

#2. THE GOSPELS

1. **Gospel** - The English word *Gospel* is derived from *Godspell*, an Anglo-Saxon word meaning either *a good story or a story about God*. The New Testament Greek word translated *gospel* is *euangellion*, which means *good news*. We see the roots of *euangellion* in words like *evangel* and *evangelism*. Likewise, the first mention of the good news of Messiah in Genesis 3:15 is called the *protoevangelium*.

2. **The Gospels are four accounts of Jesus' life, named for their authors.**

- Matthew - a Jewish tax collector who became a disciple of Jesus. His Gospel was written between 50-60AD.
- Mark - another Jewish disciple of Jesus, who based his writings on the preaching of Simon Peter (according to Papias in 115AD, Clement of Alexandria in 180AD, and Eusebius in 375AD).
- Luke - a Gentile physician, who's Gospel may be heavily influenced by a host of first hand witnesses, including Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- John - known as the Beloved Disciple. This Jewish man authored the fourth Gospel as well as three other letters accepted as Canonical.

3. **The Date of writing for the Gospels compared to other New Testament letters are as follows:**

Note: dates are accurate but some may be approximate. For a fuller discussion of questions about dating, see the appropriate section in each book study.

- James - 44-49AD
- Galatians - 48-50AD, perhaps as early as 46AD
- Matthew - 50-60AD, but definitely before 70AD
- Mark - 50-60AD, before Peter's death in 65-68AD
- 1 Thessalonians - 51AD
- 2 Thessalonians - 51-52AD
- 1 Corinthians - 55AD

- 2 Corinthians - 55-56AD
- Romans - 56AD
- Luke - 60-61AD
- Ephesians - 57-62AD
- Philippians - 57-62AD
- Colossians - 57-62AD
- Philemon - 57-62AD
- Acts - 62AD
- 1 Timothy - 62-64AD
- Titus - 62-64AD
- 1 Peter - 64-65AD
- 2 Timothy - 66-67AD
- 2 Peter - 67-68AD
- Hebrews - 67-69AD
- Jude - 67-69AD
- John - 80-90AD
- 1 John - 90-95AD
- 2 John - 90-95AD
- 3 John - 90-95AD
- Revelation - 94-96AD

4. The Major Divisions in the Life of Christ

- The Birth and Childhood of John the Baptist and Jesus (about 6BC to 7AD)
- The Beginning of John's Ministry (about 25AD)
- The Beginning of Christ's Public Ministry (26 & 27AD)

- The Great Galilean Ministry (about 27-29AD)
- The Special Training of the Twelve in Galilee (Passover 29AD until Feast of Tabernacles in 29AD)
- The Later Judean Ministry (Feast of Tabernacles 29AD until Hanukkah in 29AD)
- The Later Perea Ministry (Hanukkah 29AD until his last journey to Jerusalem in 30AD)
- His Last Public Ministry - in Jerusalem (Friday before the Passover until Tuesday of Passion Week - probably in 30AD)
- His Approach to the Cross (Tuesday afternoon until Thursday of Passion Week – 30AD)
- His Arrest, Trial, Crucifixion, and Burial (late Thursday night and Friday of Passion Week – 30AD)
- His Resurrection, Appearances, and Ascension (forty days beginning with resurrection on Sunday of Passion Week - 30AD)

5. A Suggested New Testament Chronology

- The First Era: 6BC to 30AD
 - The birth of Jesus – 6BC
 - Escape to Egypt – 5BC
 - The death of Herod – 4BC
 - Return to Nazareth – 4BC
 - The Boy Jesus at the Temple – 6AD
 - The baptism of Jesus - 27AD
 - The crucifixion of Jesus – 30AD
- The Second Era: 30-60AD
 - Stephen's death - 31AD
 - Paul's conversion - about 31-33AD
 - The Council of Jerusalem - 48/49AD
 - Paul's first imprisonment - 56AD
- The Third Era: 60-100AD

- Paul's second imprisonment - 62/64AD
- The siege of Jerusalem - 66-70AD
- The destruction of Jerusalem - 70AD
- The writing of John's epistles and Gospel - 80-90AD
- The Revelation - 95/96AD

6. A suggested harmony of the Gospels

Note: a harmony of the Gospels is the presentation of events in a chronological order while synchronizing the stories in each of the gospel accounts.

