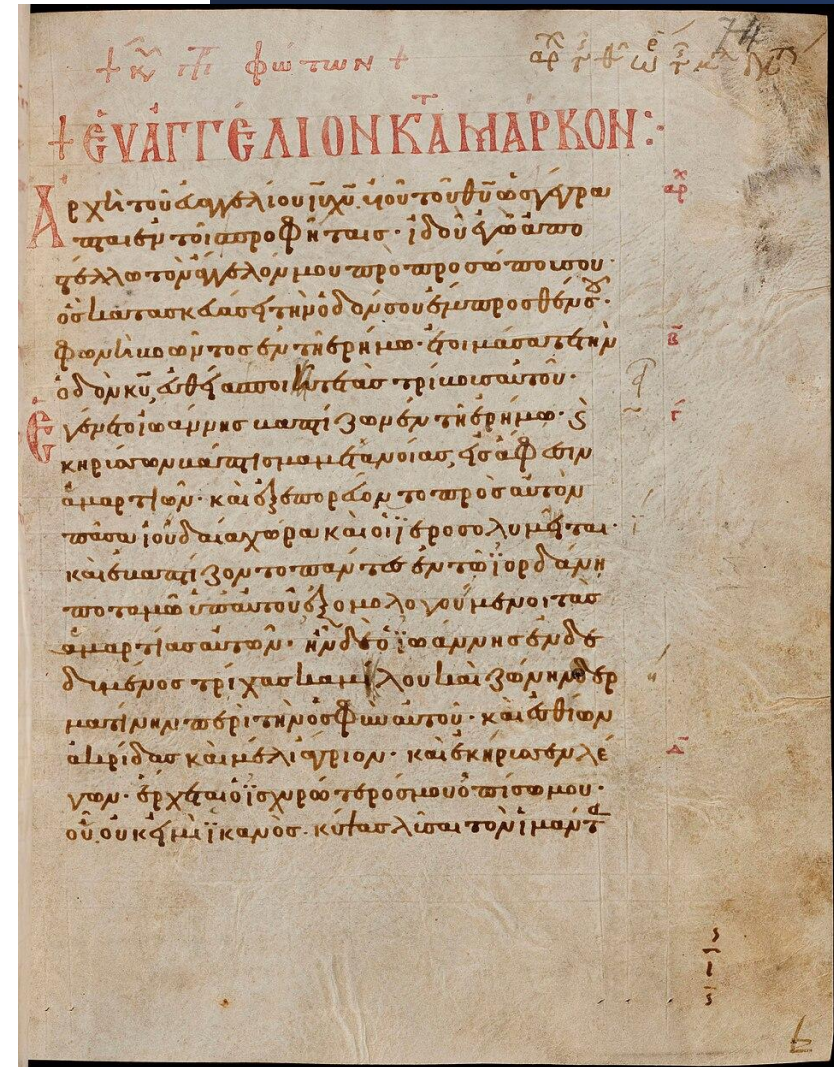
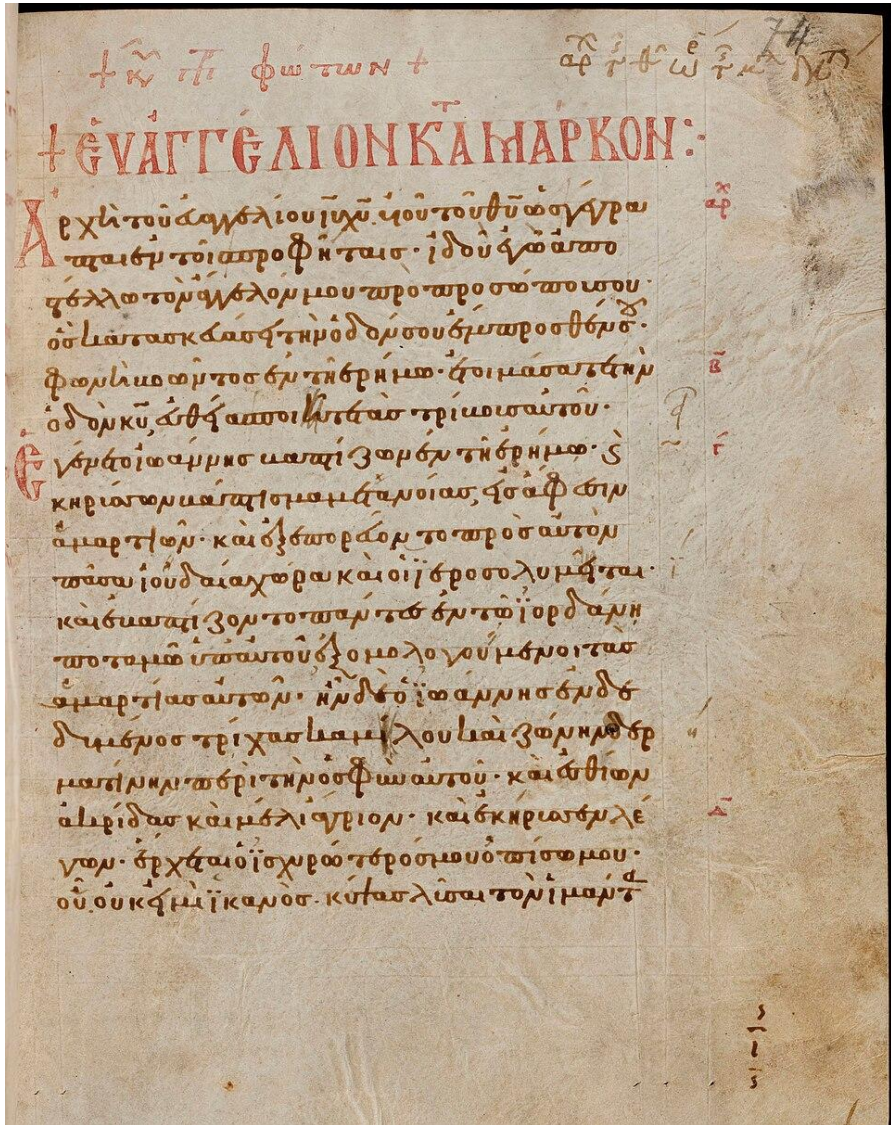


