



Lesson 2

Survey of Matthew, Mark, Luke

Introduction: The first three books of the New Testament are called the Synoptic Gospels (*synoptic* means “to see together/from the same perspective”) because they present a common approach to, and duplicate much of, the same material from the life of Jesus. They stand out different from the Book of John for reasons we will discuss in a later lesson. However, even though these three gospels* (*evangelion* means “good news”) present much of the same material, they each have their unique characteristics and purpose. By presenting three different vantages of a single event, the reader is able to draw accurate conclusions from eyewitness testimony and still not compromise the rules of factual evidence. For instance, take a look at the event of the Transfiguration and notice that each account adds more impact to the statement of WHO Jesus is while emphasizing the important conclusion the disciples had to draw from that event; that is, that Jesus was to be listened to! In a moment we will see how each writer’s specific audience was taken into consideration as the Holy Spirit (John 14.26) brought each writer into a detailed remembrance of a shared event.

Matthew 17.5	Mark 9.7	Luke 9.35	CONCLUSIONS
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased ...	This is my beloved Son...	This is my Son, my Chosen ...	beloved Son, my Chosen , with whom I am well pleased ...
listen to Him.	listen to Him.	listen to Him.	LISTEN TO HIM!

MATTHEW

MARK

LUKE

Evidence of purpose and style in each book.	“Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham...” 1.1 Does not explain Jewish customs but takes for granted the writer knows them.	“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ...” 1.1. Explains Jewish language and customs 5.41; 7.34; 15.34	“having investigated...to write it out for you in order, most excellent Theophilus (“lover of God”)...” 1.3
Primarily intended for:	Written to Jews in order to present Jesus as fulfillment of the Messianic hope of Israel from OT. 1.22	Written to Gentiles, likely written ca AD 65-70 for the saints around Rome (mostly Gentiles).	“so that you might know the exact truth...” 1.4
Unique Style and Characteristics	Old Testament extensively quoted as fulfillment of prophecies. 1.22; 2.5, 15, 17, 23; 3.3, 15 Matthew records the genealogy of Jesus through Joseph to David’s throne to Abraham. 1.17	Starts with John the Baptist rather than Jesus. 1.2 NO mention of birth or circumcision Mark has NO genealogy probably because it would have been irrelevant to a Roman (Gentile).	Only non-Jewish writer of any NT literature. Medical education quite evident. Col. 4.14 Luke records the actual genealogy of Jesus through Mary traced to Adam. 3.23, 38
Major Themes	Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven 4.23; 13.10-58 Jesus, the son of God, sits on David’s throne as King of the Kingdom of Heaven. 1.6; 2.2 (Most references to kingship)	Jesus is the Suffering Servant of God, the son of Man. 8.31; 10.45 Presents Jesus’ heroic service and willingness to die to lead other Romans to confess what the centurion confessed. 15.39	Jesus of Nazareth is the Savior of all, the Son of Man. 12.40 Fascination with “earthly stories with heavenly meanings”—22 parables appear in the Gospels, 17 are unique to Luke
READER’S GUIDE	Royal Background of the <u>King</u> 1.1-4,11 <u>King’s</u> Ministry in Galilee 4.3-5 <u>King’s</u> Journey to Jerusalem 14.1-20.34 <u>King</u> at Jerusalem 21.1-27.66 The <u>King’s</u> Triumph 28.1-20	Preparation of the <u>Servant</u> 1.1-13 <u>Servant’s</u> Ministry in Galilee 1.14-9.50 <u>Servant’s</u> Ministry in Jerusalem 10.1-13.37 Humiliating Death, Burial, Resurrection of the <u>Servant</u> and Martyr 14.1-16.20	The Births of the Preparer and <u>Savior</u> 1.1-2.52 <u>Savior’s</u> Preparation for the Ministry 3.1-4.13 The Ministry of the <u>Son of Man</u> 4.14-19.28 The Death and Resurrection of the Son of Man 19.29-24.53

☺ There are many brothers and sisters who, because of illness, are unable to come study with us on Sunday or Wednesday. This week take the time to make a telephone call to a shut-in then spend some time talking with them about *their* needs. Jesus shines through the Gospels as a compassionate Savior who served others even though He was the King!

* The word “gospel” is used in different ways in the NT and does not always refer only to Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. We will study this word in detail at a later date. *evangelion*

John 13.17