Finding the Truth: Understanding the Bible

Lesson 22

Studying the Bible: The Gospels

April 12, 2016

The Gospels:

Matthew, Mark, Luke: Synoptic or common-view

John: Different perspective

Authorship:

- None of the Gospels are written "by" Jesus, but rather are "about" Jesus.
- While Jesus spoke in Aramaic, the Gospels are written in Greek.
- The Gospels are written to different Christian communities.

Matthew:

Author: Anonymous but probably the Apostle Matthew.

Date: 70's or 80's AD.

To: Jewish Christians.

Emphasis: Jesus is Son of God, messianic King of Jews. The Gospel of the Kingdom is for all peoples.

Mark:

Author: Anonymous but probably John Mark, a companion of both Paul and Peter.

Date: AD 65, soon after the deaths of Peter and Paul.

To: Church in Rome

Emphasis: Kingdom of God has come with Jesus. Disciples will follow the way of the Cross.

Luke:

Author: Luke the Physician, a companion of Paul and the only Gentile author of the Bible.

Date: Between AD 64-70.

To: Theophilus, probably a Gentile Christian.

Emphasis: Jesus came to save the lost expanding the Kingdom beyond Israel.

Suggested Reading

HTRTBFAIW: pages 132-167
HTRTBBBB: pages 267-295
HTRTBTTJL: pages 161-173

Key Verses:

Mark 1:1
The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God

Luke 1:1-4
1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Notes