

## THE FOUR GOSPEL ACCOUNTS

There are four Gospel accounts of the life of Jesus. They are most properly called Gospels (*Good News*) and are built on the life of Jesus. Each has qualities that make it different from the others, and together they present what we know of Jesus. In reading them we may consider them as a life of the Lord, but they are always Gospel first and everything else second.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
Date	60 AD (?)	90 AD (?)	90 AD (?)	150 AD (?)
Structure	A collection of seemingly unconnected and random events in which the plan of the Lord is accomplished. Messianic Secret	Five carefully constructed sermons corresponding to the Five Books (Torah) of the Hebrew Scripture.	A journey to the City of Jerusalem from Galilee in which Jesus follows the will of the Father and the Christian is to follow Jesus.	A series of visits to the City of Jerusalem for liturgical feasts against which the teachings and miracles are developed.
Audience	Largely Gentile Christians Romans	Hebrew Christians	Gentile Christians Greeks	Integrated Christian Community
Location	Rome	Palestine	(?)	Ephesus
Author	JOHN MARK of the Acts and Epistles	MATTHEW LEVI, one of the Twelve Apostles	LUKE, companion of Paul, possibly a doctor	JOHN, brother of James, and one of the Twelve Apostles (a priest?)
Themes	It is necessary to the development of the structure that specific themes are not presented.	Jesus is the fulfillment of Hebrew Prophecy; the Great Prophet, the New Moses.	Parallelism, women, prayer, Holy Spirit, Jesus as example, obedience to authority, forgiveness.	Sacraments, water, blood, bread, Spirit versus the worldly spirit, relationship between Father and Jesus.
Purpose	Jesus is the Son of God	Jesus is the Messiah	Jesus is obedient	Jesus is the Christ Jesus is God