- **Luke's research - Luke 1:1-4**
- **John's theological statement about the deity and preexistence of Jesus - John 1:1-18**
- **The two genealogies - Joseph's lineage in Matthew 1:1-17; Mary's lineage in Luke 3:23-38**
- **The birth and childhood of John the Baptizer and Jesus**
 - The annunciation to Zacharias - Luke 1:5-25
 - The annunciation to Mary - Luke 1:26-38
 - The Song of Elizabeth - Luke 1:39-45
 - The Song of Mary - Luke 1:46-56
 - The birth and childhood of John - Luke 1:57-80
 - The annunciation to Joseph - Matthew 1:18-25
 - The birth of Jesus - Luke 2:1-7
 - The celebration of the angels and visit of the shepherds - Luke 2:8-20
 - The circumcision of Jesus - Luke 2:21
 - The dedication of Jesus; worship of Simeon and Anna - Luke 2:22-38
 - The visit of the wise men - Matthew 2:1-12
 - Joseph takes his family to Egypt; the babies of Bethlehem are slain - Matthew 2:13-18

- Joseph brings his family from Egypt back to Nazareth - Matthew 2:19-23; Luke 2:39
- The childhood of Jesus at Nazareth - Luke 2:40
- Jesus visits Jerusalem at age 12 - Luke 2:41-50
- Jesus remains in Nazareth for 18 years - Luke 2:51-52
- **The Ministry of John the Baptist**
 - John's ministry begins - Mark 1:1; Luke 2:1, 2
 - John's message - Mark 1:2-6; Matthew 3:1-6; Luke 3:3-6
 - A sermon by John - Matthew 3:7-10; Luke 3:7-14
 - John's prophecy about Messiah - Mark 1:7-8; Matthew 3:11, 12; Luke 3:15-18
- **The Beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry**
 - The baptism of Jesus by John - Mark 1:9-11; Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-23
 - The temptations of Jesus in the wilderness - Mark 1:12, 13; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13
 - John's testimony to the delegation from the Sanhedrin - John 1:19-28
 - John identifies Jesus as the Messiah - John 1:29-34
 - Jesus connects with His first disciples through John- John 1:35-51
 - Jesus performs His first miracle - John 2:1-11
 - Jesus travels to Capernaum, accompanied by his family and a few early disciples - John 2:12
 - The first cleansing of The Temple (during Passover) - John 2:13-22
 - Jesus is interviewed by Nicodemus - John 2:23; 3:21
 - The ministry of Jesus and John overlap for a brief period. John defers to Jesus - John 3:22-36
 - Jesus leaves Judea - Mark 1:14; Matthew 4:12; Luke 3:19, 20; 4:14; John 4:1-4
 - Jesus in Samaria at Jacob's well - John 4:43-45
- **Jesus' Ministry in Galilee**

