

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

Study Number Two

A SURVEY OF
THE NEW TESTAMENT
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JESUS AND THE GOSPELS

In lesson # 1, we studied the 400-year period between the Testaments. In this study, we will study the first four books of the New Testament known as “The Gospels.”

We will learn how these four accounts of Jesus’ life are different and the ways they are similar. We will also learn about “the land” where Jesus lived and the places where He ministered. Today we will gain a new appreciation for the special features of the Gospel accounts even before we take each them separately in the four weeks to follow.

WHY FOUR SEPARATE STORIES ABOUT JESUS?

1. Each of the contributors, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John approach “the greatest story ever told” from different perspectives.

Matthew: wrote to the Jewish mind-set, using fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and Jewish genealogy. Mark, who received much of his information from the Apostle Peter, focused less on Jewish details than on the dynamic, active ministry of Jesus. His gospel would have more appeal to Romans. Luke wrote his account from his perspective as a non-Jew, a Gentile, who had a deep understanding of Christ’s missions of salvation. John gave us the “crown-jewel” (at least in my opinion) of all writings known to mankind with his presentation of Christ as the eternal “Word”. His insight into eternal reality was unusual and profound. *Thus the four Gospels appeal to the great cross section of mankind - rather than a narrow slice of life.*

2. The four writers include details and information not found in the other writings, thus giving us a much-more rounded telling of Jesus’ earthly life.

However, each of the writers centers on the reason Christ came, and that was to die on the cross, to be the sacrificial and eternal Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world.

1 THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FOUR ACCOUNTS

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3 1. The Gospel accounts are selective.

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5 By that, I mean they are not all-inclusive. They are not exhaustive. As John cleverly
6 observed:

7
8 John 21:25

9 **And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be**
10 **written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books**
11 **that should be written. Amen.**

12
13 Here is how Jean-Baptiste Sawadogo captured this truth in his ICI teaching on the
14 Gospels: *“From the multitude of events that occurred during the earthly life of Jesus,*
15 *each author, guided by the Holy Spirit, chose only certain ones to include in his account.*
16 *The childhood and youth of Jesus, for example, are passover in silence except for twoever*
17 *verses which Luke devotes to them:*

18
19 Luke 2:40-52

20 **And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace**
21 **of God was upon him. [41] Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the**
22 **feast of the passover. [42] And when he was twelve years old, they went up to**
23 **Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. [43] And when they had fulfilled the days, as**
24 **they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his**
25 **mother knew not of it. [44] But they, supposing him to have been in the company,**
26 **went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.**
27 **[45] And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking**
28 **him. [46] And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple,**
29 **sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.**
30 **[47] And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. [48]**
31 **And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why**
32 **hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.**
33 **[49] And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be**
34 **about my Father's business? [50] And they understood not the saying which he**
35 **spake unto them. [51] And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was**
36 **subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. [52] And Jesus**
37 **increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.**

38
39 *But the Passion Week (in which Jesus was tried, crucified and resurrected) is described in*
40 *great detail by all four writers. Matthew, Mark and Luke have much material in*
41 *common; John, however, includes many things that one of the others do. All these facts*
42 *demonstrate the selectivity of the Gospel accounts.”*