



# Introduction to Matthew, Mark and Luke

## *Historical & Theological Themes*

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### Introduction

- A. In this class, we want to gain a basic understanding of the gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke.
  
- B. These are called the “Synoptic Gospels.”
  
  
- C. These three Gospels differ from the Gospel of John in what they report and how they report it.

### I. The Synoptic Problem

- A. How to explain the differences and the similarities between these three gospels became known as the “Synoptic Problem.”
  
  
- B. There are many hypotheses trying to explain the differences and similarities in these gospels.

C. Regardless of how we explain the differences and similarities, we can be sure that God the Spirit superintended the work of the Gospel writers so that we have an accurate account of Jesus (**cf. Luke 1.1-4; 2 Peter 1.19-21**).

## II. Some Reasons for the Production of the Synoptic Gospels

A. Understand to whom the gospels were written – to the **CHURCH!**

B. Understand God's intention for the Gospels.

1. The gospel writers did not intend to give you a mere history or biography of Jesus.

2. Other Scriptures tell us what God intends to do with these books (**Hebrews 1.1ff.; 1 Peter 2.23; 1 Timothy 1.15f.; cf. 2 Peter 1.3**).

## III. Historical & Theological Themes in Matthew

A. Matthew presents Jesus as **King/Messiah** prophesied in the Old Testament (**cf. 1.1, 16; 2.3-7**).

• **1 3.1-2; 4.17; 11.4-6 with Isaiah 35.4-6**

•2 see [Matthew 28.18ff.](#)

B. Matthew wrote this gospel ([see 9.9-13](#)).

C. The date of Matthew's gospel.

#### IV. Historical & Theological Themes in Mark

A. Mark presents Jesus as the **Suffering Servant**.

B. John Mark wrote this gospel ([Colossians 4.10](#); [Acts 12.12, 25](#); [Acts 13.4, 13](#); [Acts 15.38-41](#); [Philemon 24](#); [2 Timothy 4.11](#))

C. The date of Mark's gospel.

#### V. Historical & Theological Themes in Luke

A. Luke presents Jesus as the **compassionate Son of Man**.

•1 [See Luke 1.1-4](#); [Compare Luke 1.1-4 with Acts 1.1-2](#).

B. Luke wrote this gospel ([see Colossians 4.11&14](#); see the "we" sections of Acts in [16.10-17](#); [20.5-15](#); [21.1-18](#); [27.1 – 28.16](#); [2 Timothy 4.11](#)).

C. The date of Luke's gospel.

#### Conclusion

A. Understand that the gospels were each written with

particular purposes in mind beyond just providing a biography of Jesus.

B. In our study we will seek to give a general understanding of these gospels.