

New Testament Survey NTS.1

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

The Synoptic Gospels





Logistics & Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will gain an understanding of the:
 - a. High-level overview of the key players in the gospel narratives.
 - b. High-level overview of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke
 - c. Some key charts summarizing the Synoptic Gospels
 - d. How parables are used by Jesus and should be interpreted/applied by us today
 - e. Importance of miracles
2. For more information please visit www.studioscriptura.com
3. Email questions to walter@studioscriptura.com

The New Testament Survey

seeks to present Christianity's core tenets and doctrines for all that are interested in learning about Christianity. We seek to provide tools for believers to build a strong foundation in their understanding of the new testament and thereby bolster their faith in Christ. We seek to be diligent in studying and teaching the foundations of our beliefs, so we can earnestly contend for our faith.



Key Sources:

1. New King James Version. 1988. Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

The “Synoptic” Gospels

Fishers of Men

- “Then He said to them, ‘**Follow** Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’” Matthew 4:19
- “And He said to them, ‘**Go** into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’” Mark 16:15
- “Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.” John 21:11
- “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne.” Revelation 7:9a
- “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life And he who wins souls is wise.” Proverbs 11:30
- “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:20
- “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!” 1 Corinthians 9:16
- “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8





c. 4 BC	Jesus' Birth	c. 52 AD	3rd Missionary Journey
c. 26 - 29 AD	Beginning of Jesus' Ministry	c. 50 - 95 AD	Gospels written (or c. 65 AD?)
c. 30 - 33 AD	Jesus' Death, Resurrection, and Ascension	c. 62 AD	Journey to Rome
c. 34 AD	Paul's Conversion	c. 90 AD	John's Epistles
c. 48 AD	1st Missionary Journey	c. 95 AD	John on Patmos / The Book of Revelation
c. 49 AD	2nd Missionary Journey	?	Jesus' Return





Mediterranean Sea

Mediterranean Sea

UPPER GALILEE

LOWER GALILEE

DECAPOLIS

TRACONITIS

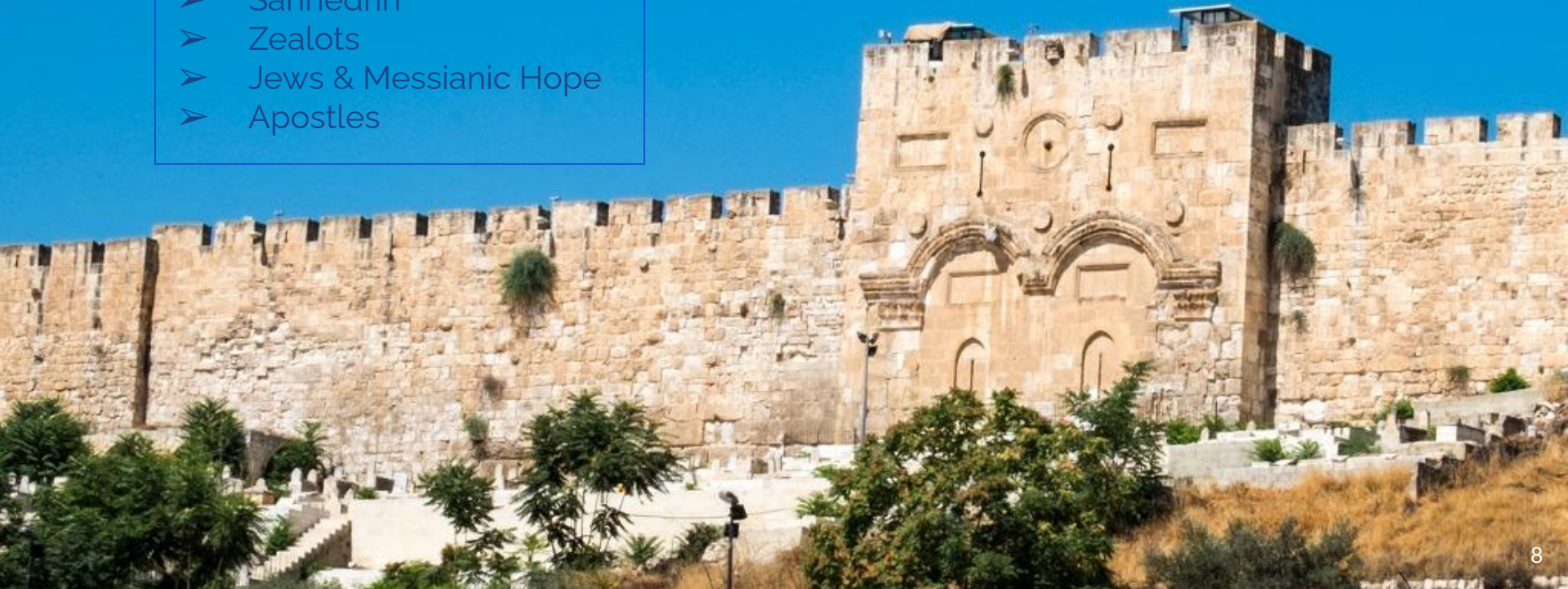
AURANITIS

Legend: Sites mentioned in the New Testament

~25 Miles

opolis (Pliny)

- Pharisees
- Sadducees
- Samaritans
- Scribes
- The Herods
- Sanhedrin
- Zealots
- Jews & Messianic Hope
- Apostles



