

NEW TESTAMENT 1

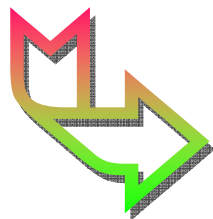
UNIT ONE:

THE GOSPELS: the gospel written down.

What is a Gospel?

- About a person: Jesus of Nazareth.
- No description, family history or background.
- A new kind of literature.
- A desire to tell others about what had happened.
- Not a complete life story, not a biography.
- A declaration of the meaning and significance of the events.
- The gospel had taken written form.

events



gospel

Gospels



Why were the Gospels written?

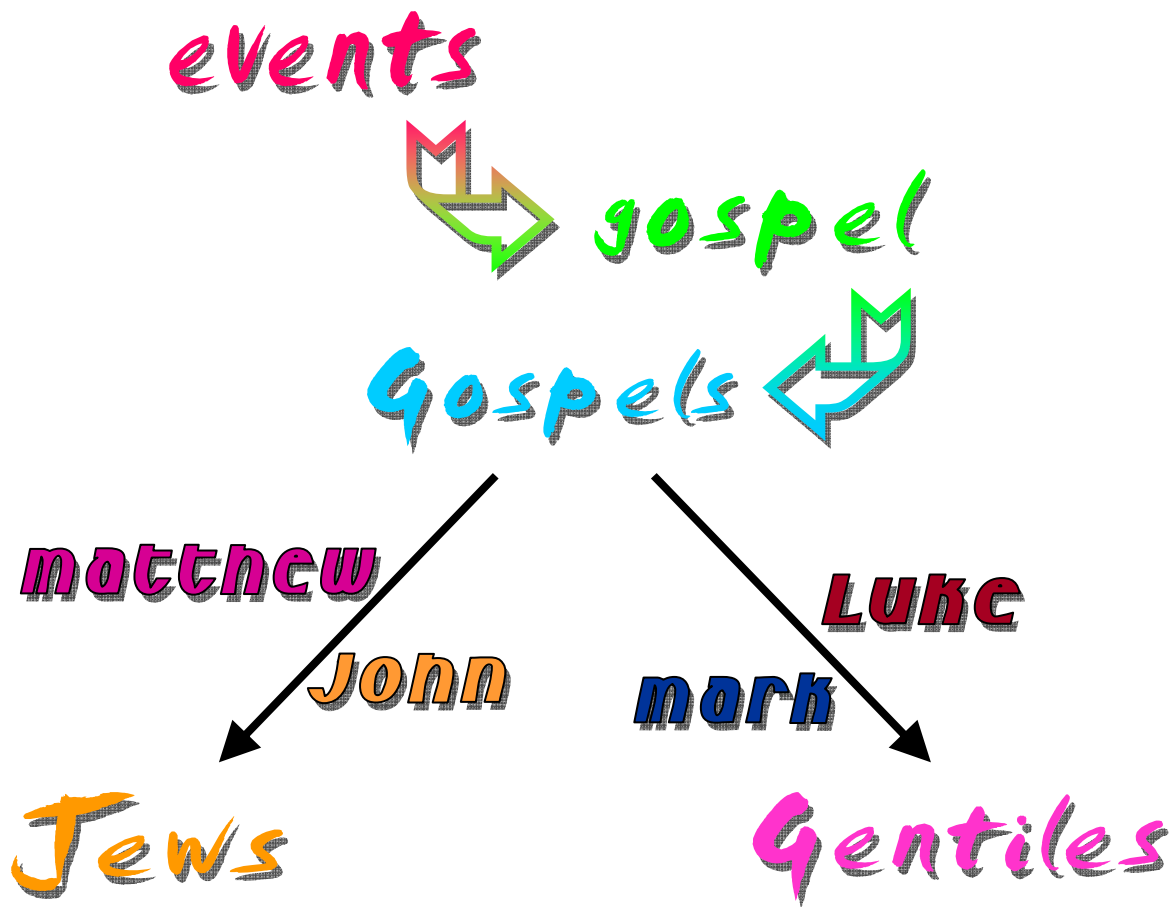
- New Testament letters believed to have been written first.
- They seek to expound the gospel and its implications.
- Here the gospel is a clearly defined message about the person and work of Jesus.
- This gospel had been told verbally and received with faith and obedience.
- Possible that earlier written accounts existed but none have survived.
- The documents we now call the Gospels were circulating before the end of the first century.
- These were closely related to the message proclaimed by Jesus and the apostles.
- Each was written to fulfil a particular purpose.

