

The Gospels

"where to start" series.

WHILE EACH BOOK HAS A DIFFERENT AUTHOR, DIFFERENT GROUP OF PEOPLE IT WAS WRITTEN FOR, AND DIFFERENT PURPOSE- THEY ALL FOCUS ON THE STORY OF JESUS.

Matthew

WHO HE WAS: A TAX COLLECTOR AND AN APOSTLE

- JESUS= KING OF JEWS
- EMPHASIS OF JESUS' TEACHINGS
- FOCUSES ON HOW JESUS FULFILLS THE WORDS OF THE LAW AND PROPHETS

Mark

WHO HE WAS: AN AID TO PETER AND MISSIONARY

- JESUS= SUFFERING SERVANT
- REVEALS THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS
- AS A WHOLE, THIS BOOK IS A DECLARATION OF JESUS' WORK

Luke

WHO HE WAS: PHYSICIAN, AID TO PAUL, INTERVIEWER

- JESUS= SAVIOR FOR ALL
- EDUCATIONAL, SEEKS TO ARRANGE THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS IN ORDER
- WRITTEN BY A NON-JEWISH PERSON FOR ANOTHER JEW

John

WHO HE WAS: AN APOSTLE

- JESUS= GOD
- WRITTEN TO INSPIRE BELIEF
- WRITTEN LONG AFTER OTHER GOSPELS
- MOST UNIQUE CONTENT: FOCUS ON SIGNS AND STATEMENTS

Timeline of each gospel:

1. A STATEMENT OF JESUS' DIVINE STATUS
2. JESUS' MIRACLES AND TEACHINGS
3. JESUS' BETRAYAL, TRIAL, AND DEATH
4. JESUS' RESURRECTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO HIS FOLLOWERS

Questions to think about:

1. WHAT DOES JESUS SAY ABOUT HIMSELF?
2. WHOM IS JESUS TALKING TO? (THIS IS VITAL. IS HE TALKING TO HIS DISCIPLES, HIS ENEMIES, A MASSIVE CROWD?)
3. WHAT DOES JESUS SAY ABOUT GOD?
4. HOW DOES JESUS REACT TO DIFFERENT SITUATIONS? WHAT PLEASES HIM? WHAT UPSETS HIM?
5. WHAT DOES JESUS TELL PEOPLE TO DO?

SOURCE: KRANZ, JEFFREY. "GUIDE TO THE FOUR GOSPELS." OVERVIEWBIBLE.

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