- Pharisees
- Sadducees
- Scribes

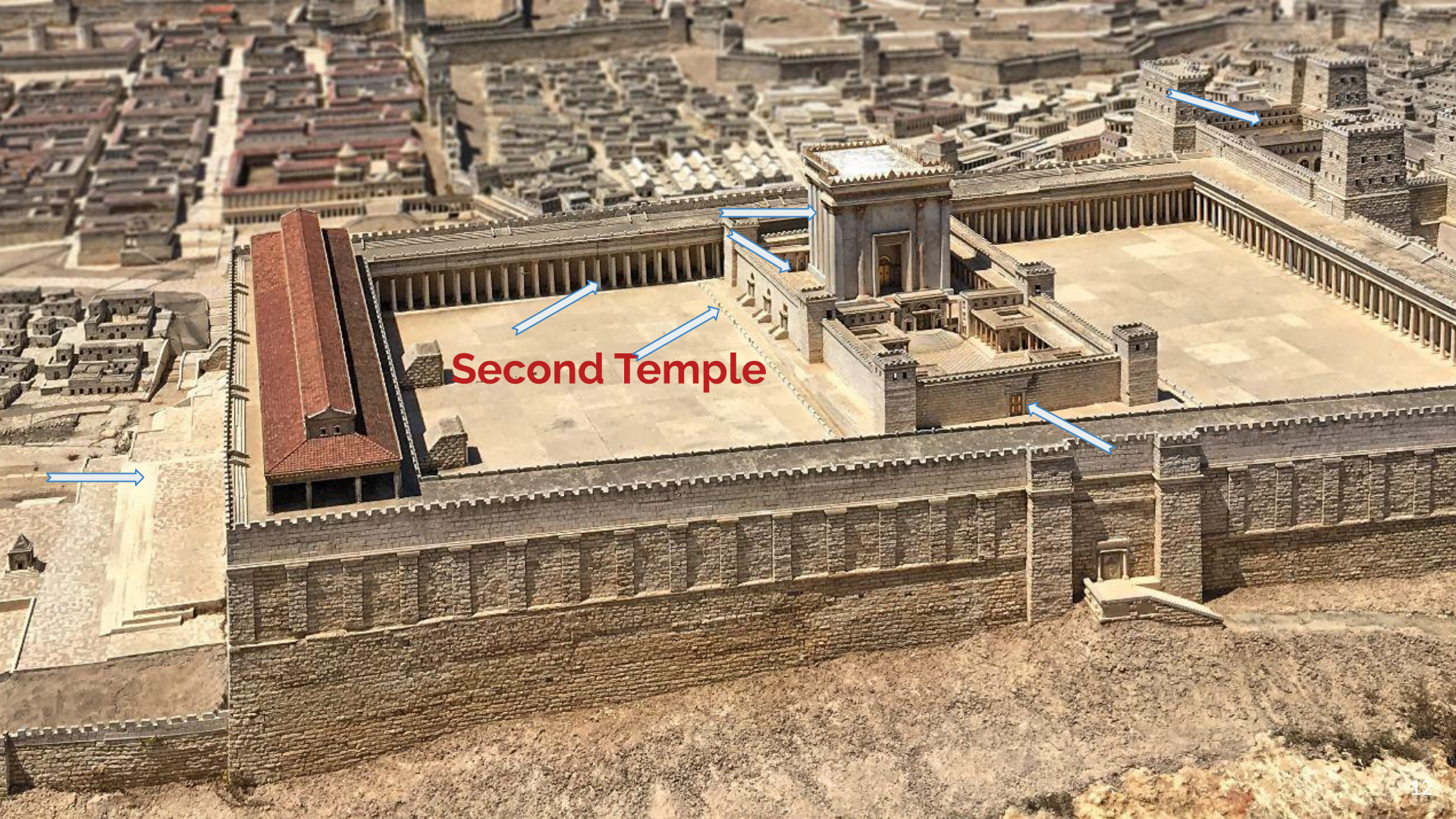


A photograph of ancient stone ruins on a hillside. The ruins consist of several walls and structures made of large, rectangular stone blocks. The terrain is dry and covered with sparse, brownish vegetation. A blue arrow points from the left towards a text box. The sky is clear and blue.

➤ Samaritans



➤ The Herods



Second Temple



➤ Location of Palace of Caiaphas / Sanhedrin?



Herod's Palace (model)

- Zealots
- Jews & Messianic Hope



➤ The 12 Apostles





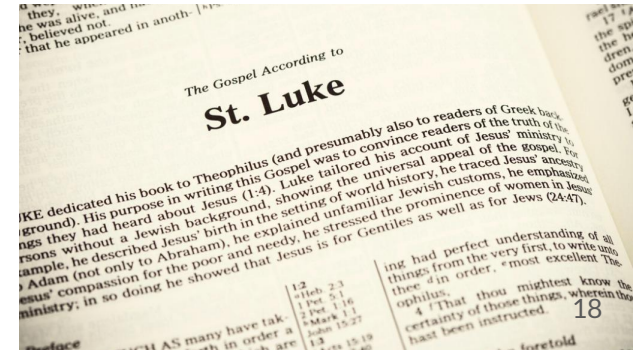
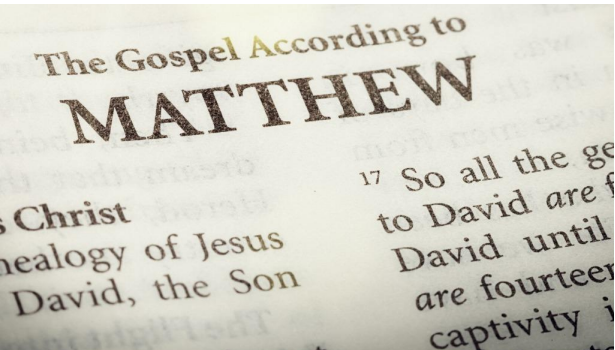
The "Synoptic" Gospels

"First labeled the *Synoptic Gospels* by J. J. Griesbach, a German biblical scholar, at the end of the eighteenth century. The English adjective synoptic comes from the Greek (synopsis), which means "seeing together,"

"Matthew, Mark, and Luke structure the ministry of Jesus according to a general geographic sequence: ministry in Galilee, withdrawal to the north (with Peter's confession as a climax and point of transition), ministry in Judea and Perea while Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, and final ministry, (passion, crucifixion, and resurrection) in Jerusalem."

An Introduction to the New Testament by D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo

The first three **Evangelists** convey a tone of intense and ongoing action. This is coupled with a strong use of parables as a teaching technique and miracles to confirm Jesus' authority. John's gospel is more meditative in tone and focuses on the 7 *I am* statements of Jesus as well as Passion Week.



