

## NOTES ON THE OVERVIEW OF THE GOSPELS

Setting:

*Malachi 4:1* For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 2 **But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.** 3 **And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD** of hosts. 4 ¶ Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, **lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.**

400 silent years fulfilled as prophesied in detail by Daniel (Daniel 11)

*Hebrews 1:1* God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days **spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

“GOSPEL” is “evangel” in original Greek from whence comes our word evangelist, a “gospeler”.

Heaven mentioned

691 in Bible

414 in OT

277 times in NT

141 verses in gospels

75 in Matthew

32 kingdom of heaven (all in Matthew)

17 in Mark

32 in Luke

17 in John

“Contradictions” in the gospels

Sometimes simply selected parts are reported in a given Gospel as suits its purpose.

Example: Title on the cross.

Matthew	THIS IS JESUS	THE KING OF THE JEWS
Mark		KING OF THE JEWS
Luke	THIS IS JESUS	THE KING OF THE JEWS
John	JESUS OF NAZARETH	THE KING OF THE JEWS
Full Title	THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH	THE KING OF THE JEWS

**Heaven’s** angels announced His coming, Luke 1:27--- and then arrival Luke 2:9-15

A **star** led the wise men to the house where he was. Matthew 2:

A Voice from **heaven** spoke three times in the Gospels

Baptism, Matthew 3, plus Mark and Luke

Transfiguration Matthew 17:1-9, plus Mark 9 and Luke 9

The last week before the cross, John 12:28.

Jesus states He came down from **heaven**, John 3:\_\_\_\_\_

He states he is returning to **heaven**. John 14:28

He rose from the dead bodily and ascended bodily to **heaven**.

*Mark 16:19* So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

*Luke 24 :50* And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. 51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: 53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

He states he is coming again from heaven for us.

*John 14:28* Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

The Gospels tell the story of Jesus but they also tell about Jesus Himself so we can get to know him very well

personally and learn to admire him and love Him. It is God's intent that we be transformed into the image of His Son. We tend to become like one we come to know, like and admire.

*Romans 8:29 ¶ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

*2Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

The gospels present the rejection of the Lord in four ways.

He was rejected as King.

*Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.*

He was rejected as God's Prophet.  
*that smote thee?*

*Matthew 26:68 Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he*

He was rejected as Son of Man.

*Luke 9:22 Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.*

He was rejected as Son of God.

*John 19:7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.*

The Gospels were written from memory with the help of the Holy Spirit. The disciples were not scholarly men and probably did not keep notes or diaries intending to write books about their experiences.

*Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*

*John 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

Peter also speaks of how scriptures came into being.

*2Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

John speaks of the inadequacy of the gospels to tell all that could be told.

*John 20:30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

*John 21:24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. 25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.*

Future Use of the Gospels:

After the Lord returns for His Church, Jewish inhabitants Israel will learn from the Gospels that their Messiah has indeed come and been rejected and crucified. Those of faith will follow the predictions and instructions of the Lord given in the gospels to guide them daily through the rigors of the tribulation. Some will be martyred but some will survive to enter the earthly Kingdom of the Lord upon His return. They will carry the everlasting gospel of the kingdom abroad and Gentiles who receive them and their message, or harbor those who have fled Jerusalem as instructed will also enter the earthly kingdom. See Matthew 25:31-46.

*Matthew 10:40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.*

## **THE GOSPELS**

The four gospels give us four different accounts of the most important person that ever lived on the earth. This person, Jesus Christ, along with the Father, is the most important person in heaven. He is the one who makes heaven so wonderful for all who are His own.

The Holy Spirit, in His inspiring each of the gospel writers to write about the life of Christ has a specific objective in mind in each gospel. In a somewhat similar way, a biographer may write about the social life, family life, professional life, and public life of his subject. You need all these combined to get a full, total picture of the person. We also need all four gospel accounts to get the total, complete life of Jesus' life here on earth.

### **The gospel of Matthew Christ as the Messiah**

In this gospel, we have the Lord presented as the Messiah or King of Israel. It contains quite a number of quotes from the Old Testament that have their fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ. The genealogy of Jesus goes back as far as Abraham, who is the man God called to be the beginning of his earthly people, Israel. The kingdom of heaven is very prominent in this gospel. The sermon on the mount, Chapters 5-7, is largely instructions for those that are part of the kingdom. We know that Israel rejected its King and had Him nailed to a cross, but someday He is coming back to establish His kingdom on the earth.

### **The gospel of Mark Christ as God's Servant**

The gospel of Mark shows us the Lord Jesus as God's servant. The words "immediately" or "straightway" are used many times. It is a gospel of action with the record given of quite a few miracles. The gospel reveals to us a very busy Jesus in His activities to do the Father's will.

### **The gospel of Luke Christ as the Son of Man**

We have the Lord Jesus here as the Son of Man. The genealogy goes all the way back to Adam who was the first man. We learn here that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, which is His beginning as a human being. We also get a great deal of detail of the circumstances of His birth. As a dependent man, we see Him in prayer much throughout the gospel account. We also read of our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before he went to the cross and "His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:44

### **The gospel of John Christ as the Son of God**

The gospel of John puts before us our Lord as the Son of God. The first 2 verses take us back to eternity past. Verse 3 tells He is the Creator. The phrase "I am" is used extensively in this gospel. Our Lord is the great "I am" who never had a beginning and will never have an end. It is His glory as the eternal One, John 8:58. The Lord refers to His Father many times in this gospel. In chapter 10:30 he says, "I and my Father are one." In this statement he is claiming to be God.

### **Notes on the gospel writers**

Scripture tells us something about each author of the gospels. What we learn about each one helps us to understand why the Holy Spirit would choose each of them to bring out a different glory of our Lord.

Matthew was a Jew who worked for the Roman government as a tax collector. This caused him to be much despised by the Jewish people, and yet the Lord called him to be a disciple. This really shows us the grace of God. Matthew left his position and followed the Lord. He made the Lord his King and, I think, delighted to serve and write of the King of Israel.

The service of Mark is brought out in scripture, though for a time he was not useful in the ministry, but was later restored to usefulness. He wrote of our Lord as God's servant.

Luke was a physician or medical doctor. He was also a Gentile. His gospel has a wider appeal than just to the Jews and he also wrote of our Lord as the Son of Man, so emphasizing His humanity.

In his gospel, John refers to himself as the apostle whom Jesus loved. Jesus loved all His apostles, but I think John entered more fully into that love. The Holy Spirit found in John a heart that could take in the glories of the Lord as Son of God and could be led by the Holy Spirit to write the gospel that brings those glories out.

*For Year End Meetings for Young People  
by Bill Dowzak December 2005*