

**BIBLE SURVEY, PT 3—NEW TESTAMENT**  
**(GOSPELS & ACTS OF THE APOSTLES)**

- > **Lst wk**--we bgan a 4-pt "**Bble Survey**" series
- > **Said**: the *goal* of this series is to help us  
 under hw the B fits tgthr on a **global level**
- \* **WHAT** each book in the B is abt
- \* **WHEN** each book was written
- \* **& HOW** they're all interconnected
- >>>> We spent the first 2 weeks in OT
- \* I poured a *massive amt* of info on U
- \* & I'm gonna do the same thing this week
- >>>> **SO**—don't try & take notes—**JST LSTEN**
- \* **ENHANCED CD**--all pp & maps in wrd doc
- >>>> **This wk**—we want to **move into the NT**  
**[GOING TO TALK ABT GOSPELS/ACTS]**  
**[READY]**

**I- GOSPELS**

- A. The word "Gospel" = lit: "Good News"
1. & of course, it's the "*good news*" abt JC
  2. The Gospels *begin* with his birth & *end* with his resurrection
- B. As I thnk most of us knw—thre're **4 Gspels**
1. Matthew/ Mark/ Luke/ & John
  2. BUT—evn tho thre're **4 Gspels**...tht dsn't mn thre're *4 diff sets of "good news"*
  3. All 4 G's tell the *very same* "good nws"--

just frm **4 different perspectives**

**ILL: Irenaeus**(bishp of Gaul **180AD**):“**Matt** issued a wrttn Gspl amng the Hebrews in their own dialect...After Ptr’s departure frm Rome, **Mrk**, *Ptr’s disciple*, handed dwn to us in writng wht had been preached by Ptr. **Lk**, the *companion of Paul*, recorded in a bk the Gspl preachd by Paul. Aftrwrds **Jn**, *the dscple of the Lrd, who also leaned upon His breast*, did himself publish a Gospel while he(**Jn**) was living at Ephesus

**APPL: SO**--as a result--each Gspl has a slightly diff “bent”/ “take” on the evnts of J’s life

C. The ***last*** of the 4 Gspl writers to die was Jn

1. Who died in **95 AD**

2. ***Which mns***--that all 4 Gspl acc’ts...

3. Were written ***bfore*** the ***end 1<sup>st</sup> cent AD***

**[LET’S TKE A LOOK AT EACH 1 INDIV’LY]**

**D. THE GOSPEL ACC TO MATTHEW**

1. **Writtn by Matt--1 of the orig 12 dis’s**

2. Mt 9:9-“& as J came from Capernaum, He saw a man named Matthew, sitting at the tax collector’s booth; & He said to him, ‘Follow Me!’ & Matthew got up immediately & followed Jesus”

IL: Origen (**240AD**): “Amng the 4 Gspls, I hve learnd by tradition tht the 1<sup>st</sup> one was writtn by Matt...It was directed at converts from Judaism, & published in the Hebrew [Aramaic] language”

\*Papias(**130AD**)-“Mt compiled the sayings of J in the Aramaic lang, & everyone translated this as well as he could”

AP: These comments by early C.Fthrs tell us:

- (1) Tht Matt's Gspl=1<sup>st</sup> one written
- (2) Tht=written in Aramic (lang J spoke) & latr transltd into Gk as in NT tdy
- (3) Tht Matt's Gospel was *designed especially for Jwsh ple*

ILL: Mt 2:17-“Thn tht whch was spoken thru Jer the prophet was fulfilled, saying...”

\*Mt 12:17-“In ordr tht wht was spoken by Isa the prphet mght be fulfilld, saying

APPL: More than any other Gospel...

\*Gsp acc to Mat cnstantly uses this phrase: “In order tht it might be fulfilld whch was writtn[in OT]”

\*Purpose=to help Jwh ple under tht (1) Jrlly is Mes bec(2) He fulfilld evrythng abt the Mess tht OT predicted

IL: Whn Bob Eckhart challenged me to read B

\*Since I didn't know anything abt NT...

\*I just started at the begining—**Matthew!**

\*Whch—as Jwh prsn—was **prfect** for me!

