

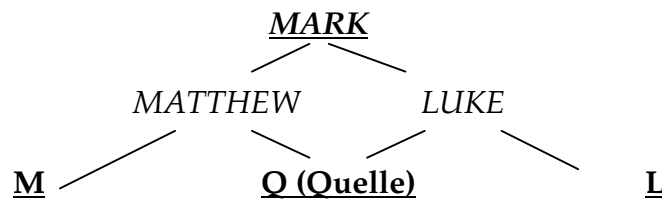
INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPELS

I. THE FOUR GOSPELS

- A. The Synoptics: Mark, Matthew, and Luke
- B. The Gospel of John

II. THE “SYNOPTIC PROBLEM”

- A. The Effort to Explain the Similarities & Differences in the Synoptic Gospels
- B. The “Mark-Q” Theory: most popular solution to the Synoptic Problem
 - 1. 4 “Documents;” not necessarily written documents
 - a. **Mark** = 1st gospel written
 - b. **Q** = *quelle* (German, “source”); used by Matt & Luke, not Mark
 - c. **M** = material used by Matthew only
 - d. **L** = material used by Luke only
 - 2. Theoretical Use of the Documents:



- 3. Reasons for the Priority of Mark
 - a. Mark is shorter, less detailed
 - b. Luke (1:1-4) used written sources
 - c. Matt & Luke often repeat exact words of Mark to small details
 - d. But Matt & Luke sometimes change words from Mark

III. MARK

- A. Authorship
 - 1. Only Evidence is external (what someone else said about it)
 - 2. Papius (disciple of John 2nd c. AD): by John Mark w/Peter’s help
- B. Purpose: Not Clear, Probably for Evangelistic Reasons
- C. Recipients: Christians in Rome
 - 1. Aramaic Phrases Translated; therefore not to Palestinians
 - 2. Use of currency comparison & Latin indicates for Romans (12:42)
 - 3. “Babylon” in 1 Peter 5:13 = Rome; “Marcus” could be Mark
- D. Characteristics
 - 1. Fast Moving; more action than dialogue; use of “immediately”
 - 2. Candid, frank about feelings

IV. MATTHEW

A. Authorship

1. External: Early Fathers unanimous for Matthew the Tax Collector
2. Internal (evidence in the book itself): organizational ability & money interest

B. General Characteristics

1. For Jews
 - a. Frequent reference to Old Testament
 - b. Traces genealogy to Abraham
 - c. Jesus frequently contrasted with Moses
 - d. Emphasis on Messianic fulfillment (David)
2. Date: If to Evangelize Jews, before AD 70; perhaps mid-late 60s
3. Organized around 5 discourses (speeches) of Jesus

V. LUKE

A. Authorship

1. External: Strong for Luke, a Gentile Physician
2. Internal: Same as author of Acts; probably Luke

B. Date/Place: early 60s, with Paul in Rome

C. Characteristics

1. The Gospel to the Gentiles (features "Gentile Universalism")
 - a. Genealogy traced to Adam
 - b. Events dated to secular leaders (Luke 3:1-2)
 - c. Not much emphasis on Jewish Messianic prophecy
 - d. Portrayed Jesus as innocent under Roman law (23:14-15)
2. Social Universalism
 - a. Social outcasts accepted: sinful woman; publican; thief; etc
 - b. Mentions women more than other gospels
3. Emphasizes prayer and Holy Spirit

VI. JOHN

A. Authorship

1. External: by Apostle John near end of 1st century in Ephesus
2. Internal
 - a. Eyewitness who knew Details of Jewish Customs
 - b. "The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved" (13:23)

B. Characteristics

1. Supplement to the Synoptics
2. Long speeches of Jesus
3. Actions have symbolic meanings; shows Jesus' Humanity, Divinity
4. Unfavorable presentation of the Jews
5. Warning to disciples of John the Baptist