

Lecture Two: The Gospels and Acts (part 1)

Introduction:

1. This lecture deals with the historical books of the NT (the four Gospels and Acts)
2. The Gospels present four different views of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. They cover the period from about 5 BC to 33 AD.
3. Acts is the record of the history of the early church from 33 AD up till about 60 AD.
4. In today's lecture we will introduce the four gospels and look in detail at Matthew and Mark.

I. Introduction to the Four Gospels

A. Definition

B. The Gospel Genre

- "Genre" definition and description:
- Characteristics of the Gospel genre:

II. The Synoptic Problem

A. The Problem Identified

- A comparison of the material contained in the four gospels shows the degree of similarity among the Synoptic Gospels and the dissimilarity of the material recorded by John.¹

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

- **The Problem Stated:**

¹ Chart taken from Robert Gromacki, *New Testament Survey* (Baker Book House: Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1974), 54.

B. Proposed Solutions

1. Interdependence theory
2. Oral transmission of tradition theory
3. Fragment theory
4. Common source theory

C. A Better Solution

- Either personal eyewitness testimony or direct access to it
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- Summary:

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A. The historical chronology of the gospel events

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B. The Gospel record reveals six periods in the life of Christ,

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C. A Comparison of the Four Gospels

The Four Gospels	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Present Christ as . . .				
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IV. The Gospel of Matthew

A. The Writer

B. Audience

1. The Gospel of Matthew was written for the Jews.
2. Several features make this clear:

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C. Date of writing:

D. Purposes and Theme

- **PURPOSE:**
- Key phrase:

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- Key title of Jesus:

E. Outline and Survey of the Book.

1. "From that time..." (4:17 cp. 16:21). TWO-FOLD MOVEMENT:

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2. The Works and Words of Jesus the Messiah. SIX CYCLES OF JESUS' WORKS AND WORDS (in that order) [see Matthew Chart]

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- Name: John Mark
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E. Outline and Survey of the Book (Jesus Christ, the Servant of the Lord) ²

1. The Introduction of the Servant (1:1-13)
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