APPL: Generally—I suggest seeker start w/**Jhn**

\*UNLESS they're JEWISH—thn suggest **MT**

### **E. THE GOSPEL ACC TO MARK**

1. Wrtnn by **Jhn Mrk**/deserted on 1<sup>st</sup> jrn'y

2. It's the shortest of the 4 Gspl acc'ts

3. & tradition holds tht Mark wrote it at the dictation of the Apstle Peter—just bfre Ptr's death in Rome in **66 AD**

### **F. THE GOSPEL ACC TO LUKE**

1. Wrtnn=Lk the beloved physician(Col4:14)

\*Met AP on 2<sup>nd</sup>miss jr'y in Troas(A16)

\*& accompanied AP rest of P's life

2. Lk's G=result of an intnsive invstgation tht Lk conducted re: evidence ab JC

3. Lk 1:1—"Many hve undrtakn to compile an ac't of the thngs tht've been fulfilled amng us--thngs tht were handed dwn frm those who were eyewtnses of Wrđ

\*V. 3—"So I did a [SAY] careful

investigation of evrything frm the beginning--& hve written an

orderly acc't of all these thngs fr

U, O Theophilus, so tht U may be fully assured ab the certainty of the thngs U've been taught(ab LJ)

ILL: **IOW**—Luke did lke “Senate investigation” into the evnts surrounding J’s life/mnstry to make sure tht none of it was a hoax

4. Gspl acc to Lk rep’s the **highst-quality Greek of all the 4 Gospels**

\*Bc it was wrttn fr Gntiles(eg, Theop)

\*& bc Lk was a highly-educatd Gentile himslf...fr whm...unlike Mt/ Mrk Jhn...Gk was his“mthr tongue”

6. Lk’s Gspl was written betw **50-60 AD**

\*Bc it clearly pre-dates Bk of Acts(Lk)

\*Whch ends in **62AD** with AP in Rme

## G. **THE GOSPEL ACC TO JOHN**

1. Wrttn =“Jhn the disple J loved”(J 21:7)

2. Wrttn arnd **90 AD--making it the last of the 4 Gospels to be written**

3. J’s Gspl has a “personal-ness” to it tht reflects Jn’s very close rela w/Jesus

4. Mny unique dtails tht only smeone who was w/I evrywhre evryday wld knw

5. Jn 2:6-“Nw thre were 6 water jars made of stone thre, each holding 20-30 gal’s

6. J 21:11-“Ptr pulled the net to shore & it

was full of large fish, 153 to be exact"

**[WHO ELSE WLD KNW THESE DETAILS??]**

7.Jn 20:3-"So Ptr & the dscple J lovd(Jn) were running to the tomb; both were running, but the othr disciple(Jn) ran faster thn Ptr & got to the tomb first!"

**[Hysterical! PTR HATED TO LOSE! & JHN RECORDED IT IN B FOR ALL TIME!]**

H. SUMRZE: So these are the 4 Gspel acc'ts

1. Oldst copy of ALL 4 Gs tgther= 4<sup>th</sup> cnt

\*Codex("bk")Vaticanus(Vat)--325AD

\*Codex Sinaiticus(B Museum)-335AD

2. But oldst EVIDNCE of any G=Rylands papyrus P52(piece of J18)dated125AD

**II- BOOK OF ACTS**

A. Actual title(NT)="The Acts of the Apstles"

B. Wrtnn by Lk as companion bk to his Gspl

ILL: Lk the only non-Iwsh to write any of B

C. Act 1:1-"In my frmer bk(Gsp), O Theop, I wrote ab all tht J bgan to do & teach until he was takn up into hvn, hving givn ordrs to the apostles whom He had chosen"

D. Then in rest of bk of Acts-Lk tells us hw the apostles carried out these orders of J

E. & what were Jesus's orders??

1. Mk 16:15-"Go ye into all the world &

preach the Gospel to every persn”

2. Mt 28:19-“Go & mke dis’s of all nations

3. Lk 24:47-“Preach repntance & frgvness  
of sins to all nations, begin’ng in Jeru

IL: I’d say it’s pretty clear wht LJ orderd the  
apostles to do—wouldn’t U??

AP: & Bk of Acts rcrds their acts of obed’ce  
as they carried out the LJ’s orders

F. Bk of Acts begins with the ascension of LJC  
back into hvn after his resurr’n in 33AD

G. & it ends wth AP in jail in Rome in 62AD

H. & we can split Bk of Acts into 2 sections

1. Sect #1 (ch’s 1-12)—memorializes the  
actions of apostles before P’s miss’ry  
journeys begin

2. Sect #2 (ch’s 13-28)-memorializes the  
impact of P’s 4 miss jry’s on wrld up  
to his 1<sup>st</sup> incarceration in Rme in 62AD

J. Just fr completeness sake—let me say..

1. Tht acc to church historian Eusebius

2. AP was released frm this 1<sup>st</sup> incarcer’n

3. Euseb: ”Aftr defending hmslf, Paul was  
again sent on the mnstry of preachng,  
til he was put in jail a 2<sup>nd</sup> time in  
Rme, suffring martyrdom undr  
Nero[66AD]

SAY: “So why doesn’t B tell us ab AP’s mnistry  
(62-66AD)aftr he got outa jail--ACTS 29?”