- The summary statements concerning His Galilean ministry - Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 4:17; Luke 4:14, 15
- The healing of the nobleman's son in Capernaum - John 4:46-54
- The first rejection of Jesus in Nazareth - Luke 4:16-31
- Jesus moves to Capernaum - Matthew 4:13-16
- Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John - Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11
- Jesus heals a demonized man on the Sabbath - Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37
- Jesus heals many people, including Peter's mother-in-law - Mark 1:29-34; Matthew 8:14-17; Luke 4:38-41
- Jesus preaches in Galilee with Peter, Andrew, James and John - Mark 1:35-39; Matthew 4:23-25; Luke 4:42-44
- Jesus heals a leper - Mark 1:40-45; Matthew 8:2-4; Luke 5:12-16
- Jesus heals a paralyzed man who is lowered through the roof of Peter's house - Mark 2:1-12; Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 5:17-26
- Jesus calls Matthew. Matthew (Levi) hosts a reception in Jesus' honor - Mark 2:13-17; Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 5:27-32
- Jesus' parables about the nature of feasting and fasting - Mark 2:18-22; Matthew 9:14-17; Luke 5:33-39
- Jesus defends His decision to heal a lame man on the Passover/sabbath in Jerusalem - John 5:1-47
- The Pharisees criticize Jesus' disciples for eating grain plucked on the Sabbath - Mark 2:23-28; Matthew 12:1-8; Luke 6:1-5
- Another Sabbath controversy in which Jesus heals the man with the withered hand in a synagogue - Mark 3:1-6; Matthew 12:9-14; Luke 6:6-11
- Jesus heals and teaches a great crowd on the shore of Galilee - Mark 3:7-12; Matthew 12:15-21
- After a night of prayer, Jesus finalized His selection of the twelve Apostles – Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16
- The Sermon on the Mountain - Matthew 5-7; Luke 6:17-49
- Jesus heals the centurion's servant in Capernaum - Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:18-35
- Woes pronounced upon cities who had wasted their opportunity of grace; Jesus as

representative of the Father - Matthew 11:20-30

- In the house of Simon the Pharisee, a sinful woman anoints the feet of Jesus; the parable of two debtors - Luke 7:36-50
- Jesus' second tour of Galilee - Luke 8:1-3
- Blasphemous accusations about Jesus - Mark 3:19-30; Matthew 12:32-37
- The Scribes and Pharisees demand a sign - Matthew 12:38-45
- Christ's mother and siblings try to take Jesus home - Mark 3:31-35; Matthew 12:46-50; Luke 8:19-21
- The Kingdom Parables - Mark 4:1-34; Matthew 13:1-53; Luke 8:4-18
 - To the crowds by the sea: The Parable of the Sower; The Parable of the Growing Seed; The Parable of the Wheat and Tares; The Parable of the Mustard Seed; The Parable of the Leaven, etc.
 - To the disciples in the house - the explanation of the tares; The Parable of the Hidden Treasure; The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price; The Parable of the Net; The Parable of the Wise Householder
- Jesus stills a storm while crossing the lake - Mark 4:35-41; Matthew 8:18, 23-27; Luke 8:22-25;
- Jesus heals the Gerasene demoniac - Mark 5:1-20; Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-39
- The healing of the woman who touched Jesus' robe and of Jairus' daughter - Mark 5:21-43; Matthew 9:18-26; Luke 8:40-56
- A blasphemous accusation occurs when Christ healed two blind men and another man who was unable to speak - Matthew 9:27-34
- Jesus' last visit to Nazareth - Mark 6:1-6; Matthew 13:54-58
- Jesus' third tour of Galilee; the sending out of the twelve to do ministry - Mark 6:6-13; Matthew 9:35 - 11:1; Luke 9:1-6
- Herod's paranoia concerning Jesus and the murder of John the Baptizer - Mark 6:14-29; Matthew 14:1-12; Luke 9:7-9
- **The Training of The Twelve in Galilee**
 - The first break-away; the feeding of the five thousand - Mark 6:30-44; Matthew 14:13-21; Luke 9: 1-17; John 6:14,15
 - Jesus rejects the attempt of the crowd to crown Him - Mark 6:45,46; Matthew 14:22,23; John 6:14,15

