

Faith 101: Who Is This Jesus Guy Anyway?

September 23, 2018

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Game Plan: Sept 16th - Oct 21st

- 1) What is a Christian?
- 2) Who is this Jesus guy anyway?
- 3) What is the Bible?
- 4) What makes us Lutheran?
- 5) Worship - why we do what we do
- 6) Christian community

Jesus Christ, His Only Son

I believe in Jesus Christ, **God's only Son, our Lord**, who was **conceived by the Holy Spirit**, born of the virgin Mary, **suffered** under Pontius Pilate, was **crucified, died**, and was buried; he descended to the dead. **On the third day he rose again**; he **ascended** into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to **judge** the living and the dead.

John 3:16 - 17

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

God's Covenant(s) with Israel

Covenant:

agreement,

promises made by both sides



God's Covenant(s) with Humanity/Israel

Adamic (to Adam)	Genesis 2:15-17	Humans as stewards of God's creation	Faithfulness, obedience
Noahic (to Noah)	Genesis 9:8-17	God will never again destroy all by flood	No meat with blood, multiply and fill the earth
Abrahamic (to Abraham)	Genesis 12, 15, 17, 22	Land, Great nation, Blessing to all	Go, Circumcise, Obey
Sinaitic (to Moses & Israel at Mt. Sinai)	Exodus 19-24	Holy nation, Promised Land, cared for by God	Obedience to God's laws & commandments
Davidic (to King David)	2 Samuel 7:5-16	Throne of David established forever, steadfast support	Continued obedience

God's Covenant(s) with Humanity/Israel

Adamic (to Adam)	Genesis 2:15-17	<u>Promise:</u> God's people, cared for and supported by God	<u>Expectation:</u> Obedience
Noahic (to Noah)	Genesis 9:8-17		
Abrahamic (to Abraham)	Genesis 12, 15, 17, 22		
Sinaitic (to Moses & Israel at Mt. Sinai)	Exodus 19-24		
Davidic (to King David)	2 Samuel 7:5-16		

Old Testament's Vicious Cycle



God's Covenant(s) with Humanity/Israel

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Sinaitic (to Moses & Israel at Mt. Sinai)	Exodus 19-24		
Davidic (to King David)	2 Samuel 7:5-16		
NEW	Jeremiah 31:31-34		

NEW Covenant Foretold

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when **I will make a new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their master, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for **they shall all know me**, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; **for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

God's Covenant(s) with Humanity/Israel

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Davidic (to King David)	2 Samuel 7:5-16		
NEW	Jeremiah 31:31-34	<u>Promise:</u> All will know God, all sin forgiven/forgotten	

Abrahamic Covenant Fulfilled

Abraham:

Land, Great nation, Blessing to ALL

Promised Land
(Mosaic)

All know God, all sin
forgiven (New)

Throne established forever (Davidic)