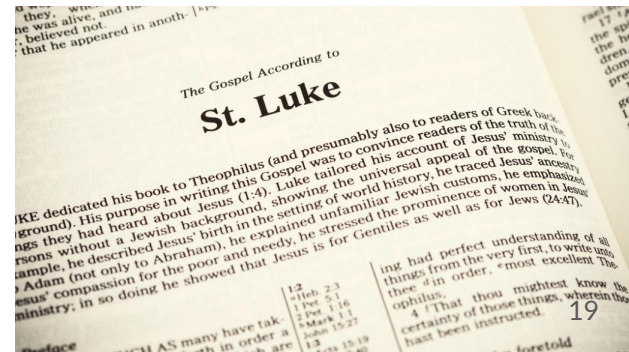
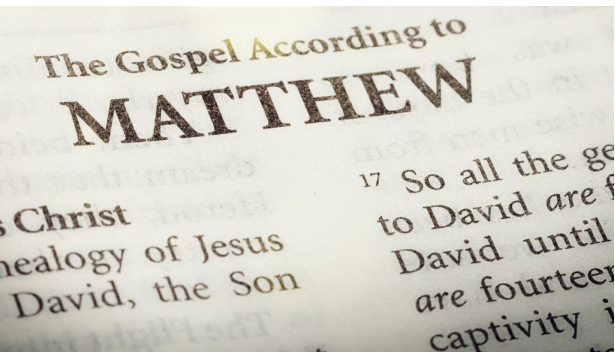
The "Synoptic" Gospels *(continued)*

"The Synoptic Problem [so-called]:

Why do the first three Gospels view the ministry of Christ from the same general perspective? To be more specific: Why are they so similar in content? And why are there marked differences between them? Who wrote first? Who is depending on whom? What sources did each writer have?" A Popular Survey of the New Testament by Norman L. Geisler

"Interdependence as the solution to the synoptic problem has been urged from early in the history of the Church and commands almost universal assent among contemporary New Testament scholars." An Introduction to the New Testament by D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo

The fact, then, that a detailed life of Jesus [i.e., comprehensiveness of day to day for 3 years] cannot be reconstructed on the basis of the Synoptic Gospels in no way discredits the gospels as accurate historical sources. They should be judged for what they do tell us, not for what they do not tell us. An Introduction to the New Testament by D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo



The “*Synoptic*” Gospels *(continued)*

“The Synoptic Gospels as a whole make an irreplaceable contribution of Jesus' life and ministry. Alongside John, they constitute the foundational witness to the person, ministry, teaching, passion, and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. Nor are the three Synoptic Gospels to be seen as merely redundant testimony. Each provides its own slant, together providing a kind of stereoscopic depth that would otherwise be ... missing.”

An Introduction to the New Testament by D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo



High Level Overview/Outline of the Gospel Narrative Including John



Preface

Birth & Childhood

Preparation for Ministry

Beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry (John)

Jesus' Ministry in Galilee

Sermon on the Mount (Matthew)

Sermon on the Plain (Luke)

Jesus' Ministry in Galilee

Journey to Jerusalem (Luke)

<https://www.bible-research.com/parrallel.html>

Nazareth



High Level Overview/Outline of the Gospel Narrative Including John



Jesus at the Feast of
Tabernacles (John)

Ministry in Judea

Final Ministry in Jerusalem

The Olivet Discourse

Passion Narrative

Resurrection

Endings of the Gospels &
Great Commission

<https://www.bible-researcher.com/parallels.htm>

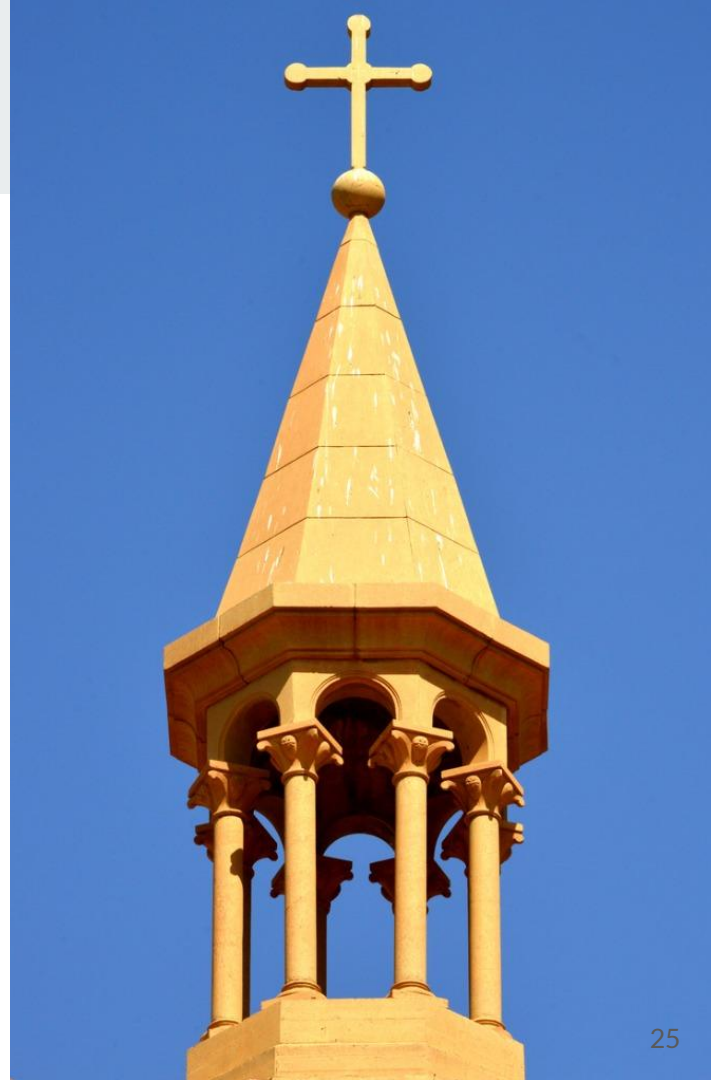
High Level Overview/Outline of the Gospel Narrative Including John



High Level Snapshot of the 4 Gospels

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Theme	King	Servant	Man	God
Presented to	Jews	Romans	Greeks	World
Ancestry	Abraham	(none)	Adam	God
Traced to	royalty	(none)	humanity	eternity
Symbol	Lion	Ox	Man	Eagle
Emphasis	taught	wrought	sought	thought
Provision	righteous	service	redemption	life
Key Verse	21:5	10:45	19:10	10:10
Key Word	sovereignty	ministry	humanity	deity
Savior	promised	powerful	perfect	personal

A Popular Survey of the New Testament by Norman L. Geisler



The Genealogy and Birth of Jesus Christ



It appears that Herod died in 4 B.C.. Jesus was therefore born in or just before 4 B.C. - but probably not much before, since Herod slays children only two years old and younger.

