



## *The Good News of Compassion*

by

# Luke

physician and companion of Paul  
Written in Southern Greece  
especially for  
**Gentile Christians**  
in about 80 A.D.  
(? 63-90 ?)



## *The Good News of God's Love*

by

# the Community of the Beloved Disciple

Written in Ephesus, Greece  
**for all mankind**  
in about 100 A.D.  
(? early draft Palestine, 55 ?)

### *Definitions*

**Gospel** = good tidings (oral)  
(Anglo-Saxon *god-spel*, Greek *euangelion*)  
salvation history, in word and power, to work  
salvation in those who believe

**Synoptic** = "seen together" gospels:  
Matthew, Mark and Luke share many stories

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### **Types of writing in the Gospels**

- *narratives*: biographical, miracle
- *sayings*: parable, proverb, simile, prophetic pronouncement, command, personal proclamation (I-saying), apocalyptic prophecy

### **Purposes of Gospel writing**

- Liturgical*: readings for worship
- Catechetical*: teach the life, teachings and person of Jesus
- Missionary*: explain OT to Jews and Gentiles, introduce the Savior
- Historical*: testify to the reality, person, passion and resurrection of Christ; *not* give play-by-play chronology

### **Traditional symbols of the evangelists**

- Matthew*: winged man (angel)
- Mark*: winged lion
- Luke*: winged ox
- John*: eagle

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# The Four Gospels



## *The Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven*

by

# Matthew Levi

one of the twelve apostles  
Written in Syria especially for  
**Jewish Christians**  
in about 80 A.D.

(? Palestine, 55-80 ?)



## *The Good News of Hope in Troubled Times*

by

# John Mark

missionary and friend of Peter  
Written in Rome  
especially for **Seekers**  
in 65-70 A.D.

(? 60-70 ?)

 <b>Matthew</b>	 <b>Mark</b>		 <b>Luke</b>	 <b>John</b>
<b>Scholarly Jewish accountant balances stories and pithy sayings.</b>	<b>Energetic debater provides vivid details.</b>	<b>capsule</b>	<b>Cosmopolitan observer offers psychological insights.</b>	<b>Intimate friend of Jesus shares personal reflections.</b>
<b>Infancy narrative</b> <i>from Joseph's point of view</i> genealogy of Jesus from Abraham Magi, Herod, Egypt	John the Baptizer: Herald of the Lamb of God	<b>starting point</b>	<b>Infancy narrative</b> <i>from Mary's point of view</i> Annunciation, Visitation, Shepherds, Finding in Temple genealogy of Jesus from Adam	Jesus as the Eternal Word, Son of God present before creation
authoritative rabbi (teacher) the new Moses the promised Messiah of Israel	energetic, popular, candid, emotional, fully human <i>and</i> the Christ, the Son of the Living God <i>(shown more by deeds than by words)</i>	<b>portrait of Jesus</b>	filled with the Holy Spirit Savior of all nations advocate of the underdog friend of women	mystical, noble, majestic, divine, all-knowing  Messiah who institutes the New Covenant in water and the Spirit
<b>follow the Messiah and enter the Kingdom of Heaven</b>	<b>commit your life and future to Jesus Christ</b>	<b>wants you, the reader to</b>	<b>join Jesus as he welcomes Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor, the righteous and the forgiven, to the banquet of God</b>	<b>grow in intimacy with Jesus through Word and Eucharist by the power of the Holy Spirit</b>
Sermon on the Mount, 8 Beatitudes identifies Kingdom with Church much about Scribes & Pharisees many numerical groupings 2x more OT references	"Messianic secret" Jesus & relatives (3:20f) young man at Gethsemani (14:54) conflict, rejection, misunderstanding disciples without halos	<b>unique to this book</b>	Prodigal Son (15) Good Samaritan (10) "Father, forgive them" (23:34) theology of the Holy Spirit; ascension	<i>Most of the book.</i> symbolism, Nicodemus, Cana, Samaritan woman, raising of Lazarus, Man born blind, Bread of Life and Last Supper discourses
5 sections, story plus discourse • <i>Sermon on the Mount</i> • <i>Missionary</i> • <i>Parable</i> • <i>Church</i> • <i>End of the World</i> framed by birth & passion narratives	<i>Prologue:</i> John B., baptism, temptation 1) <i>Galilee:</i> conflicts, parables, miracles 2) <i>Journeys:</i> apostles, miracles 3) <i>Jerusalem:</i> messianic & apocalyptic teaching, trial, death, resurrection	<b>structure</b>	1) Infancy; 2) Journey from Galilee to Jerusalem <i>(whole story in one year);</i> 3) Passion, resurrection, ascension	Prologue, preparation 1) Ministry of Jesus, Raising of Lazarus 2) Last Supper/ Passion/ Apparitions <i>9 parts: 3 years of 3 liturgical feasts</i>
<b>"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them."</b> <i>Mt. 5:17</i>	<b>"And you...who do you say that I am?"</b> <i>Mk 8:29</i>	<b>a key verse</b>	<b>"When you pray, say, 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come...and subject us not to the trial.'"</b> <i>Lk 11:2-6</i>	<b>"Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life."</b> <i>Jn 3:16</i>