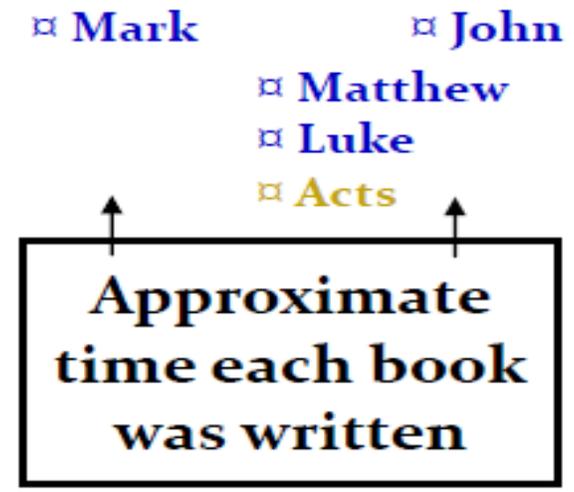
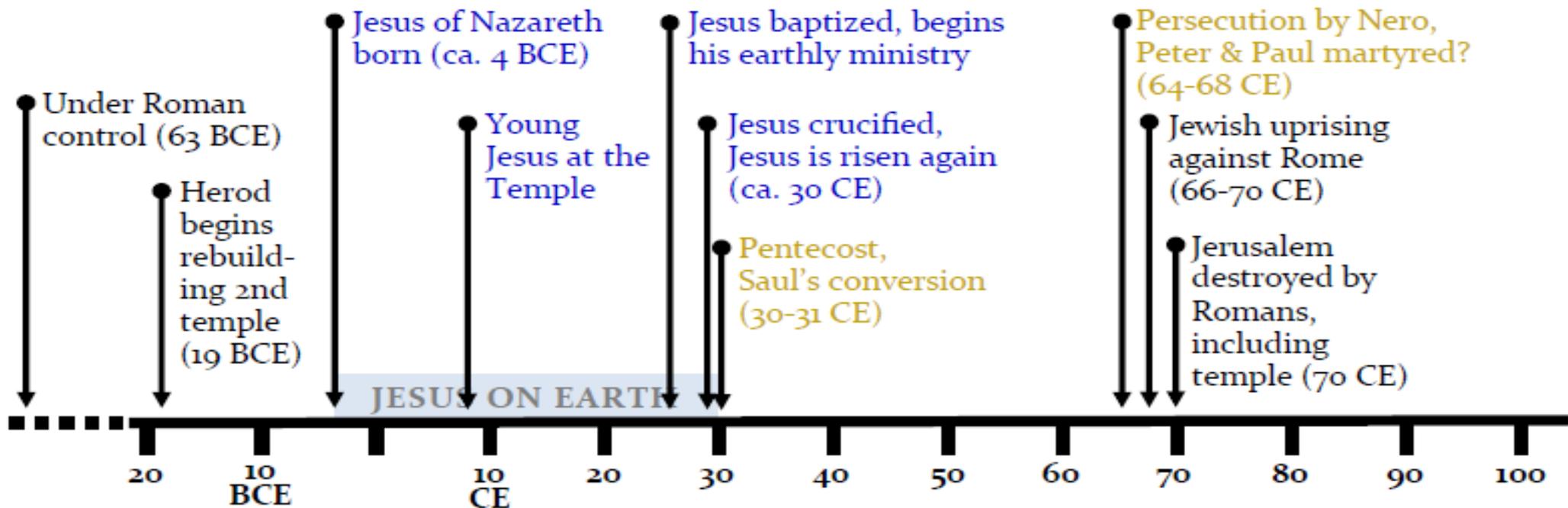
**Q: How does God
accomplish this new
covenant?**

A: Through Jesus Christ

The Gospels

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

- ▶ First four books of the New Testament - START
- ▶ Εὐαγγέλιον = “good news/message”
- ▶ Stories of the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus
 - ▶ Birth of Jesus = Christmas
 - ▶ Baptism of Jesus = Epiphany, our baptism
 - ▶ Last Supper = Communion
 - ▶ Death/Resurrection = Easter



Why were the Gospels written?

- ▶ People had been living with Jesus' teachings and relying on oral communication

UNTIL:

- ▶ Disciples were dying
- ▶ Jerusalem destroyed - people disperse
- ▶ Some new "teachers" popped up

Each gospel was written to A SPECIFIC AUDIENCE.

	<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Luke</i>	<i>John</i>
<i>Portrait of Jesus</i>	King	Servant	Teacher	Son of God
<i>Original readers</i>	Jews	Romans?	Greeks	Church
<i>Key phrase</i>	Kingdom of heaven	Immediately	Son of man	Believe
<i>Prominent sections</i>	Sermons	Miracles	Parables	Teachings
<i>Genealogy</i>	Traced back to Abraham	None	Traced to Adam	None
<i>Geographic Emphasis</i>	Emphasis on the ministry of Jesus in Galilee			Ministry in Judea
<i>Time Sequence</i>	Only one Passover mentioned during the ministry of Jesus			3 Passovers plus an unnamed feast in John 6