The New Testament provides two genealogical tables for Jesus, one by Matthew and one by Luke:

Matthew was writing for a Jewish audience and Luke for a Gentile audience.

Matthew was concerned to show that Jesus legally descended from David and was therefore a descendant of Judah to whom the messianic kingship was promised.

Luke follows the natural descent with greater detail. He takes the list back to Adam, as it was a central theme in his Gospel to set forth the universality of the gospel.

Jesus is indeed the Son of Abraham and the Son of David, but He is also the new Adam who comes to redeem not only Israel but men and women from every tribe and nation."

Summary of the Six Trials of Jesus

Jewish Trials

by Annas John 18:12–14

by Caiaphas Matthew 26:57–68

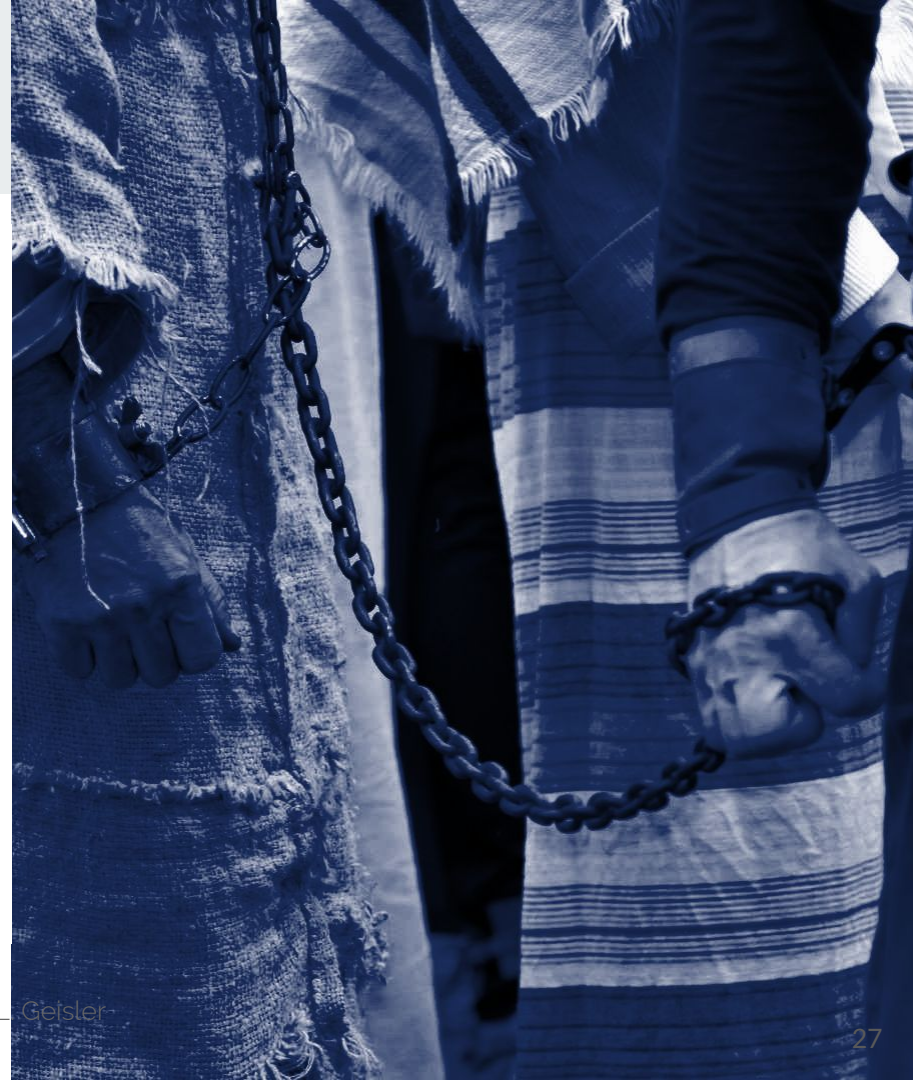
by the Sanhedrin Matthew 27:1–2

Roman Trials

by Pilate John 18:28–38

by Herod Luke 23:6–12

by Pilate again John 18:39–19:6



Timeline of Jesus on the Cross



1. Jesus arrived at Golgotha (Calvary) (Matt. 27:33; Mark 15:22; Luke 23:33; John 19:17).
2. He refused to drink a mixture of wine and myrrh offered to him (Matt. 27:34; Mark 15:23).
3. The soldiers gambled for his garment (Matt. 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23).
4. At 9 a.m. he was nailed to the cross between two thieves (Matt. 27:35; Mark 15:24–28).
5. They placed the accusation “King of the Jews” over his head (Matt. 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38; John 19:19).
6. Both thieves railed at Jesus (Matt. 27:44; Mark 15:32).
7. First word from the cross: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34).
8. Second word from the cross, to the repentant thief: “Today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).
9. Third word from the cross: “Woman, behold your son!” (John 19:26).*
10. Fourth word from the cross: “Behold your mother!” (John 19:27).*
11. At noon darkness began to fall and continued until 3 p.m. (Matt. 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44).
12. Fifth word from the cross: “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34).
13. Sixth word from the cross: “I thirst” (John 19:28).
14. He drank sour wine from a sponge (Matt. 27:48; Mark 15:36; John 19:29).
15. Seventh word from the cross: “It is finished!” (John 19:30).
16. Eighth word from the cross: “Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit” (Luke 23:46).
17. At 3 p.m. he dismissed his spirit and died (Matt. 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30).
18. The earth quaked and the temple curtain was torn in two (Matt. 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45).
19. Some graves were opened, and later after Jesus’s resurrection, these people were raised from the dead (Matt. 27:52–53).
20. The Roman soldiers confessed he was the Son of God (Matt. 27:54; Mark 15:39).
21. He was buried before sunset by Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27:57; Mark 15:42–46; Luke 23:50–53; John 19:38) with the assistance of Nicodemus (John 19:39–42).

*These two are usually combined to make seven words from the cross.