- Christ calms another storm at sea - Mark 6:47-52; Matthew 14:24-33; John 6:16-21
- The arrival at Gennesaret - Mark 6:53-56; Matthew 14:34-3
- Jesus refuses the demands of the crowd - John 6:22-71
- Controversy with Pharisees from Jerusalem - Mark 7:1-23; Matthew 15:1-20; John 7:1
- Jesus' second withdrawal to Tyre and Sidon; the healing of the Gentile girl - Mark 7:24-30; Matthew 15:21-28
- The third withdrawal (into Decapolis); the healing of the deaf and mute man; the feeding of the 4,000 - Mark 7:31-8:9; Matthew 15:29-38
- A brief visit to Dalmanutha in Galilee; a vicious combined attack from Pharisees and Sadducees - Mark 8:10-12; Matthew 15:39-16:4
- Jesus' fourth retreat to Bethsaida - a blind man is healed - Mark 8:13-26; Matthew 16:5-12
- The declaration of Simon Peter at Caesarea-Philippi - Mark 8:27-30; Matthew 16:13-20; Luke 9:18-21
- Jesus predicts His suffering, death, and resurrection - Mark 8:31-37; Matthew 16:21-26; Luke 9:22-25
- The coming of the Son of Man - Mark 8:38-9:1; Matthew 16: 27-28; Luke 9:26, 27
- The Mount of Transfiguration (probably Mount Hermon near Caesarea Philippi) - Mark 9:2-13; Matthew 17:1-13; Luke 9:28-36
- The healing of the demoniac boy - Mark 9:14-29; Matthew 17:14-20; Luke 9:37-43
- Returning to Galilee, Jesus again predicts His death and resurrection - Mark 9:30, 32; Matthew 17:22-23; Luke 9:43-45
- Jesus pays the Temple tax - Matthew 17:24-27
- Jesus teaches about child-likeness as His disciples contend for preeminence - Mark 9:33-37; Matthew 18:1-5; Luke 9:46-48
- Jesus addresses improper zeal by the use of parables - Mark 9:38-50; Matthew 18:6-14; Luke 9:49, 50
- Teachings on forgiveness - Matthew 18:15-35
- The priority of the Kingdom - Matthew 18:19-22; Luke 9:57-62
- The rejection of Jesus by his brothers - John 7:2-9

- Jesus goes privately to Jerusalem through Samaria - Luke 9:51-56; John 7:10
- **The Later Judean Ministry**
 - Jesus attends the Feast of Tabernacles - John 7:11-52
 - An adulterous woman brought to Jesus - John 7:53 - 8:11
 - After the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus claims to be the Light of The World - John 8:12-20
 - The Pharisees attempt to stone Jesus when He exposes their sinful character - John 8:21-59
 - Jesus heals the man born blind - John 9:1-41
 - The Parable of the Good Shepherd - John 10:1-21
 - The Mission of the Seventy - Luke 10:1-24
 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37
 - Jesus as the guest of Mary and Martha - Luke 10:38-42
 - Jesus teaches about prayer - Luke 11:1-13
 - Jesus is accused of being in partnership with Satan - Luke 11:14-36
 - Jesus contends with Pharisees over a meal - Luke 11:37-54
 - Jesus preaches concerning several topics - Luke 12
 - The barren fig tree: a message about repentance - Luke 13:1-9
 - Jesus heals a crippled woman on the Sabbath; He repeats the Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Leaven - Luke 13:10-21
 - Another attempt to stone Jesus at the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) - John 10:22-39
- **The Later Perea Ministry**
 - Jesus withdraws to Bethany - John 10:40-42
 - Jesus, on His way to Jerusalem, warns against Herod Antipas – Luke 13:22-35
 - Jesus dines with a chief Pharisee, heals on the Sabbath, and delivers three parables about the cost of being a disciple - Luke 14:1-24
 - Great crowds follow Him, but He warns them about not counting the cost of discipleship - Luke 14:25-35

