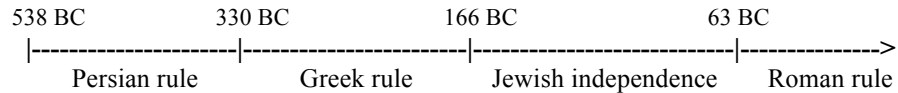


# THE WHOLE BIBLE: 66 BOOKS IN 10 WEEKS

## Gospel of Matthew – Acts of the Apostles

### INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

- 400 years b/w Malachi and John the Baptist | Second Temple Judaism
- sources: Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha | question of canonicity
- return from exile fell far short of the lavish promises in prophets



### GOSPELS

- some of the latest NT documents | earliest were letters of Paul

### Story begins in context of Roman rule, full of messianic hopes

#### Luke 2

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

<sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

### Purpose of the Gospels is so that we would believe in Jesus

#### John 20:31

These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

### “Synoptics”

- Matthew, Mark and Luke | many of same stories, even similar wording

### GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

- written to a Jewish audience | “Kingdom of Heaven”
- one distinctive – Jesus as fulfillment of OT promises
- “that it might be fulfilled” is a favorite phrase
- contains longest and most extensive quotes from OT

#### Matthew 2:14-18

<sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” [Hosea 11:1]

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be comforted,  
because they are no more.” [Jeremiah 31:15]

### GOSPEL OF MARK

- widely considered the first Gospel
- written to Gentile audience | Mark 7:1-4, explanation of washings
- characterized by fast-paced action, less teaching, lots of miracles
- “Messianic secret”: frequent commands to silence

#### Mark 1:9-15

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

<sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup>The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

## GOSPEL OF LUKE

- written by doctor who travelled with Paul (1:1-4)
- special attention to poor, weak, outsider

### Matthew 5

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### Luke 6

Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

## GOSPEL OF JOHN

- heavy on discourse | feeding of 5000 – only John gives us long discourse
- many unique stories: Nicodemus, women at well, raising of Lazarus
- whereas Synoptics show us divinity of Jesus largely in what he did
- Gospel of John has these high, elevated self-attesting statements
- seven “I am” statements of Christ
- upper-room discourse: extensive teaching on Spirit (compare w/ Synoptics)

### John 14

<sup>1</sup> “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

<sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

## ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- begins with ascension of Jesus and ends with Paul in prison in Rome
- volume II of Gospel of Luke (Luke and Acts is a single work)
- story of Christianity’s origins, includes Jesus and church (linked)
- distinctive of Gospel of Luke is emphasis on gospel for outsiders and in Acts, this is fulfilled in gospel going out to Gentiles
- issue of precedence | how much of Acts is a model for us today?

### Acts 1:8 | thesis statement

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

### Acts 10:9-16, 34-35 | Gospel for Gentiles

<sup>9</sup> The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. <sup>10</sup> And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance <sup>11</sup> and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth.

<sup>12</sup> In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.

<sup>13</sup> And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” <sup>14</sup> But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” <sup>15</sup> And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” <sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

<sup>34</sup> So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”