Image: A page from Greek Miniscule 2, located in the Basel University Library, dated to the 11th or 12th century. Here is displayed part of the first chapter of Mark's Gospel. (Source: Wikimedia Commons)

Introduction to the Four Gospels



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

(Mark 1:1)

Introduction to the Four Gospels

- The Gospel Genre
 - Definition of **Genre**:
 - “a category of artistic musical, or literary composition characterized by a particular style, form, or content.” (Merriam-Webster)
 - The literary form of a biblical book or portion of a biblical book.
 - The characteristics of the Gospel genre
 - They are biographical in nature, but they are not biographies.
 - The writers selectively chose and arranged their material by inspiration of the Holy Spirit to emphasize a particular aspect of Jesus’ person and to accomplish the following purposes:
 - To validate Jesus’ claim to be the Messiah
 - To convey the substance of Jesus’ teaching
 - To emphasize the events related to His death and resurrection
 - To convince the reader to believe in Jesus

The Synoptic Problem

- The Problem Identified
 - Matthew, Mark, and Luke present the events of the life of Christ from a similar perspective that differs significantly from John's perspective.
 - Definition of **Synoptic**: “to see together”
 - Note the degrees of similarity and difference among the four Gospels.



Image source: Wikimedia Commons

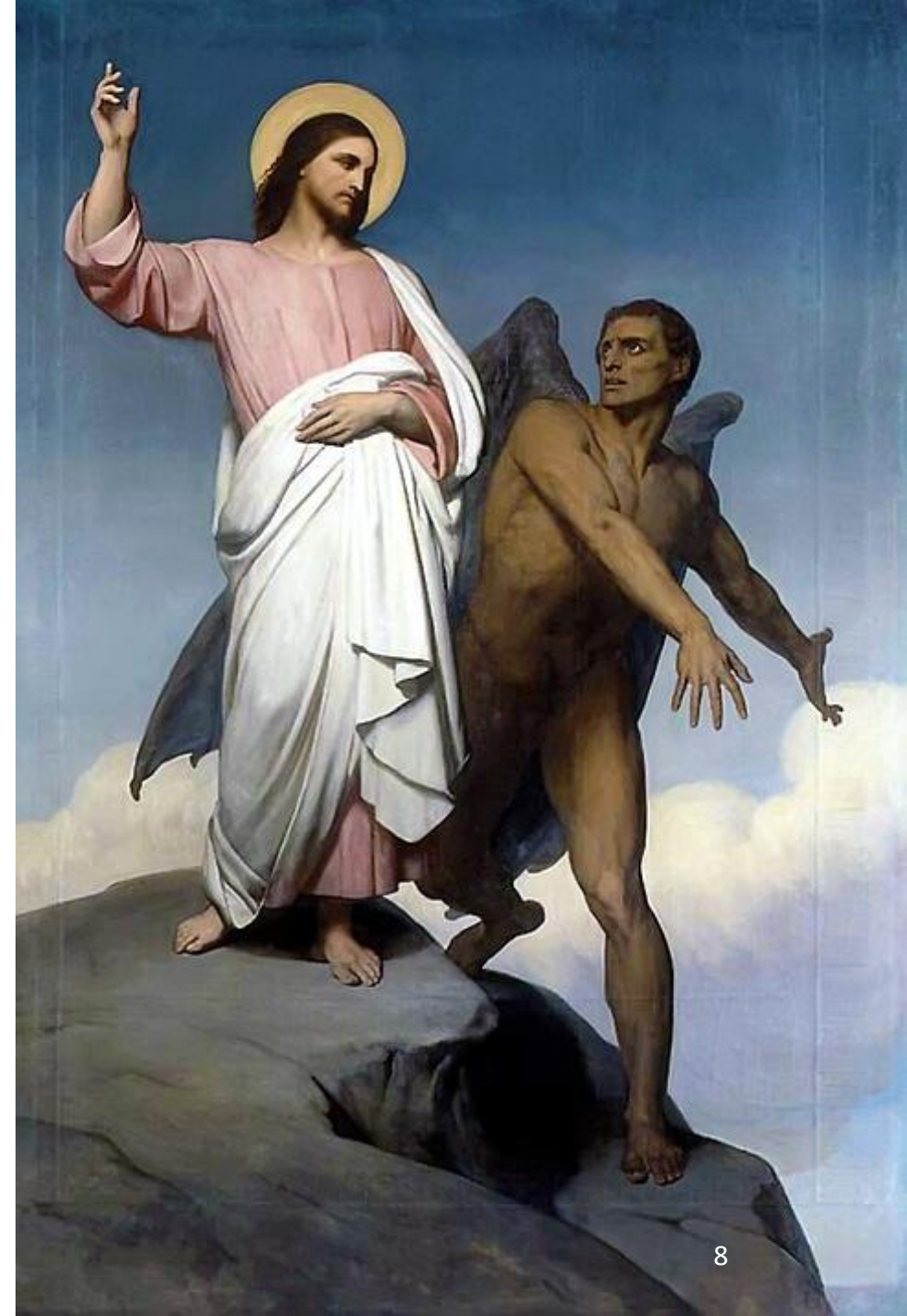
Gospel	Differences	Agreements
Matthew	42%	58%
Mark	7%	93%
Luke	59%	41%
John	92%	8%

The Synoptic Problem

- The Problem Stated:
 - What is the relationship between these three Synoptic Gospels?
 - What was the source of the material that they included?
 - Did they borrow from one another or did they get their material from a common source?
 - Why do some Gospels omit certain events?
 - Why do they sometimes arrange events in a different order?

The Synoptic Problem

Example #1: The Temptation Account (Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)



Matthew 4:1–11

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴But He answered and said, "**It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'**" ⁵Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: '*He shall give His angels charge over you,*' and, '*In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.*'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "**It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'**" ⁸Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "**Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'**" ¹¹Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Mark 1:12–13

¹²Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. ¹³And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

Luke 4:1–13

¹Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ²being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. ³And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴But Jesus answered him, saying, "**It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'**" ⁵Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." ⁸And Jesus answered and said to him, "**Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'**" ⁹Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰For it is written: '*He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,*' ¹¹and, '*In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.*'" ¹²And Jesus answered and said to him, "**It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'**" ¹³Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

The Synoptic Problem

Example #2: The Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law (Matt. 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38-41)



Matthew 8:14–17

¹⁴Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them. ¹⁶When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, ¹⁷that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "*He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.*"

Mark 1:29–34

²⁹Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. ³¹So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them. ³²At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

Luke 4:38–41

³⁸Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. ³⁹So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them. ⁴⁰When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking *them*, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.