Summary Timeline of the Resurrection



	Persons	Saw	Heard	Touched	Other Evidence
1.	Mary (John 20:11–18)	X	X	X	empty tomb
2.	Mary and women (Matt. 28:1–10)	X	X	X	empty tomb
3.	Peter (1 Cor. 15:5)	X	X*		empty tomb, clothes
4.	Two disciples (Luke 24:13–35)	X	X		ate with him
5.	Ten apostles (Luke 24:36–49; John 20:19–23)	X	X	X**	saw wounds; he ate food
6.	Eleven apostles (John 20:24–31)	X	X	X**	saw wounds
7.	Seven apostles (John 21)	X	X		ate with him
8.	All apostles (Matt. 28:16–20; Mark 16:14–18)	X	X		
9.	500 brethren (1 Cor. 15:6)	X	X*		
10.	James (1 Cor. 15:7)	X	X*		
11.	All apostles (Acts 1:4–8 NIV)	X	X		ate with him
12.	Paul (Acts 9:1–9; 1 Cor. 15:8)	X	X		

*Implied

**Offered himself to be touched

A Popular Survey of the New Testament by Norman L. Geisler

The Parables of Jesus



The Parables of Jesus

Parable	Matthew	Mark	Luke
1 Lamp under a bushel	5:14-15	4:21-22	8:16, 11:33
2 Houses on rock and sand	7:24-27		6:47-49
3 New cloth on old garments	9:16	2:21	5:36
4 New wine in old wineskins	9:17	2:22	5:37-38
5 Sower	13:3-8	4:3-8	8:5-8
6 Mustard seed	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18-19
7 Tares	13:24-30		
8 Leaven (yeast)	13:33		13:20-21
9 Hidden treasure	13:44		
10 Pearl of great value	13:45-46		
11 Drag-net	13:47-48		
12 Lost sheep	18:12-13		15:4-7
13 Unforgiving servant	18:23-24		
14 Workers in the vineyard	20:1-16		
15 Two sons	21:28-31		
16 Wicked tenants	21:33-41	12:1-9	20:9-16
17 Invitation to wedding feast	22:2-14		
18 Fig-tree as herald of summer	24:32-33	13:28-29	21:29-32
19 10 'bridesmaids'	25:1-13		
20 Talents (Matt) Pounds (Luke)	25:14-30		19:12-27
21 Sheep and goats	25:31-36		
22 Seedtime to the harvest		4:26-29	
23 Creditor and the debtor			7:41-43
24 Good Samaritan			10:30-37
25 Friend in need			11:5-8
26 Rich fool			12:16-21
27 Alert servants			12:35-40
28 Faithful steward			12:42-48
29 Fig-tree without figs			13:6-9
30 Places of honour at the wedding feast			14:7-14
31 Great banquet and the reluctant guests			14:16-24
32 Counting the cost			14:28-33
33 Lost coin			15:8-10
34 Prodigal son			15:11-32
35 Dishonest steward			16:1-8
36 Rich man and Lazarus			16:19-31
37 The Master and his servant			17:7-10
38 Persistent widow and unrighteous judge			18:2-5
39 The Phannsee and the tax collector			18:10-14

Total 39 (7 occur in all 3 Synoptic gospels)

Matthew 21 (10 unique, 7 shared with Mark & Luke, 4 shared with Luke)
 Mark 8 (1 unique, 7 shared with Matthew & Luke)
 Luke 28 (17 unique, 7 shared with Matthew & Mark, 4 shared with Matthew)

<https://ccwe.b.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?id=218575>

Parables

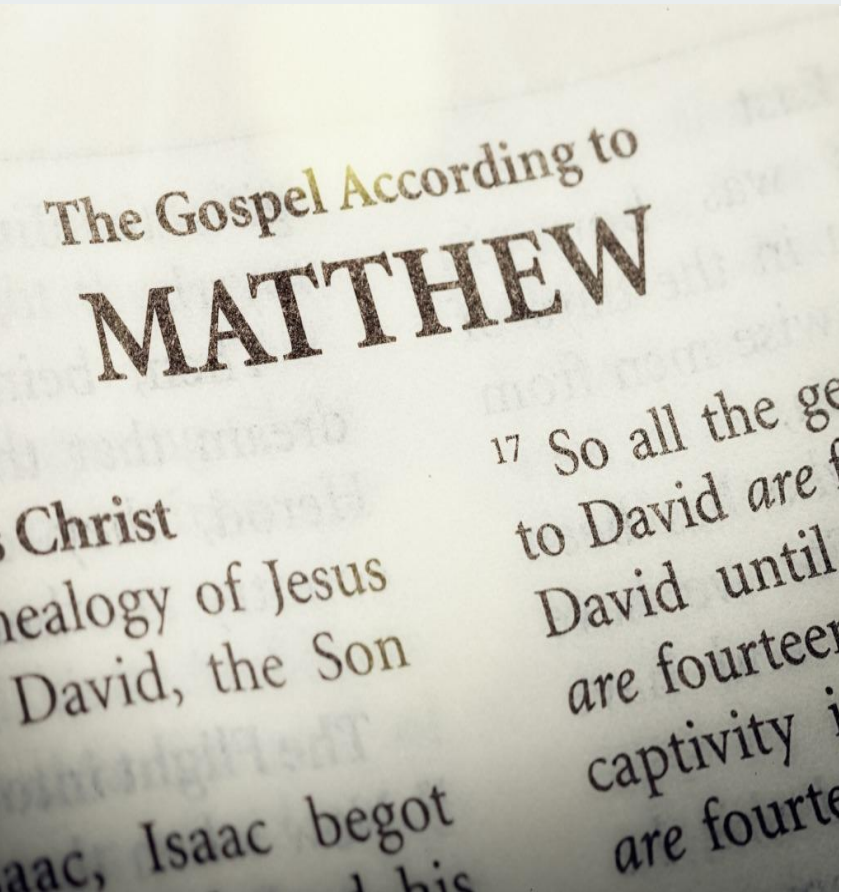
This slide borrowed from "Survey of Christian Theology"

- Parables are used by Jesus to add a visual aspect to presenting the truth of His message to us
 - Jesus often taught with parables so it is imperative we understand their use and purpose
 - A parable is a true to life story to make a point, teaches a truth, or answer a question
 - Parables were often used by Jesus to obscure the truth from the unresponsive, while making it plain to the responsive
 - It is important to identify the central point of the parable and not get hung up on details of the story
 - Parables are used to contribute to an understanding of issues of doctrine but in general they are not usually used to building the basics of doctrine
- McQuilkin, Robertson. "Understanding and Applying the Bible." Moody Publishers, 2009-11-25T14:23:31. Apple Books.
- Parables generally end with a point of contemplation - application - impact!



