

## Class 3

### Lesson 2 the gospels 4 portraits of Jesus

page 17

Luke 1:1-4 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which <sup>[a]</sup>have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup>just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, <sup>3</sup>it seemed good to me also, having <sup>[b]</sup>had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

Page 18

5 purposes of the 4 fold format

- 1-Content-Why is written
- 2-Contact-for who is written to
- 3-Clarity – different angles give a better picture
- 4-Confirmation -confirm each other but still show differences
- 5-Copious bulk-greater detail

### Lesson 3 geography and the political time of Christ ministry

Page 21

His frequent travels through the land of Palestine revealed much about the extent and character of his purposes and goals. Also, an acquaintance with its geography makes any biography come alive and helps the student visualize the action and retain it in his or her memory. Let your study of this lesson become that fruitful for you.

gospels without...  
considerably shorter than the present...

# COMPARISONS OF THE FOUR GOSPELS

CHART E

	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Portraits of Jesus	The Prophesied King	The Obedient Servant	The Perfect Man	The Divine Son
Prominent words	"fulfilled"	"straightway"	"Son of man"	"believe"
Cultures of the original readers	Jews (Jesus, Son of Abraham)	Romans (Action: no genealogy)	Greeks (Jesus, Son of Adam)	Church (Jesus, Son of God)
Outlook and style of the writers	Teacher	Preacher	Litterateur	Theologian
Outstanding sections	Sermons	Miracles	Parables	Doctrines
Prominent ideas	Law	Power	Grace	Glory
Broad division	"SYNOPTIC GOSPELS" —stressing the humanity of Christ, from the outward, earthly side			"FOURTH GOSPEL" —stressing the deity of Christ, from the inward, heavenly side

In AD 397 the church council met in Carthage to discuss which books were truly scripture. Before deciding to include a book in the New Testament Canon, the council measured it by 4 test;

1-an apostle was someone close to an apostle had to be the author, for example the gospel of John was accepted because the apostle John wrote it. However although apostles did not write them the gospel of Luke and mark were accepted because Luke travelled with Paul and Mark was a friend of Peter.

2-The book had to match what the church already knew to be scripture. If there was any conflict the book was not accepted.

3-The book had to be widely accepted by the church. The church as a whole had to recognize that God had inspired the book. If only a small portion of the church believed that a book was inspired it was not placed in the Canon.

4-The book had to have a quality that revealed divine inspiration. In other words it needed to change people's lives. (Menzies and Hortom 1993,29-30)

The word cannon means a rule of standard a measuring rod.