The Synoptic Problem

Example #3: The Birth and Childhood Accounts (Matt. 1-3; Luke 1-3)

The Birth and Childhood Accounts

Matthew's Gospel

1. Genealogy (Joseph's)
2. Birth Events
3. Wise Men
4. Flight to Egypt
5. Return to Nazareth
6. Ministry of John the Baptist

Luke's Gospel

1. Annunciation to Zechariah
2. Annunciation to Mary
3. Birth of John the Baptist
4. Birth of Jesus
5. The Shepherds Story
6. Jesus' Presentation (Temple)
7. Return to Nazareth
8. Jesus in Jerusalem (Temple)
9. Ministry of John the Baptist
10. Genealogy (Mary's)

The Synoptic Problem

- Proposed Solutions:
 - The Interdependence Theory
 - The Oral Transmission of Tradition Theory
 - The Fragment Theory
 - The Common Source Theory

The Synoptic Problem

- A Better Solution
 - The authors were either eyewitnesses or had direct access to firsthand testimony.
 - John 19:35
 - Acts 10:37-43
 - Christ promised to send them the Holy Spirit, who would “bring all things to your remembrance” (John 14:26).
 - Luke was Paul’s companion in travel and had access to firsthand testimony. (Luke was a first-rate historian.)
 - Mark had a long and close association with both Paul and Peter.

Overview of the Gospels

- The Historical Chronology of the Gospel Events
 - The Birth of Christ: about 5 BC
 - The Ministry of Christ: AD 29-33



Overview of the Gospels

- The Gospels Present Six Periods in the Life of Christ
 - Jesus' Birth and Early Life
 - His Baptism and His Early Judean Ministry
 - His Early Galilean Ministry
 - His Late Galilean Ministry
 - His Perean Ministry
 - His Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension



Edut. A. Nayer, Paris

St. D. Marroux

"Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net"

Luke V:5

Overview of the Gospels

The Four Gospels	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Present Christ as . . .	The King of the Jews	The Servant of Jehovah	The Son of Man	The Son of God
Written to . . .	The Jews	The Romans	The Greeks	The World
Form	Synoptics			John
Historical Focus	Galilean Ministry			Judean Ministry

The Gospel of Matthew

- The Writer
 - Greek name: Matthew (Matthew 10:3); Hebrew name: Levi (Luke 5:27)
 - A publican (tax collector) when Christ called him to be a disciple
 - One of the 12 apostles chosen by Christ
 - Testified along with the other apostles about the resurrection of Christ on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:13)
 - Church tradition states that Matthew preached in Judea for about 15 years, then went as a foreign missionary to Ethiopia, Persia, and Parthia. Nothing is known about his death.