Jordan River

Matthew



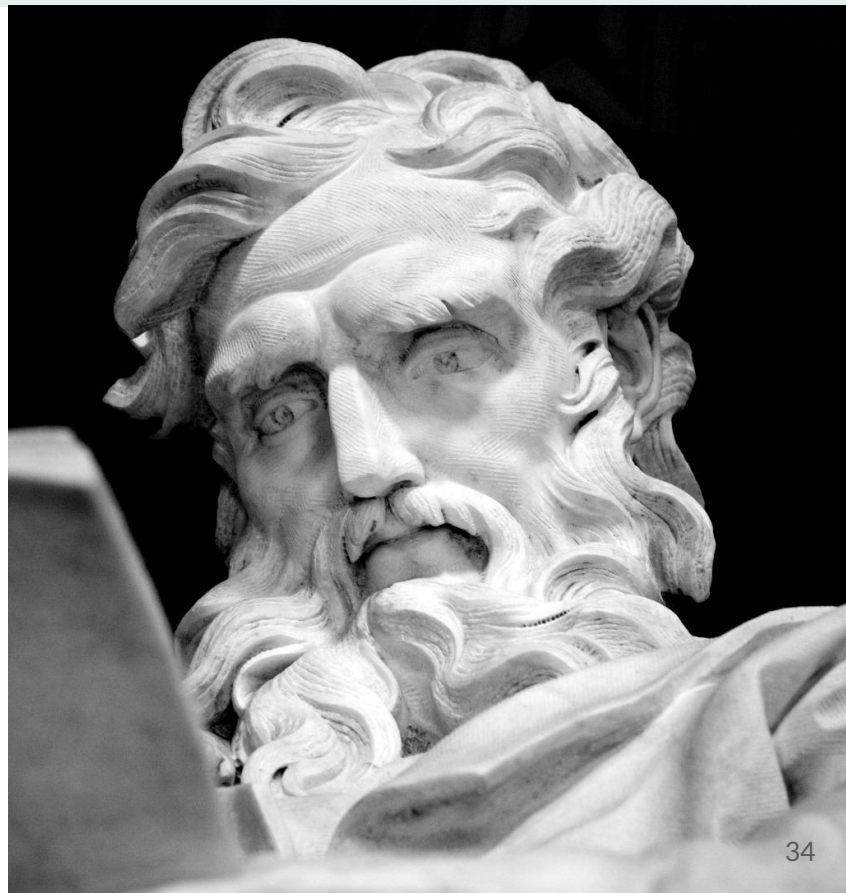
1. Presents large blocks of Jesus' teaching e.g., Sermon on the Mount, The Olivet Discourse
2. Provides an account of Jesus birth from Joseph's perspective
3. Use of the Old Testament is particularly rich (125 references from 25 Books)
4. Jesus comes to *fulfill* the Old Testament prophecy and the law
5. Use of *Immanuel*, *God with us*; and linkages to Jesus as the Son of David.
6. Emphasis on *The Kingdom*
7. Only Gospel to call the *Church*, the Church
8. Uses the term Son of man more than the other gospels. See Daniel Daniel 7:13-14

Matthew *(continued)*

OUTLINE

1. Person of the King 1:1 - 3:12
2. Preparation of the King 3:13 - 4:11
3. Proclamation of the King 4:12 - 9:38
4. Propagation of the King 10:1 - 25:46
5. Passion on the King 26:1 - 27:66
6. Power of the King 28:1-20

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Matthew *(continued)*

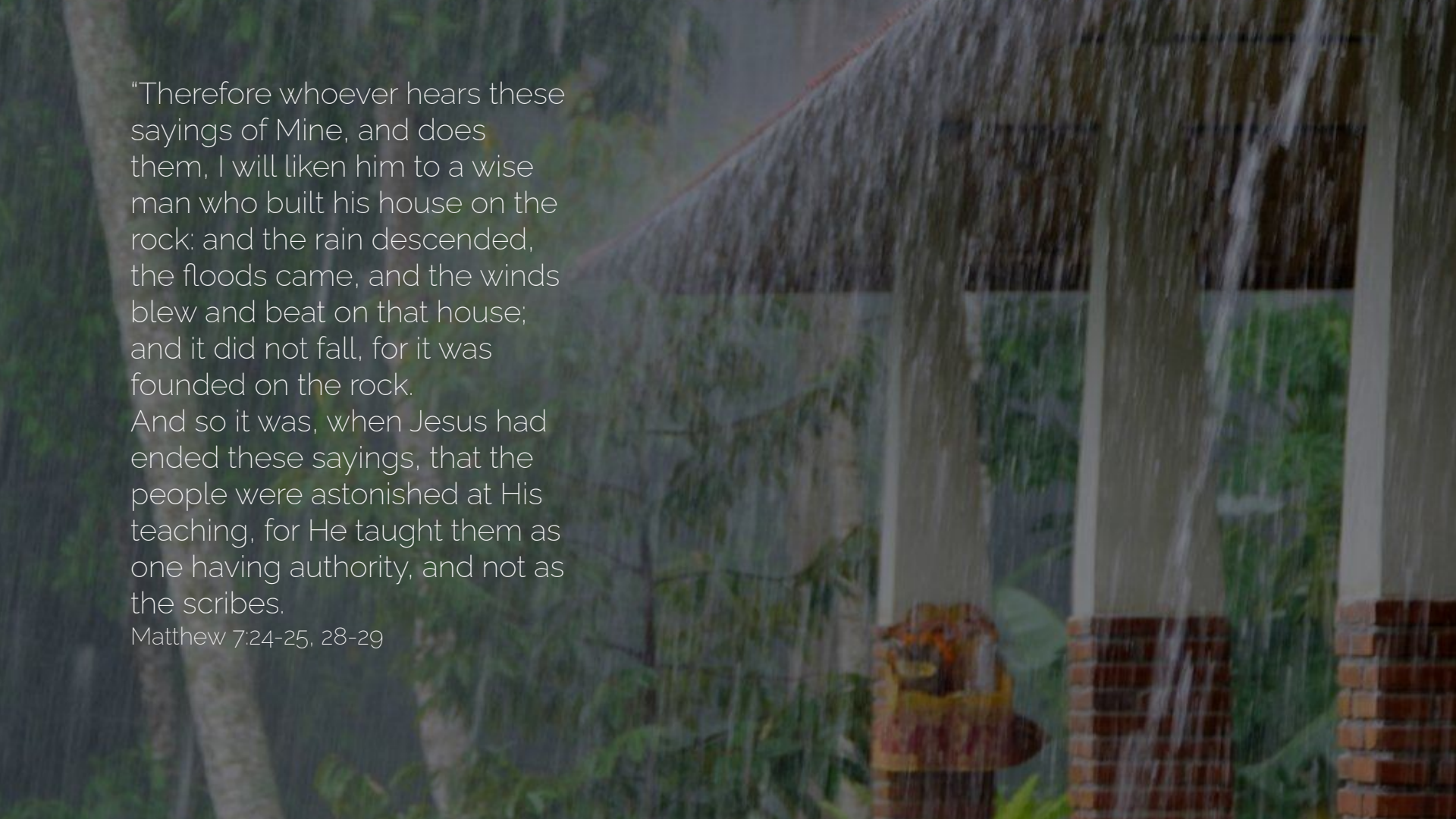
And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Matthew 28:16-20

