

An Introduction to the Gospels

It's all about Jesus, His Words and Deeds



Jesus' life on earth

His Birth



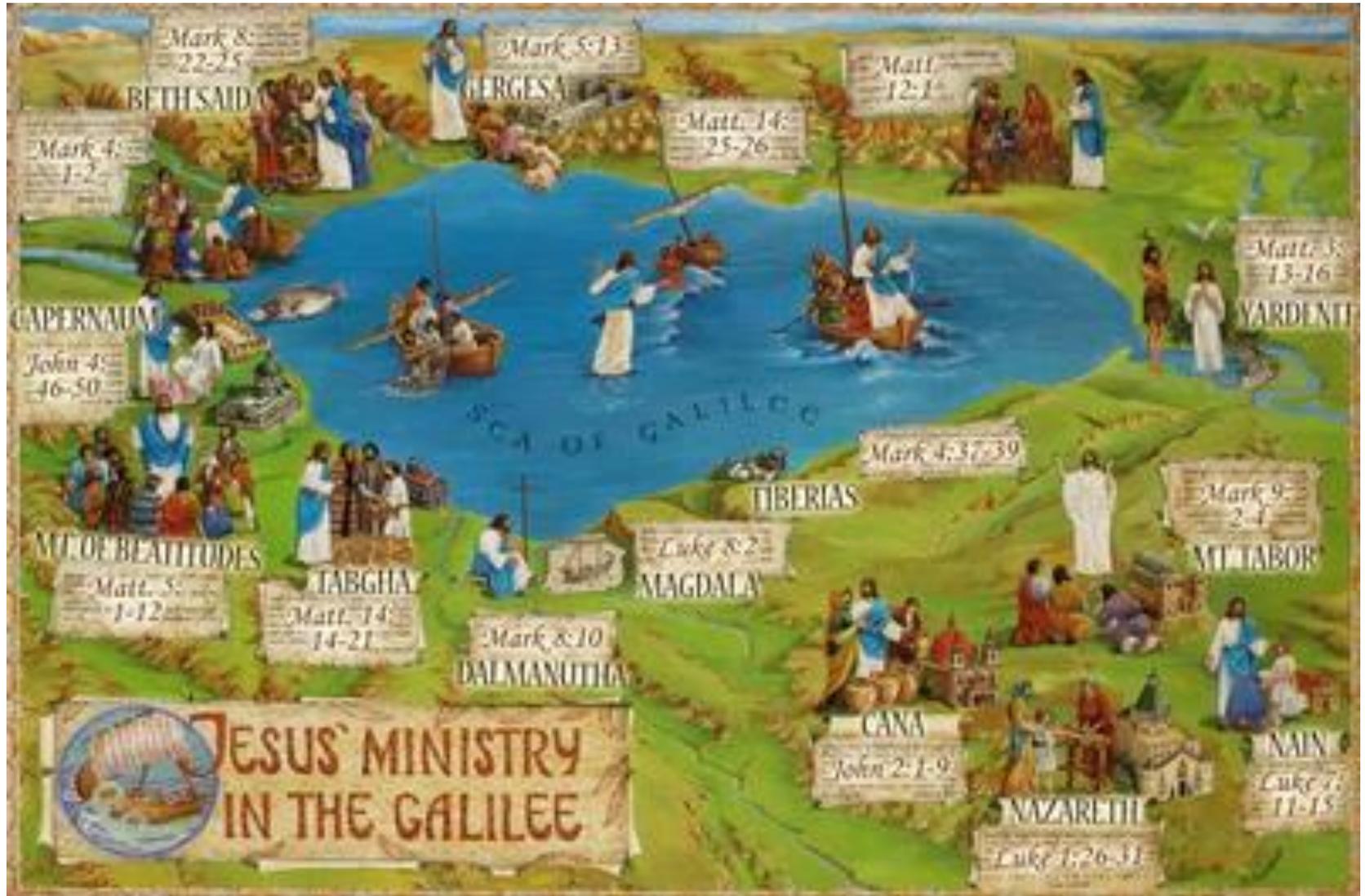
Jesus' life on earth

30 years mostly unknown as an 'ordinary' man



Jesus' life on earth

3 year's ministry as itinerant teacher and miracle worker



Jesus' life on earth

His death by crucifixion and his Resurrection



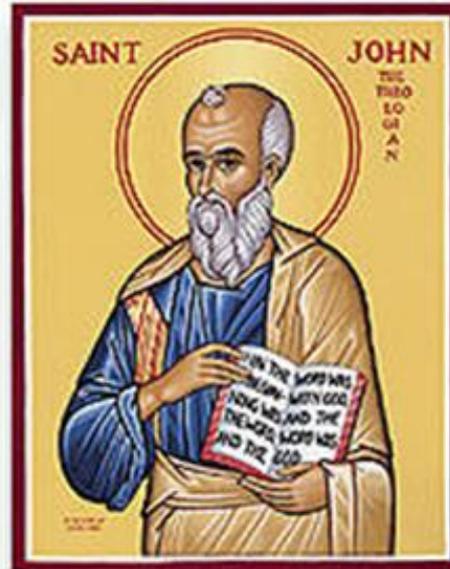
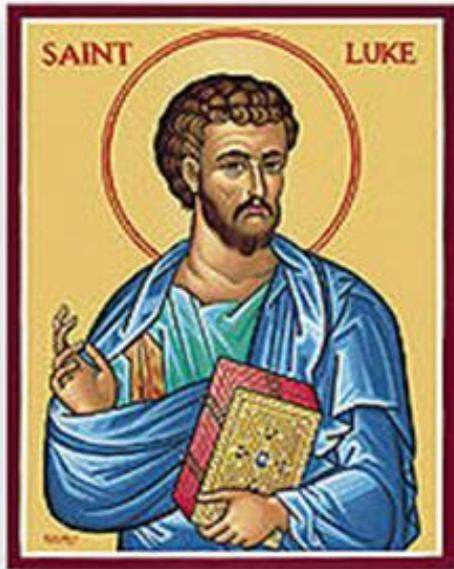
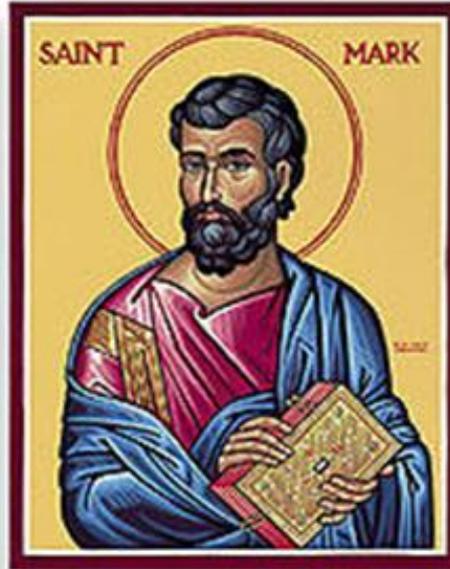
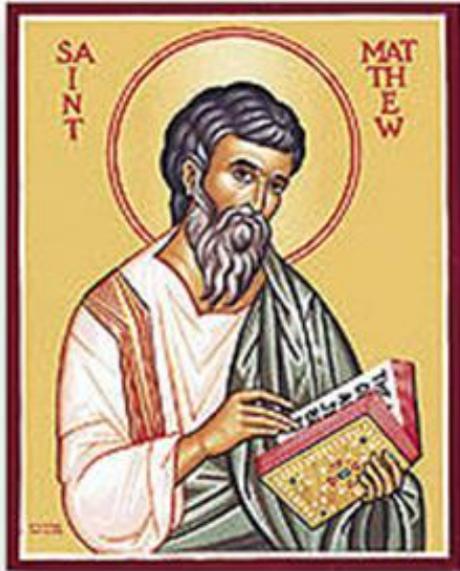
They have to be selective (cf. news headlines each day)



Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

John 21:25

4 gospels with a different perspective



Matthew

‘this was to fulfil ...’

Mark

‘immediately’

Luke

‘a full account for a friend’

John

Jesus from the ‘inside’
the disciple whom
Jesus loved

*The first three are very
similar in content*

The synoptic gospels



They are called the “same-eye” gospels.
They have many parallel passages,
some with identical wording.

Mat 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Mark 8:34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.