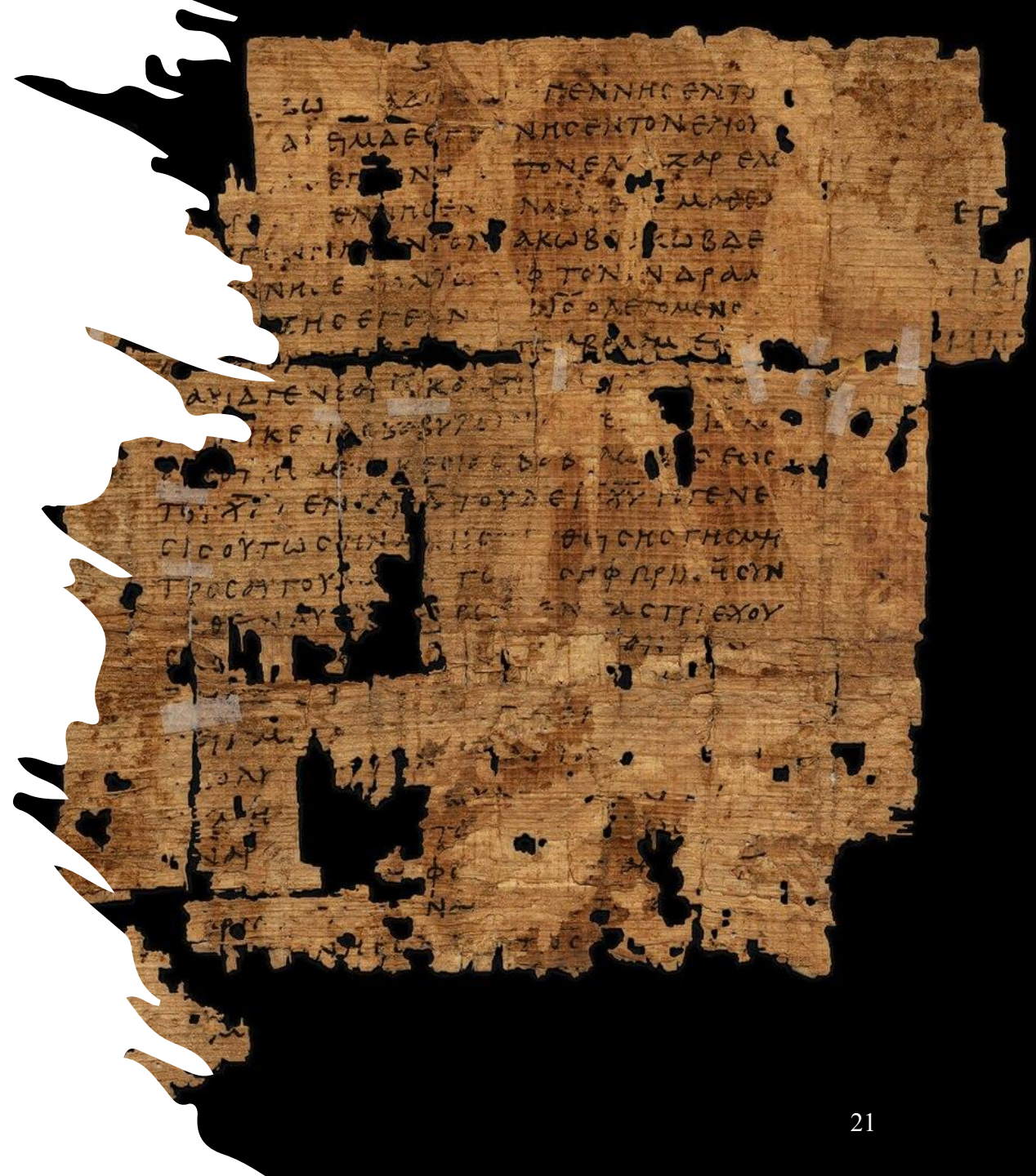


The Gospel of Matthew

- His Intended Audience
 - Written for the Jews:
 - Features:
 - Matthew's Genealogy presents Jesus as the promised heir to the Davidic throne.
 - Matthew uses the phrase "kingdom of heaven"
 - Old Testament quotation and fulfillment formula (1:22; 2:15, 17, 23, etc.)

The Gospel of Matthew

- Date of Writing
 - Between AD 50 and 70
- Purposes and Theme
 - Purpose: to show that Jesus is the Messiah, the King of the Jews in fulfillment of God's covenants with Abraham and David
 - Key Phrase: "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2)
 - Theme: The Good News About the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Key Title for Jesus: "Son of David" (9X)



Outline and Survey of Matthew

- Outline #1: A Two-Fold Movement (“From that time...”) 4:17, cp. 16:21
 - Presentation of Himself to Israel (1:1 – 16:20)
 - Preparation of His Disciples (16:21 – 28:20)

Image: Painting c. 1600 by Ippolito Scarsella - Christ Carrying the Cross



The Works & Words of Jesus the Messiah: The Gospel of Matthew Theme: The Good News about the Kingdom of Heaven (4:17)												
The Cyclical Structure of the Book	First Cycle		Second Cycle		Third Cycle		Fourth Cycle		Fifth Cycle		Sixth Cycle	