- Jesus defends His acceptance of sinners by telling three great stories about The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, and The Lost Son - Luke 15:1-32
- Three parables about stewardship - Luke 16:1-17:10
 - He taught the disciples about the unjust steward and the unprofitable servants.
 - He taught the Pharisees about the Rich Man and Lazarus.
- Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead - John 11:1-54
- Jesus begins His last journey to Jerusalem through Samaria and Galilee - Luke 17:11-37
- Jesus teaches on prayer using the parable of the Persistent Widow and the Pharisee and the Publican - Luke 18:1-14
- On the way from Galilee to Perea, Jesus teaches about divorce – Mark 10:1-12; Matthew 19:1-12
- Christ illustrates the Kingdom by His attitude toward children - Mark 10:13-16; Matthew 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17
- The Rich Young Ruler and the peril of riches; the rewards of following Jesus; the sovereignty of the Lord of the Harvest (the Parable of the Eleventh Hour Laborers) - Mark 10:17-31; Matthew 19:16-20:16; Luke 18:18-30
- Jesus speaks again of His impending death and resurrection; He rebukes the selfish ambition of James and John - Mark 10:32-45; Matthew 20:17-28; Luke 18:31-34
- Jesus heals Bartimaeus and his friend - Mark 10:46-52; Matthew 20:29-34; Luke 18:35-43
- Jesus visits Zacchaeus and tells the parable of the talents. He then begins his final steps toward Jerusalem - Luke 19:1-28
- **Jesus' Final Days of Public Ministry in Jerusalem**
 - Jesus arrives at Bethany near Jerusalem - John 11:55-12:1-11
 - Jesus' Triumphal Entry as Messiah into Jerusalem - Mark 11:1-11; Matthew 21:1-17; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19
 - Jesus curses the barren fig tree and conducts the second cleansing of The Temple - Mark 11:12-18; Matthew 21:18,19; Luke 19:45-48
 - Jesus teaches on the effects of His work on the cross - John 12:20-50
 - The Cursed Fig Tree is found to be withered - Mark 11:19-25; Matthew 21:19-22; Luke 21:37, 38

- The Sanhedrin formally attack the credibility of Jesus - Mark 11:27-12:12; Matthew 21:23-22:14; Luke 20:1-19
- The Herodians and Pharisees try to trap Jesus about payment of taxes - Mark 12:13-17; Matthew 22:15-22; Luke 20:20-26
- The Sadducees try to trap Jesus in a question about marriage and the resurrection - Mark 12:18-27; Matthew 22:23-33; Luke 20:27-40
- Jesus teaches on the two greatest commandments - Mark 12:28-34; Matthew 22: 34-40
- Jesus defends His claim to Messiahship by discussing His relationship to David - Mark 12:35-37; Matthew 22:41-46; Luke 20:41-44
- In His final public teaching, Jesus denounces the Scribes and Pharisees - Mark 12:38-40; Matthew 23:1-39; Luke 20:45-47
- While observing the giving in the Temple, Jesus commends the gift of the poor widow - Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4
- **The Approach to the Cross**
 - While on the Mount of Olives, Jesus discusses the destruction of Jerusalem and end of the age with His disciples - Mark 13:1-37; Matthew 24:25; Luke 21:5-36
 - Jesus predicts His crucifixion in 2 days - Mark 14:1, 2; Matthew 26:1-5; Luke 22:1, 2
 - At a feast in the house of Simon the leper, Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus for His burial - Mark 14:3-9; Matthew 26:6-13; John 12:2-8
 - Judas bargains with Jewish rulers to betray Jesus - Mark 14:10-11; Matthew 26:14-16; Luke 22:3-6
 - The preparation for the Passover meal, probably at the home of John Mark's father and mother - Mark 14:12-16; Matthew 26:17-19; Luke 22:7-13
 - Jesus and His twelve disciples partake of Passover together - Mark 14:17; Matthew 26:20; Luke 22:14-20
 - During the Passover meal, Jesus washes the feet of His disciples – John 13:1-20
 - During the meal, Jesus points out Judas as the betrayer - Mark 14:18-21; Matthew 26:21-25; Luke 22:21-23; John 13:21-30
 - Judas departs, and Jesus calls the disciples to beware of a Satanic attack - Mark 14:27-31; Matthew 26:31-35; Luke 22:31-38; John 13:31-38
 - Jesus institutes The Lord's Supper (communion) - Mark 14:22-25; Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:17-20; (Paul's explanation in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