The Synoptic Problem



The questions you may never have asked, and probably don't need to know the answer !

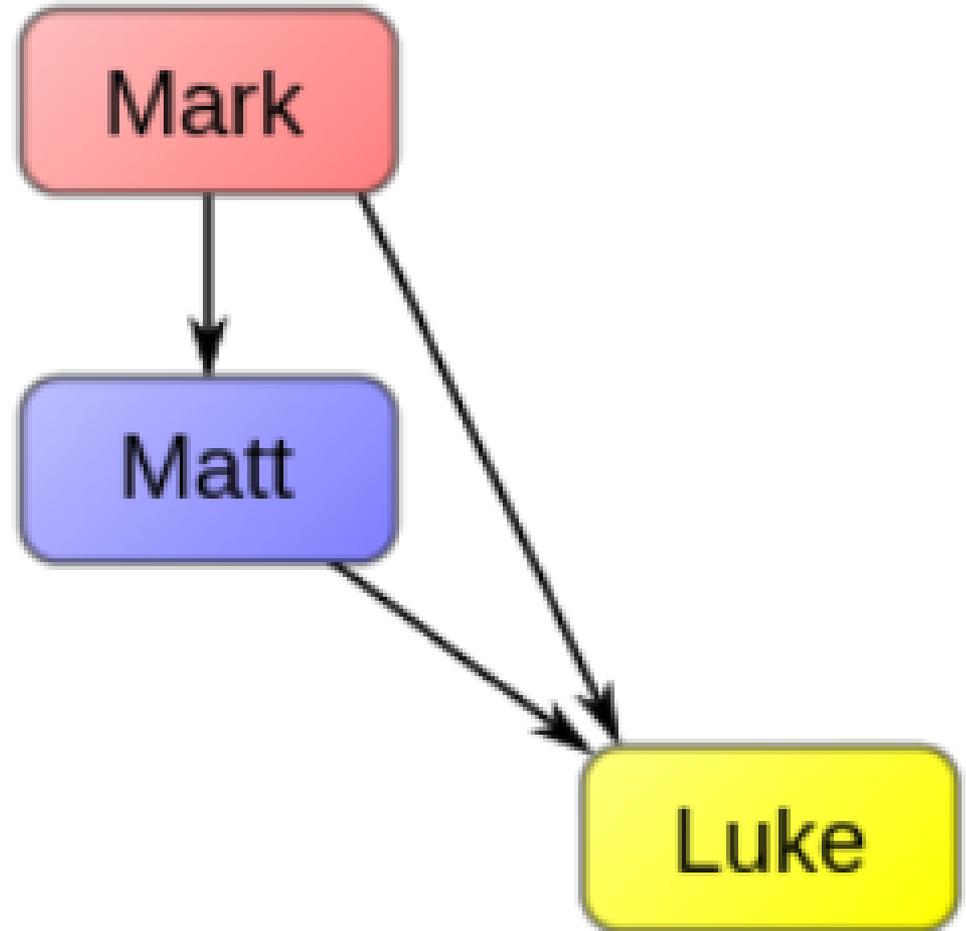
How did they come to be written ?
What is the relationship of each to the other?
Which came first?

2 reasons why you don't need to know

- 1, The life and teaching of Jesus is the basis of them all.***
- 2, The Holy Spirit was the one who inspired them.***

However, for the curious among you ...

The traditional view since 1880s has been that Mark came first since it is shorter and includes less of Jesus' sermon material.



Which brings us to another traditional view ...

The Pope versus The Prime Minister of Israel



During the Pope's visit to Israel the Israeli Prime Minister said that Jesus spoke Hebrew and the Pope contradicted him by saying 'Aramaic'.

But .. studies into the customs and environment of where Jesus lived in the 1st century AD have raised some important points.

The evidence suggests that Jesus spoke both Aramaic and Hebrew. Religious teaching in 1st century Galilee was certainly in Hebrew, and Hebrew was the daily language of the local population.