Some Key Passages:

- Matthew 5-7, Sermon on the Mount
- The parables of Matthew 13
- The Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24
- Matthew 25, Virgins, Talents, and Judgement
- The grandeur of the *Great Commission*, Matthew 28:18-20





"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Matthew 7:24-25, 28-29

Mark

1. Known to be action oriented - note the use of the regular use of the word "immediately".
2. Shortest of the Synoptic Gospels and is focused on Jesus' ministry in Galilee.
3. Peter was most likely the key verbal source to Mark as the gospel was written. Due to Peter's aggressive personality this may indicate the reason for its brevity and energetic tone.
4. May have been the first Gospel written in the late '50s.
5. Parallel nature of Mark to Acts 10

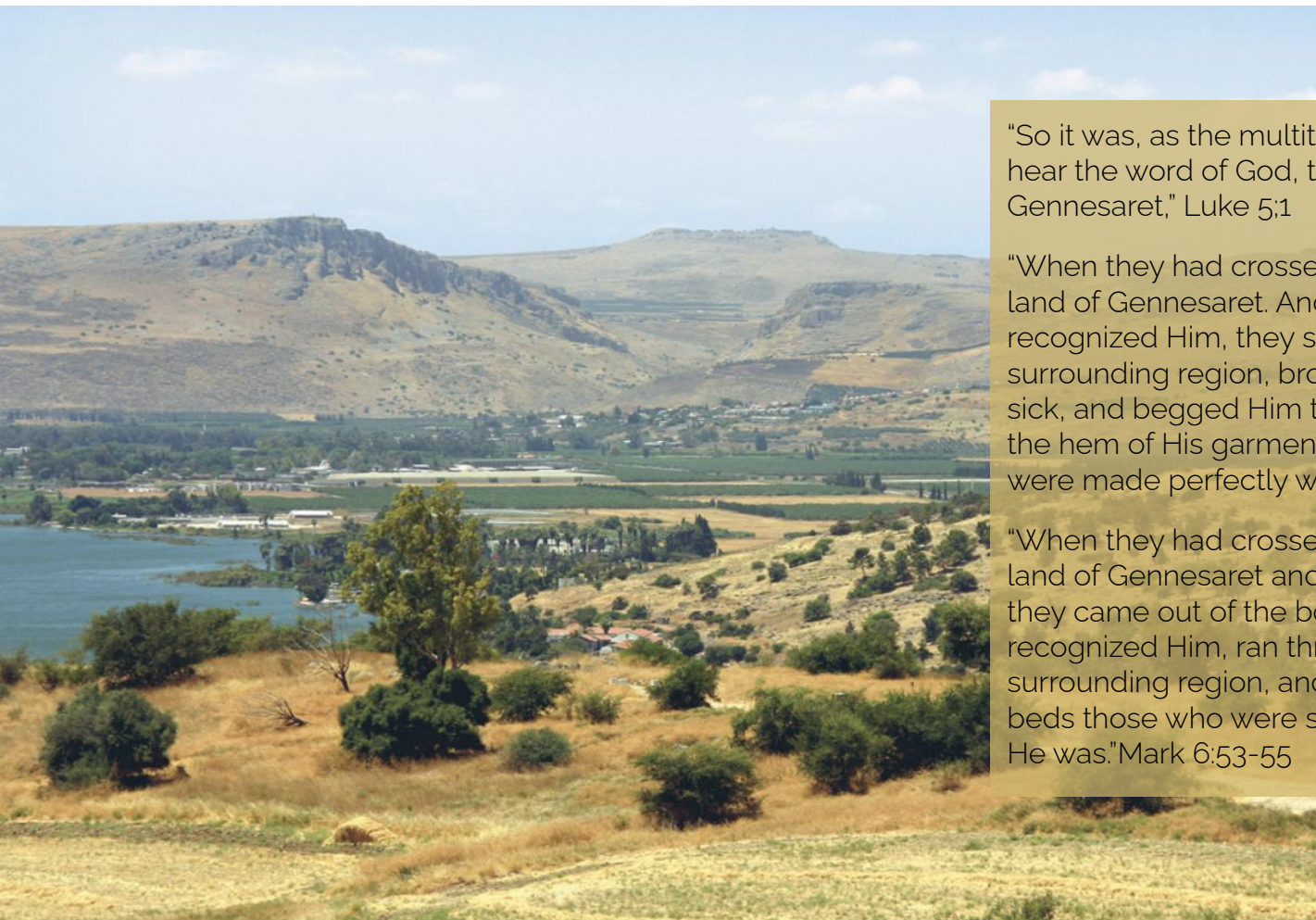


Mark *(continued)*



OUTLINE

1. First part of Galilean ministry (typical day in life of Jesus) 1:1 - 3:6
2. Second part of the Galilean ministry (immense popularity) 3:7 - 5:43
3. Conclusion to the Galilean ministry (growing opposition) 6:7 - 8:26
4. Recognition of Messiahship 8:27 - 10:52
5. Final ministry in Jerusalem (days of confrontation) 11:1 - 13:37
6. Passion & empty tomb 15:1 - 16:8