	The Coming of the King		The Testimony to the King		The Opposition to the King		The Withdrawal of the King		The Rejection of the King		The Redemption by the King	
	Ch. 1-7		Ch. 8-10		11:1 - 13:52		13:53 - 18:35		Ch. 19-25		Ch. 26-28	
The Divisions of the Book: His Works & His Words	His Works	His Words	His Works	His Words	His Works	His Words	His Works	His Words	His Works	His Words	His Works	His Words
	His Person	His Principles	The Power of His Works	The Proclamation of His Apostles	Conflict: Division Among the People	Response: Mysteries of the Kingdom	Preparation for the Kingdom	Instruction about the Kingdom	Conflict: Rejection by the Rulers	Response: Prophecy Concerning the Future	His Passion	His Resurrection and Great Commission
	ch. 1-4	ch. 5-7	ch. 8-9	ch. 10	ch. 11-12	13:1-52	13:53-17:27	ch. 18	ch. 19-22	ch. 23-25	ch. 26-27	ch. 28
The Major Discourses	The Sermon on the Mount		The mission of the Twelve		The Kingdom Parables		The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven		The Woes; The Olivet Discourse		The Great Commission	
Repeated Transitional Phrase	↑ 7:28		↑ 11:1		↑ 13:53		↑ 19:1		↑ 26:1			
	"When Jesus had ended these sayings"		"When Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples"		"When Jesus had finished these parables"		"When Jesus had finished these sayings"		"When Jesus had finished all these sayings"			

Chart MAT01EN

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