The Synagogue at Capernaum

Hidden Hebrew

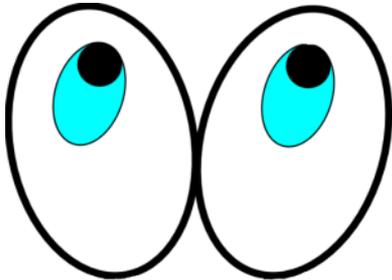
Some of our English New Testament translations are full of Hebrew wording and styles which we don't often notice.

For example the phrases like

“he answered and said”

or

“he lifted up his eyes”



are typical Hebrew ways of saying *“he replied”* and *“he looked”*.

They are called “Hebraisms”

In 1969 Dr. Robert Lindsey was Pastor of a church in Jerusalem. He wanted to produce a modern Hebrew translation of the gospels for his congregation. He was fluent in New Testament Greek (the original languages in which the gospels were written) and also fluent in Hebrew.

When he began he made a startling discovery ...



After a great deal of study, he came to the conclusion that Luke came first, followed by Mark and Matthew.

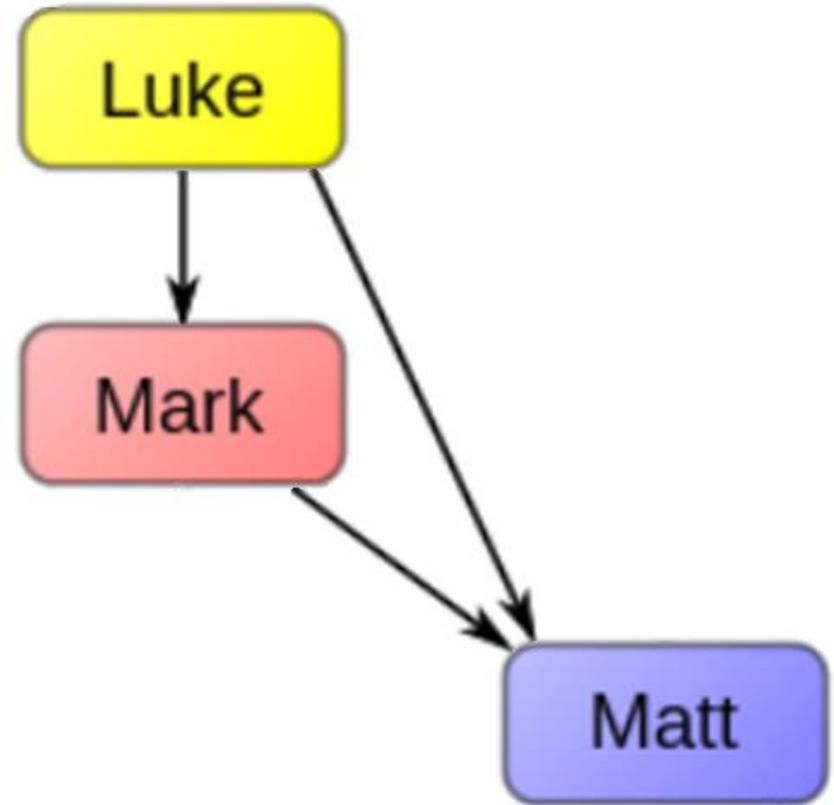
The significant point of this is that it clearly puts Jesus and the gospels into 1st Century Jewish setting.

There seems to have been a two stage process in the writing of Luke's Gospel combining :-

Jesus' Teachings

and

Jesus' Actions



Jesus' teaching

During his 3-year ministry Jesus must have spoken on many occasions and said similar things about such subjects as God, man, sin, repentance, the Kingdom

eg. Mark's gospel begins with:-

"The time has come," he said.
"The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"
Mark 1:15



Someone must have made a record of Jesus' sayings (possibly Matthew since he was good at keeping accounts!")

Jesus' Actions

What Jesus did where and when ...
Throughout his ministry Jesus repeated things:- he preached from village to village, healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead, and trained disciples.