- Jesus' farewell discourse to the disciples in the Upper Room - John 14
- Jesus' words on the way to Gethsemane - John 15, 16
- Jesus' intercessory prayer - John 17
- In Gethsemane, Jesus' suffering begins - Mark 14:26-42; Matthew 26:30-46; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1
- **The Arrest, Trial, Crucifixion, and Burial of Jesus**
 - Jesus is betrayed, arrested, and forsaken - Mark 14:43-52; Matthew 26:47-56; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-12
 - Annas the former high priest questions Jesus - John 18:12-14. 19-23
 - Jesus is illegally tried by Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin, and is mocked and beaten - Mark 14:53, 55-65; Matthew 26:57, 59-68; Luke 22:54, 63-65; John 18:24
 - Peter denies Jesus three times - Mark 14:54,66-72; Matthew 26:58,69-75; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27
 - After dawn, Jesus is formally pronounced guilty by the Sanhedrin - Mark 15:1; Matthew 27:1; Luke 22:66-71
 - The remorse and suicide of Judas Iscariot - Matthew 27:3-10 (Acts 1:18,19)
 - Jesus' first appearance before Pilate - Mark 15:1-5; Matthew 27:2,11-14; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38
 - Jesus before Herod - Luke 23:6-12
 - Jesus second appearance before Pilate - Mark 15:6-15; Matthew 27:15-26; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:39-19:16
 - The Roman soldiers mock Jesus - Mark 15:16-19; Matthew 27:27-30
 - Jesus begins His walk toward Golgotha and the cross (Via Dolorosa) - Mark 15:20-23; Matthew 27:31-34; Luke 23:26-33; John 19:16, 17
 - The first three hours on the cross - Mark 15:24-32; Matthew 27:35-44; Luke 23:33-43; John 19:18-27
 - Three hours of darkness from noon until 3PM - Mark 15:33-37; Matthew 27:45-50; Luke 23:44-46; John 19:28-30
 - Supernatural events accompany the death of Christ - Mark 15:38-41; Matthew 27:51-56; Luke 23:45,47-49;

- Jesus, after being confirmed dead, is buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea - Mark 15:42-46; Matthew 27:61-66; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-42
- The women take note of the location of Jesus' tomb, making plans to return after the Sabbath and further prepare the body - Mark 15:47; Matthew 27:61-66; Luke 23:55-56
- **The Resurrection, Appearances, and Ascension of Jesus**
 - The women return to the tomb of Jesus - Mark 16:1; Matthew 28:1
 - The earthquake and the rolling away of the stone by an angel; the guards of the tomb run away - Matthew 28:2-4
 - The angelic message to the women about Jesus' resurrection - Mark 16:2-8; Matthew 28:5-8; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1
 - The women report to the disciples about Jesus' resurrection:
 - The appearance to Mary Magdalene by Jesus - Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18
 - The appearance of Jesus to the other women - Matthew 28:9-10
 - The guards report the events of resurrection morning to the Jewish authorities - Matthew 28:11-15
 - Jesus appears to Cleopas and another disciple on the Road to Emmaus; they report the incident to skeptical disciples - Mark 16:12, 13; Luke 24:13-35 (1 Corinthians 15:5 - Christ also appeared to Simon Peter)
 - The appearance of Jesus to the disciples; they fail to convince Thomas, who was absent - Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
 - Thomas is convinced when Jesus appears again the next Sunday - John 20:26-31; (1 Corinthians 15:5)
 - Jesus appears to seven disciples who are fishing on the Sea of Galilee; a miraculous catch of fishes occurs; Simon Peter is restored - John 21
 - Jesus appears to about 500 disciples in Galilee; the Great Commission is given - Mark 16:15-18; Matthew 28:16-20; (1 Corinthians 15:6)
 - Jesus appears to His brother James - 1 Corinthians 15:5
 - Jesus appears to the disciples, commanding them to remain in Jerusalem until they would be filled with the Spirit - Luke 24:44-49 (Acts 1:3-8)
 - The Ascension to Heaven - Mark 16:19, 20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12

Now, let's begin our book by book survey of the New Testament!