Perspective

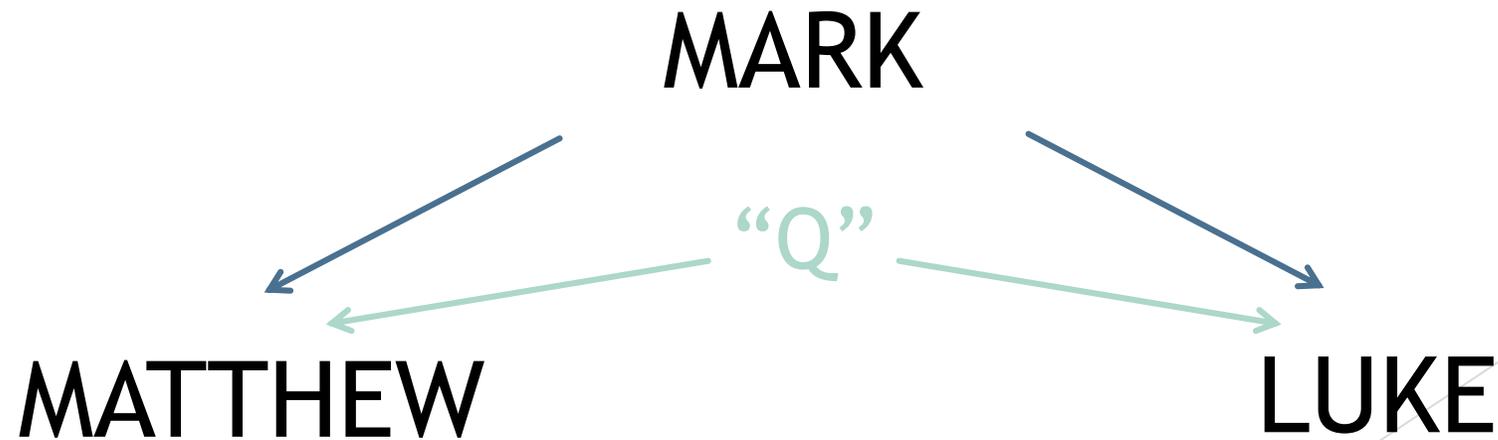
Different people notice and
remember **different** details
about the same situation

MARK

- ▶ Short and sweet
 - ▶ No birth narrative, or resurrection
 - ▶ Simple writing style, little description
- ▶ Lots of miracles!
 - ▶ Healings
 - ▶ Exorcisms
 - ▶ “Son of God”
- ▶ Very secretive, no telling

Synoptic Gospels

- ▶ "Syn" = together, "optic" = seeing
- ▶ Three synoptics: Matthew, Mark, Luke
- ▶ All have similar timeline and perspective



MATTHEW

- ▶ Longest Gospel
 - ▶ Birth narrative, resurrection narrative
- ▶ Emphasis on Jesus' teachings
 - ▶ Sermon on the Mount, more speeches
- ▶ Many OT references
 - ▶ Jesus is part of God's larger narrative

LUKE

- ▶ Most “intricate” gospel
 - ▶ Greek is educated
 - ▶ Attention to detail
- ▶ Emphasis on marginalized peoples
 - ▶ Outsiders invited in
 - ▶ Role reversal (Luke 9:24)
 - ▶ Lots of teachings about wealth + possessions
- ▶ Jesus has authority!

JOHN

A horse of a different color...



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JOHN

- ▶ Series of events different from synoptics
- ▶ Different things are emphasized
 - ▶ Jesus = DIVINE, “I AM”
 - ▶ Importance of faith/belief
- ▶ Gospel meant as a witness (John 20:31):

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Which Gospel is Right?

YES.

The Gospels: Big Themes

- ▶ Jesus as Son of God: virgin birth, baptism
- ▶ Jesus as human: tested, emotional, eats/drinks/sleeps
- ▶ Jesus as divine: performs miracles, heals, direct line to God, Word made flesh
- ▶ Jesus as fulfillment of prophecy and promise

The Gospels: Salvation?

- ▶ Sin forgiven, imperfections stripped away (Matthew)
- ▶ Liberation from “bondage of sin” (Luke)
- ▶ Relationship, dwelling/abiding with (John)
- ▶ **Accomplished through crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ - fully God and fully man**

Jesus Christ, His Only Son

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