

Four Faces of the Gospels

I Why are these books in the order that they are?

- A. Matthew serves as a link to the Hebrew OT; obviously to the Jews.
 - 1. He bridged the 400 year gap between the OT and the NT.
 - 2. "That it might be fulfilled" is found at least 12 times.
 - 3. Matthew has the most references to the OT.
- B. Mark moved into Gentile relations, evidently emphasis is to non-Jews.
 - 1. He is associated with Peter later – 1 Pet. 5:13.
 - 2. He offered no genealogy
 - 3. He used "fulfill" only twice.
 - 4. He emphasized the work of the "Wonder-worker."
- C. Luke also related to the Gentiles.
 - 1. He emphasized the humanity of Jesus.
 - 2. He used "Son of man" more than the others.
- D. John looked back across the century to the church.
 - 1. He emphasized the historical Jesus is the Messiah.
 - 2. He wrote long after the other three gospels had circulated.
 - 3. He was the living eye witness providing a climax to the story.

II Is there a significant parallel? (*Explore the Book*, J. Sidlow Baxter, Vol. 5, p. 120)

Ezekiel 1:10ff

Four Gospels

Lion

Matthew: Messiah & King

Ox

Mark: Jesus the servant

Man

Luke: Son of man

Eagle

John: Son of God

III Is there progression in the endings of the Gospels?

- A. Matthew ends with the resurrection
- B. Mark ends with the ascension
- C. Luke ends with the promise of the Spirit
- D. John ends with the promise of the second coming: "tarry till I come."

IV Why the differing characteristics?

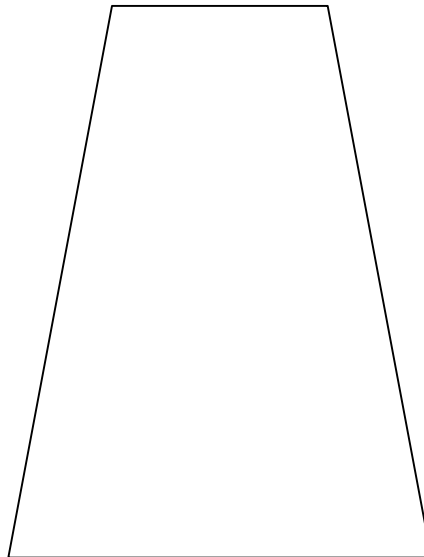
- A. **Matthew** – a tax collector and a Jew wrote to the Jews; there is more mention of money than the other three.
 - 1. This book proves the promised Messiah has come.
 - a. There is more linkage to the OT.
 - b. There are more than 50 OT quotations.
 - c. "Kingdom" is used more than 35 times, more than others.
 - d. "Son of David" used at least 9 times.
 - e. Matthew records 20 miracles, out of 33.
 - 2. This book provides answer to the promise to Abraham.
 - a. Chapter one genealogy emphasizes from Abraham.

- b. Genealogy proves many promises fulfilled.
 - c. Matthew gives great encouragement to Jewish converts.
 - d. A new Israel, "Spiritual Israel" rises out of the ashes of physical Israel – just as God had promised.
- B. **Mark**, son of Mary (Acts 12:12), cousin to Barnabas (Col. 4:10), co-worker with Peter (1 Pet. 5:13), wrote to non-Jews.
- 1. He obviously wrote to the Romans.
 - a. Else, why explain Jewish traditions? – 2:1-4
 - b. Else, why explain conditions in Palestine? – 11:13
 - c. Else, why explain money? – 12:42
 - 2. Mark emphasized the deeds of Jesus.
 - a. He wrote only 638 verses, but recorded 18 miracles.
 - b. He recorded only 1 sermon of Jesus – 13:3-17
 - c. He had no genealogy.
 - d. He used "fulfill" only twice.
- C. **Luke** was the Gentile physician (Col. 4:14), and wrote to Gentiles.
- 1. Luke emphasized the humanity of the Lord.
 - a. Genealogy followed the blood line, not the legal line. – 3
 - (1.) His record did not stop with Abraham.
 - (2.) It went all the way back to Seth and Adam.
 - (3.) It went beyond the legalities of the Law of Moses.
 - b. He records weeping (19:41) and sweating (22:44).
 - c. Luke gives more prayers, 11 out of a total of 15 in NT.
 - d. He tells of 20 miracles.
 - e. The birth of the virgin is given more emphasis.
 - (1.) Chapter 1 (80 verses) and 2 (52 verses) have a total of 132 verses out of the book's total of 1152.
 - (2.) Nearly 1/10 of entire book devoted to his birth.
 - (3.) Why would a medical doctor so write?
 - (4.) He gives o'whelming evidence.
 - (5.) There must have been clear evidence to persuade this medical doctor!
 - 2. Luke also provides the international flavor.
 - a. "All the people" – 2:10
 - b. "Revelation to the Gentiles" – 2:32
 - c. Story of the Samaritan – 10:25-37
- D. **John**, brother of James, was among the inner circle of the Lord, present at the transfiguration, etc.
- 1. John emphasized the deity of Jesus – 1:1-3, 14, 10:30.
 - 2. His gospel opens and closes with an emphasis on deity.
 - 3. John gave the seven times "I Am" was declared:
 - a. Bread – 6:35
 - b. Light – 8:12
 - c. Door – 10:7
 - d. Good shepherd – 10:14
 - e. Resurrection and life – 11:25

- f. Way, truth and life – 14:6
- g. Vine – 15:1
- 4. John emphasized the signs of Jesus.
 - a. This is a major purpose of the book – 20:30-31.
 - b. The signs, if all written, could not be contained – 21:25.
- 5. John wanted the church to remember the breadth of the signs.
 - a. Over time – water into wine – 2:1-11
 - b. Over space – nobleman’s son – 4:46-54
 - c. Over infirmity – man at the pool – 5:1-18
 - d. Over matter – loaves and fish – 6:1-14
 - e. Over gravity – walking on water – 6:16-21
 - f. Over congenital defects – blind man – 9:1-41
 - g. Over death – Lazarus – 11:1-44

V Conclusion

- A. France has the “Arch de Triumphe.”
 - 1. Built between 1806 – 1836 due to Napoleonic conquests.
 - 2. 160 feet in height
 - 3. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the foot after WW I
- B. The NT has an “Arch de Eternity”



Matthew on the left side, Mark on top, Luke on the right side, with John as the foundation, the under-girding of all the deity of Jesus.

- C. The Gospels present a complete picture to all generations.
 - 1. Matthew shows “the Fulfiller” to the Jews.
 - 2. Mark presents “the Wonder Worker” to the Romans.

3. Luke argues the humanity, “the Man,” to the Gentiles.
4. John reminds that Jesus was “truly God” to the church.

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