Several people had put together accounts of Jesus' ministry

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Luke 1: 1-2

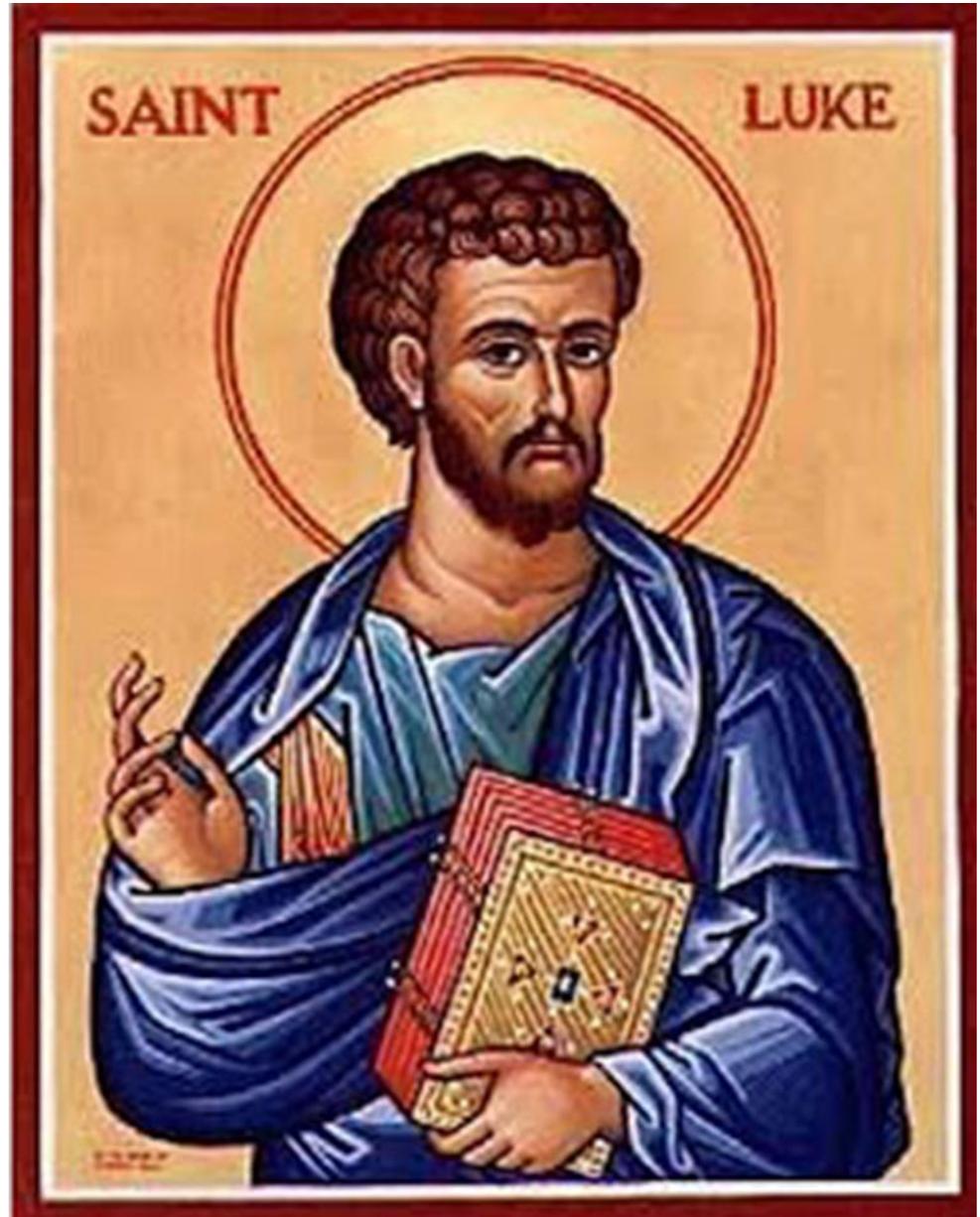


Luke 1: 3

With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,

So putting together “The sayings of Jesus” with the events he checked with the eyewitnesses accounts we get ...

The Gospel of Luke.



Why did Luke do it ?

- 1, To help his friend Theophilus (God-lover)
- 2, Because the Holy Spirit wanted him to.

So that we along with Theophilus

***“may know the certainty
of the things you have
been taught.”***



It had a present use :-

Theophilus is blessed and encouraged in his faith.

It had a future use :-

The teaching of Jesus in word and deed is passed on to coming generations of disciples.

**It's vital to get to know the
MOST IMPORTANT PERSON
who has ever lived in this world.**

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30 - 31