A: I hve no clue! Havta ask Lrd whn U see him

### III- SO WHAT?

A. Bsd on hw Bk of Acts can be split--must say

1. Tht the AP’s coming to faith in JC...

2. Was one of THE seminal events ...

\*BOTH in the Bible...

\*AND in world history!!

B. REM: AP was raised in strict Jwsh home

1. Tht he trained under the most eminent  
rabbi of his day—Rabbi Gamaliel II

2. Tht he had a furious hatred of Chr’ty

3. & tht he was a was “1-man wrecking  
machine” whn it came to Early Chr’s

C. In Acts 9—P was on his way to Damascus to  
ravage Chr’s there (like he'd done in Jer)

1. Whn Risn Chrst app’rd to hm frm hvn

2. & Paul sddnly realizd tht J was the Mes  
& gave his life to Christ

D. Acts 9:20-“& [SAY] IMMED’LY, P began to  
proclaim Jesus in the syn’s of Damascus,  
saying, ‘He IS the Son of Gd’”

ILLUST: HEY--PAUL FOR JESUS???

\*Who ever heard of such a crazy thing?

\*It's like PETA for FUR COATS!!

**\*OR--Greenpeace for whale oil!**

**\*OR--vegans for McDonalds !!**

E. V. 21-“& all those who heard him were astonished, & said, ‘Isn’t this the man who in Jeru destroyed those who calld on J’s name--& who came here to take such pple in chains back to priests in Jer?’

1. V. 22-“But Paul kept increasing in [sp] strength, confounding the Jwsh pple in Damascus by proving to thm tht this Jesus IS the Messiah”

F. So Jews in Dmas came up w/a plot to kill P  
G. V. 25-“So the dis’s in Damas took P by nite & lowered him over the wall in a basket”

H. V.26-“& whn P came to Jer-he was moving arnd freely, speakng out[SAY]boldly fr Lrd

ILLUST: George Duffield wrote:

Stand up, stand up fr J, Ye sldrs of the crss

Lift high his royal banner, it must not  
suffer loss

Ye tht are men now serve him, against  
unnumbered foes

Let courage rise with danger, & strength  
to strength oppose

ILLUST: Isaac Watts wrote:

Am I a sldr of the crss, a flwr of the Lamb

& shall I fear to own his cause, or  
blush to speak his name?

AP:Exctly wht we see P doin frm daylof saly

1. "Standing up" for Christ
2. "Lifting high Chrst's royal banner  
against unnumbered foes"
3. Being "a soldier of the cross"  
\*Who did NOT "fear to own His cause  
\*Or "blush to speak His name"

J. "Standing up for Christ"...

1. Ptr did it/James/ Jhn/ Stephn/ AP did it
2. & NOW--it's yur/ my turn to do it!

K. & wht exctly does it mn to "stnd up fr Ch?

1. Mns=whn Gd opns a door fr us to "own  
His cause & speak His name"-we do it

ILL: returning frm SF—no meal/movie/msg!!

\*So had my laptop/ Bible out

\*Got up to go to restroom—had to wait

\*Flight att: "Wht do U do fr a lvng? I don't  
mn to pry but noticed U had a B out"

\*I: "I'm a pstr of chrch--& it's OK—whn U  
hve a B out on a plane, pple notice"

\*Other flight att't standing thre listening

\*\*Other pax were standing arnd/seats

\*\*I cld feel blood rushing to my face

\*\*Armpits started to get wet

**\*\*& really—I cld've stoppd right thre**

**\*\*BUT hre was door Gd'd opnd fr me  
to "own His cause& speak His name**

**\*SO I: "Not just pstr—Jwsh persn..." CD's**

**\*Her close frnd'd just died—tears—"listn"**

**A: Lke U-my flesh temptd to stop/protect slf**

**\*But U/I as F's are not cldd to protect slvs**

**\*We're called—to stand u p/ stnd u p fr J**

### **CONCLUSION**

**>>>>THIS IS MY CHALLENGE FR US TDY**

**>CD I gve her="How to hve a new life"--hvn**

**>>In lobby—take/carry w/U—use them**

**>Rm 1:16(AP)-"Fr I am not ashamed of Gspl"**

**\*Whole Bk of Acts proves P mnt wht said**

**\*With Gd's help--may we mean it too!**

**DON'T FRGET-TAKE TONS OF CD'S**