



Help in Reading the Gospels

1. Treat them as inspired **essays** on spiritual truths not as technically precise histories.
2. Read with a **hard mind** and a **soft heart**.
3. Remember that they are written **for** us, but not always **about** us, or directly **to** us.

*The Gospel of **Mark** a study in following the **Way***

Acts

“9:1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to **the Way**, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.”

“19:23 And about that time there arose no small disturbance concerning **the Way**.”

“24:14 But this I admit to you, that according to **the Way** which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law, and that is written in the Prophets;”

Jesus
*is the **Way***
(positional holiness)
and shows us the **Way**
(practiced holiness)
to be
- In the world
but not **Of the world**

Mark 1-13

vs. 1-11

Baptism

vs. 12-13

Temptation

Jesus was **in but not **of** the world.**

His Baptism
proclaimed this.

Jesus baptizes us
with the same
Spirit.

His Temptation
demonstrated this.

Jesus calls us to
the same
spiritual warfare.

Mark 1:1

“The **beginning** of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

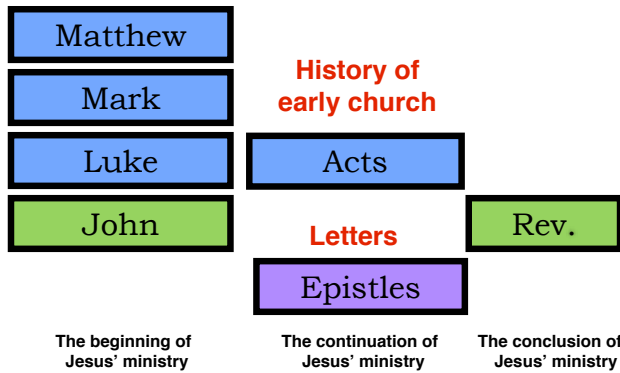
- “elementary teaching” Heb.6:1
- “origin of” Col.1:18

The Full Gospel

- Begins with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- Continues with the Acts of the Holy Spirit and the revelation through the Apostles.

The New Testament

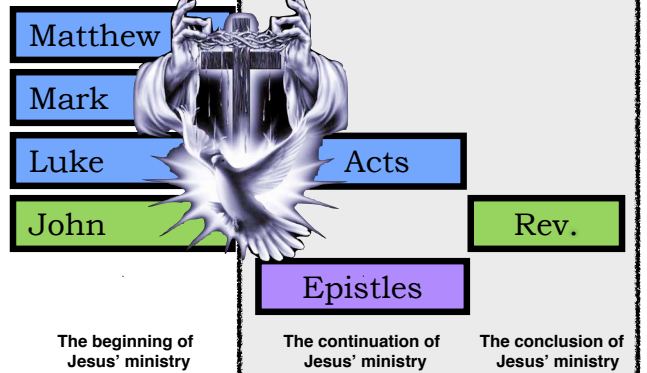
Gospels



The New Testament

Old Covenant

New Covenant



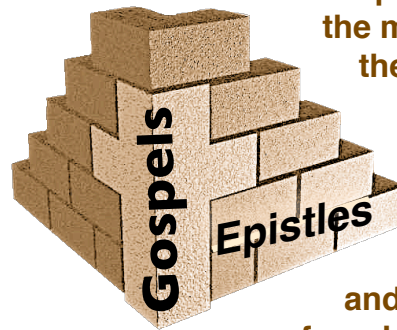
Ephesians 2:19-22

“¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰ having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;”

Jesus (corner stone)
in his death and
resurrection.

Apostles (foundation)
explain the meaning
of the cross and
resurrection.