MARK will be discussed later.

LUKE - written to Theophilus, but presumably also aimed at others from a Gentile background.

MATTHEW - probably originally written for a group of Jewish Christians who were under attack from antagonistic Jews.

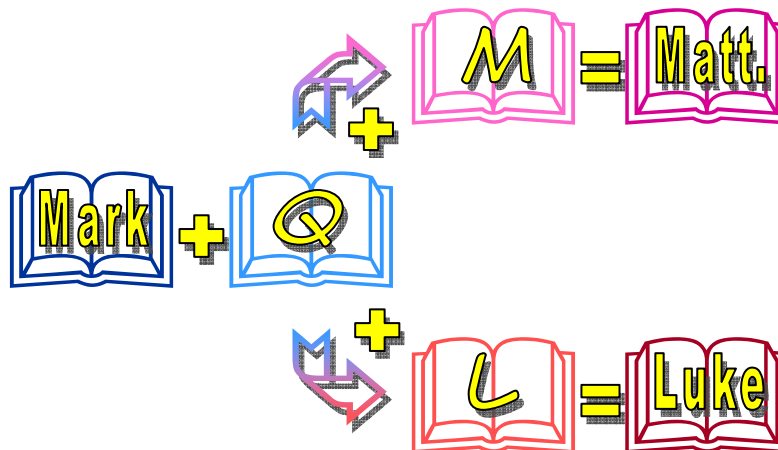
JOHN - different in form and structure, written primarily as an evangelistic document. Possibly a Jewish audience in mind.



How were the Gospels written?

- Matthew, Mark and Luke known as the SYNOPTIC gospels.
- They share a similar structure.
 - Prologue
 - The Galilean Ministry of Jesus
 - Caesarea Philippi & the journey to Jerusalem
 - Ministry in Jerusalem
 - The Passion and Resurrection Narratives

- Many sayings, parables and incidents in common.
- The writers may have used common sources or been dependant on each other.
- Each writer puts his material together in a unique way.
- Commonly believed that Mark was written first, and Matthew and Luke used it as a source.
- Suggested that there may be another common source – Q – and independent sources - M and L.
- No evidence of these other sources has been found.



- Behind the written sources is an oral tradition based on eyewitness testimony.
- Papias describes Mark as the follower and interpreter of Peter, Luke refers to other witnesses.

The Gospel According to Mark

➤ CHARACTERISTICS

- Vivid, fast moving and full of action.
- Jesus is central to almost every incident.
- Sober and austere, in contrast to flamboyant Roman literature.
- Filled with conflict – many oppose Jesus, but not all.
- Turning point at Caesarea Philippi.
- Six out of sixteen chapters cover the last week of Jesus' life.

➤ PURPOSE

- To bring readers face to face with Jesus.
- To demonstrate that Jesus is the Christ.
- To explain that Jesus is the Christ who will be crucified.
- To show that Jesus will not be defeated.
- A basic instruction manual for Christians.
- An evangelistic tool.
- To encourage Christians to stand firm.

➤ IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- Who is Jesus?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be the Christ?
- What does it mean to follow Jesus?

➤ CONTENTS

- 1:1-1:3 The Prologue.
- 1:14-3:6 The Opening of the Galilean Ministry.
- 3:7-6:29 Conclusion of the Galilean Ministry.
- 6:30-8:26 Jesus withdraws beyond Galilee.
- 8:27-10:52 Caesarea Philippi and the journey to Jerusalem.
- 11:1-13:37 The ministry in Jerusalem.
- 14:1-16:8 Passion and resurrection narratives.