

## **“O COME LET US ADORE HIM!”**

### INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPELS AND INFANCY NARRATIVES

#### Part I

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#### What the Gospels Are Not

The Gospels are not the writings of Jesus

The Gospels are not historic biographies of Jesus

The Gospels are not historic accounts of the times of Jesus

#### What are the Gospels?

The Gospels are the proclamation of Jesus as the Savior and Lord

The Gospels are collections of the teachings and deeds of Jesus for the purpose of winning souls for Christ

The Gospels are collections of the teachings and deeds of Jesus that serve as the foundation of who we Christians believe Jesus really is and his purpose for coming into the world

#### The Synoptic Gospels

Similar Vision

The Mysterious Q Source

#### The Gospel of Mark

Mark, son of believer named Mary whose house was a meeting place for the early church in Jerusalem (Acts 12: 12)

Nephew of Barnabus and companion of Paul and Barnabus on early missionary Journeys ((Acts 12: 25; 13:13)

Reason for split between Paul and Barnabus (Acts 15: 37-40)

Latter reconciled with Paul and became useful in his ministry (Colossians 4: 10: II Timothy 4: 11)

Mysterious young man in Mark 14: 51-52

Companion of Peter (I Peter 5: 13)

Mark's Gospel is believed to be record of Peter's preaching

Foundation Gospel, around 60-70 AD, soon after the death of Peter

Mark has 661 verses; Matthew, 1,068; Luke, 1, 149

Of Mark's 661 verses, Matthew produces 606

Of Mark's 661 verses, Luke produces 320

Of the 55 verses that Matthew does not use, 31 are found in Luke

Only 24 verses of Mark that do not appear in either Matthew or Luke

Both Matthew and Luke essentially follow the same sequence of events or storyline of Mark

#### The Gospel of Matthew

Matthew was a disciple of Jesus who had been a tax collector

Some early historians believe he was author while others are not sure

Composed between 70-110, with most scholars believe dates were between 80-90

One purpose was to prove that Jesus was Messiah based upon scripture

Audience was primarily Jewish, since Jews would have been most conversant with scripture

Concerned about church. Only Gospel that mentions church

Teaching Gospel (Sermon on the Mount)

Eschatological Gospel (Matthew 24)

#### The Gospel of Luke

Luke was Gentile believer and companion of Paul

Some scholars suggest early date such as 63; most scholars 75-85

Primarily Gentile audience

Closest work to life of Christ

Gospel to poor and outcast

Gospel of prayer

Gospel of women

Universal Gospel

#### The Gospel of John

Author, the Apostle John

Date, around 110 in Ephesus

Distinctiveness: No account of the birth of Jesus, his baptism, the temptations, the Last Supper, agony in Gethsemane, or ascension

No healing of people possessed by devils or evil spirits and no parables.

As distinct from Synoptics, in John the main focus of the Lord's ministry is Jerusalem and Judea with only occasional journeys to Galilee

John alone tells of marriage feast in Cana, coming of Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, raising of Lazarus, the Lord's teaching on the Holy Spirit

Only in John does Thomas speak, Andrew speak, Judas protest of the Lord being anointed at Bethany, the crown of thorns, soldiers gambling for robe of Jesus

Purpose in writing

The spread of the faith into the Gentile world

The Rise of heresies in the early church

#### Lessons from the Gospels

The Gospel according to...Jesus Christ is essence of Gospel

Though the audience and authors change, the essence of who Christ is remains the same

Remember John 21: 25