

Lesson 2 The Synoptic Gospels and Matthew

Chapter 3 - The Synoptic Gospels: Behold the Lamb!

1. The four column chart (from page 30):
 - a. Who was Jesus portrayed as
 - b. To which audience (world) was the book written
 - c. What characteristic of Jesus is emphasized
 - d. What is a focus of the content in the book: *what Jesus* _____
 - e. What types of events or teachings are mentioned most

Answer:

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
<i>a. The Messiah</i>	<i>A servant</i>	<i>The Perfect Man</i>	<i>The Son of God</i>
<i>b. To the Jewish world</i>	<i>To the Roman world</i>	<i>To the Greek world</i>	<i>To all the world</i>
<i>c. His Authority</i>	<i>His ministry to people</i>	<i>His integrity</i>	<i>His Deity</i>
<i>d. What Jesus <u>said</u></i>	<i>What Jesus <u>did</u></i>	<i>What Jesus <u>thought</u></i>	<i>What Jesus <u>was</u></i>
<i>e. Sermons and messages</i>	<i>Miracles</i>	<i>Parables</i>	<i>Personal interviews</i>

2. Cana, Capernaum (Matt. 8:5), Nain, [Gergesenes (Matt. 8:28)], Nazareth (Matt. 9:1), [Bethsaida (Matt. 11:1)]. Cities in brackets are not mentioned in the text. [Jesus also visited Jerusalem.]

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From George Morrison: A perspective on the Four Gospels.

The Fact of Jesus - Mark's Gospel

Mark is thought to be the earliest of the Gospels.

It is notable that in Mark there is no genealogy; he does not say a word about His lineage or ancestry of Christ. There is no attempt to explain the fact of Christ by relating it to the long past. The *first* thing is to have Jesus shown to us, to be confronted with Him as a living person.

His Relation to the Old Testament - Matthews's Gospel

The next Gospel is Matthew, which relates Jesus to the past.

If you want to understand Jesus you must go back to David and Abraham. Christ is "the son of David, the son of Abraham." You must know David and Abraham in order to know the Christ. In other words, if you want to understand the Lord, you must take in the whole of Jewish history. Without Him it [Jewish history] is inexplicable. It was to Him that all the sacrifices pointed. It was of Him that all of the prophets wrote ["For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" [Rev 19:10]. That is why, for all of its difficulties, we can never dispense with the Old Testament. Christ is the son of David, who is the son of Abraham.

His Relation to Adam - Luke's Gospel

Luke does not trace the lineage to Abraham, he traces it to Adam: "which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam." Beyond the parent of the Jewish race stands the parent of the human race. Beyond the representative of Israel stands the representative man. To understand the Christ calls for more than the history of Israel; it calls for the long story of humanity. Much in Christ will always be veiled unless you know the pages of the Old Testament. Christ is the son of Adam; He is vitally related to humanity. Matthew says, "If you want to understand Him, you must lay your hand upon the Jewish heart." Luke says, "If you want to understand Him, you must lay your hand on the human heart." And Luke is full of tender human touches: Roman officers are touched; the Good Samaritan is there. In Luke there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond or free. He is the son of Adam.

His Relation to God - John's Gospel

What is the lineage that John gives? David, Abraham, or Adam? "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." And, "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

Mark gives us the fact of Jesus and bids us to contemplate that.

Matthew relates that fact to Jewish history; and Luke to the whole history of man.

Then comes John, after a lapse of over 30 years, and says, "All that is not enough. If you want to understand the Lord you must relate Him immediately to God." The glory of the Man John had known is that of the only begotten of the Father. He comes from Abraham. He comes from Adam. Yes, but there is another lineage: "...the Word was with God, and the Word was God, and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."