**The Epistles explain
the meaning of
the Gospel**



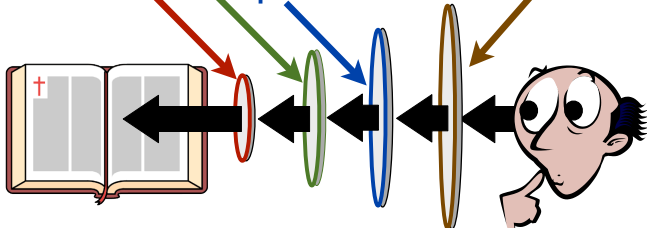
**and provide the
foundation teaching
of the Christian faith**

Old Testament

Gospels

Epistles

Our culture



The emphasis of the Gospels

The Passion and Resurrection



Gospels

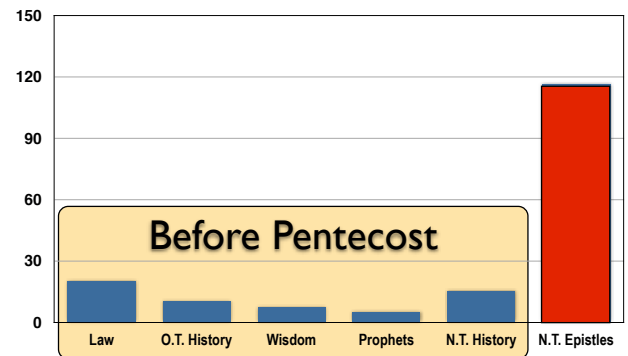
The Passion and Resurrection

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

The emphasis of the Epistles

Epistles

Distribution of references to the word “grace” in the various divisions of the Scripture



Sidebar

The deity of Jesus

Mark 1:2

“As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send My messenger before *Your* face, Who will prepare *Your* way;”

Malachi 3:1

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before *Me*.”

Jesus is identified with the God of the O.T.

Sidebar

Literal inerrancy must be qualified.

Mark 1

“² As it is written in *Isaiah* the prophet, “Behold, I send My messenger before *Your* face, Who will prepare *Your* way; (**Malachi 3:1**) ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.’ (**Isaiah 40:3**)”

- Matthew and Luke “get it right.”
- It was common for a Minor Prophet to be ascribed to a Major Prophet when they have similar messages.

Mark 1:4

“John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

Water Baptism was a sign of consecration, initiation, and identity in Jewish tradition.

Exodus 19:10

“The Lord said to Moses, “Go to the people and **consecrate** them today and tomorrow, and let them **wash** their garments;”

Water Baptism

Consecration

John's baptism identified Jews who were anticipating the coming King & kingdom.

Christian baptism identified all who were participants in the life of the King & kingdom.



Initiation

Identity

Mark 1

"⁷ And he was preaching, and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. ⁸ I baptized you with water; but **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**"

Spirit Baptism (New Covenant's blessings)

- **Promised to all believers** - Ezekiel 36, Joel 2
- **Pentecost was its initiation** - Acts 1:5
- **Linked with salvation and pardon from sin** - Titus 3:5
- **The installation of the Spirit of Christ** - 1 Cor.12:13
- **Union with the church (Body of Christ)** - Rom.8:9

Mark 1

"⁹ And it came about in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; ¹¹ and a voice came out of the heavens: "Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased."

Jesus' baptism suggests:

- ✓ **Full reconciliation with the purposes of God.** Titus 3:5-6
"He saved us . . . according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior."
- ✓ **The Spirit's anointing for ministry.** 1 Cor.12:7
"But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

Mark 1

"¹² And immediately the Spirit impelled (**drove**) Him to go out into the wilderness. ¹³ And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him."

Jesus' Temptation suggests:

- ✓ **Jesus' Spirit equips us for conflict.** 2 Pet.1:3
"seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness,"
- ✓ **Our greatest struggles are spiritual in nature.** Eph.6:12
"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but . . . against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places"
- ✓ **We are not alone in the battle.** Heb.1:14
"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?"

Sidebar

The nature of Jesus' temptation

Two contexts of temptation

External idolatry

Jesus' temptation was like ours in that he faced challenges to Spiritual faith, hope & love.

Internal brokenness

Jesus' temptation differs from ours in that he did not have the internal brokenness that we have.

The Point of Mark 1:1-13

Jesus show us
the **Way**
to be **In** the world
but not
Of the world

Take your baptism seriously.

God does!

This is our ticket
into the world
as Ambassadors
for Christ.

