

BEHOLD THE BIBLE

Gospels, part 1

“Gospel”

- Greek *euangelion* “good news”
- Refers to:
 - Message taught *by* Jesus
 - Message *about* Jesus
- Transmitted *orally* at first
 - E.g. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:23 “I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you ...”

Why *not* write a Gospel?

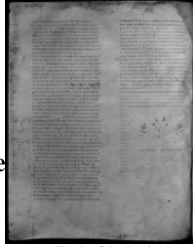
- Apocalyptic expectations (Mark 13:30)
- Respect for oral tradition (e.g. Papias)



Qumran “War Scroll”

Why *write* a Gospel?

- Death of the eyewitnesses
- Delay of Jesus' *parousia* "appearance"
- Missionary needs
- Controversies over doctrine



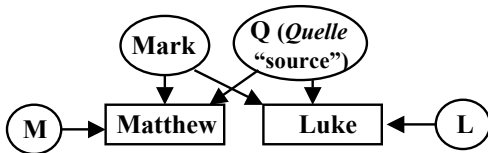
End of Luke in
5th cent codex

The Synoptic Gospels



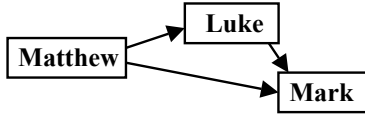
- Very similar, frequently identical in wording; sometimes:
 - All 3 the same
 - Any 2 the same
 - All 3 different
- Who copied from whom?

1st Theory of Composition: Two-Source Hypothesis



- Arguments for 2-Source Hypothesis:
 - Mark is shortest; 90% of Mark in Matt & Luke
 - Matt & Luke follow Mark's arrangement
 - This explains changes more easily

2nd Theory of Composition: Griesbach Hypothesis



- **Argument for Griesbach Hypothesis:**
 - 2nd cent claim: Matthew written by disciple
- **Rebuttal: why does Mark leave out so much?**

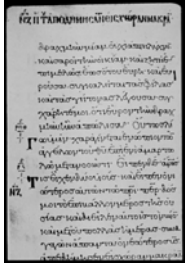
Who wrote the Gospels?

- All 4 NT Gospels are *anonymous*
- Original title: *Gospel of Jesus Christ*
- Church attached “*according to...*” in 2nd cent. CE to distinguish one from another

Gospel according to Matthew

- **Church tradition: Matthew, Jewish, one of the 12 disciples**
- **For: Matt is expert in Jewish customs and local geography**
- **Against: Why copy from Mark?**
- **Written for Jewish-Christians, 85-90 CE?**

Gospel according to Luke

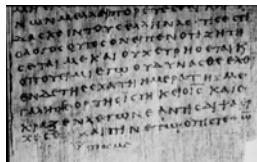


10th cent manuscript
Luke 15:8-13

- Church tradition: Luke, Greek physician and associate of Paul in *Acts* (also by Luke)
- Supported by:
 - good Greek style
 - Pauline influence
 - emphasis on healing
- Written for gentile Christians, 70-100 CE

Gospel according to John

- Differs from Synoptics:
 - Style & theological
 - Contents
 - Arrangement
- But similar to 1,2,3 Letters of John
- Source is “the beloved disciple,” John 21:24
- Church tradition: John, son of Zebedee, one of 12 disciples, Jewish
- Modern historians: who knows?



200 CE copy of John 7

Gospel according to Mark

- Church tradition: John Mark, Jewish associate of Paul in *Acts*
 - Wrote from Peter’s preaching in Rome
 - But inaccurate re. Jewish customs & local geography
- For gentile Christians, 70 CE?
- Structure:
 - Galilean ministry (chs. 1-9)
 - Conflict in Jerusalem (chs. 10-16)



Mark 2:10-14 with
10th cent commentary