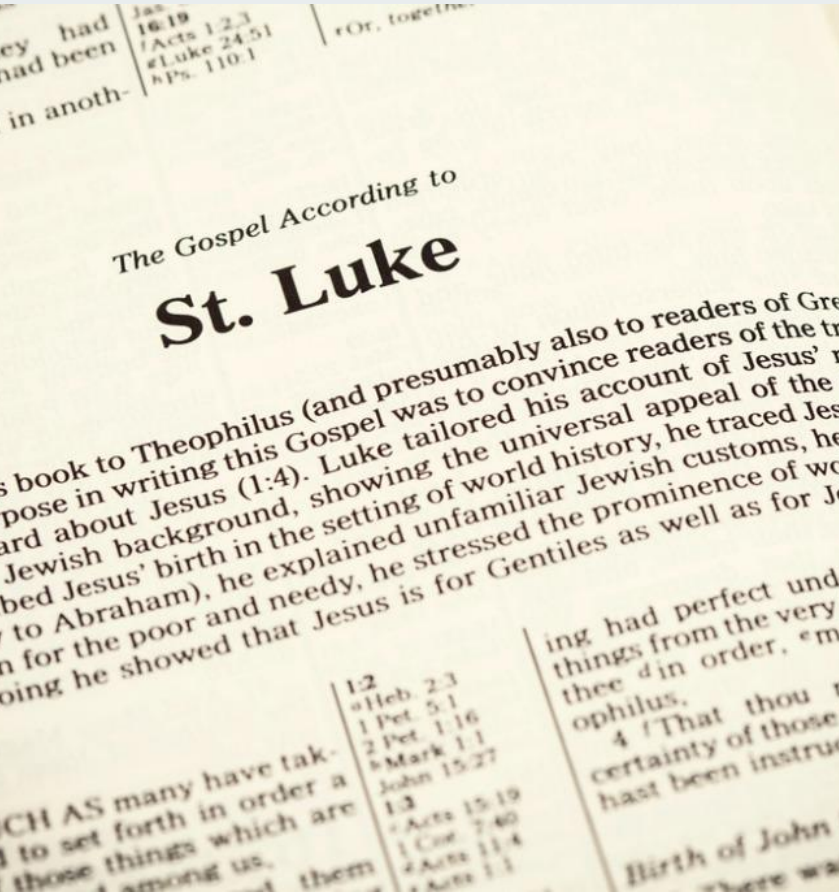
"So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret," Luke 5:1

"When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well." Matthew 14:34-36

"When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there. And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was." Mark 6:53-55

View of the Plain of Gennesaret and the Arbel Cliffs from the Mount of Beatitudes

Luke



1. The longest book in the New Testament
2. Significantly more focus on Jesus' ministry in Judea - Luke 9 - 19
3. Unique introduction

"Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent **Theophilus**, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. Luke 1:1-4

Luke *(continued)*

4. Parallel to Acts:

"The former account I made, O **Theophilus**, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Luke 1:1-3

5. Luke - a faithful travelling companion of Paul

- a. Luke the **beloved physician** and Demas greet you. Colossians 4:14
- b. Only **Luke** is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. 2 Timothy 4:11
- c. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, **Luke**, my fellow laborers. Philemon 23,24



Luke *(continued)*



Some Key Passages:

- Mary's song of praise (Luke 1)
- Jesus' Birth - the version in Luke is the most often quoted (Luke 2)
- Raising the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7)
- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10)
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15)
- Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19)
- Asking God for forgiveness to be granted to His executioners. And promise of paradise to the dying thief. Luke 23:39-43

Capernaum



A photograph of an olive grove with a semi-transparent text box overlaid on the right side. The olive trees have thick, gnarled trunks and dense green foliage. The ground is covered with dry leaves and some colorful flowers. In the background, there are stone walls and a fence.

The Garden of Gethsemane

“Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. When He came to the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”

Luke 22:39-42

Miracles



Purpose of miracles

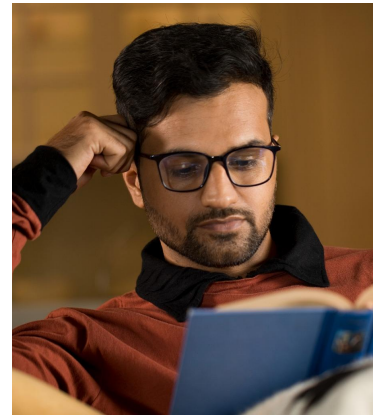
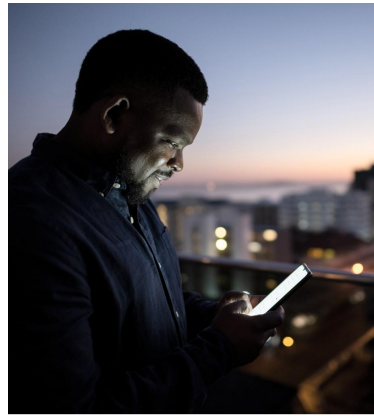
- Glorify God
- Establish support of revelation from one's message/ministry - those special in God's kingdom. E.g., Moses, Elijah, Jesus, Apostles
- Meet human needs and take away the pain of sin
- Speak to the immanence of God, His presence and activity within history
- Provide radical & full restoration

The first rule in learning the New Testament ...

... Is to Read the New Testament

- 260 Chapters
- 4 per day
- In about 2 months you'll read though the entire New Testament

- My commitment



1. What is the *first rule* in learning your New Testament?
2. What aspect of interpreting/applying lessons from parables was most helpful to you?
3. Which of the verses we discussed from the Synoptic Gospels was most insightful/impactful to you? Why?
4. Which of the lessons about miracles was most insightful?
5. What did you learn about the Synoptic Gospels that you didn't know before?

So What &
Now What?

