

Week 1 - **Jesus and the Gospels**

with Dr. Geoffrey Lentz

Wednesday Jan. 17—What's a Gospel?

Reading: none

We will focus on the genre of the “gospel” as a specialized version of the Greek “bios,” and learn what gospels were intended to do. Then we will review several non-canonical gospels like the Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Judas, and the Gospel of Mary Magdalen, and discover what these texts are about and why they are excluded from the canon(Bible). We also will learn about “Q,” the potential lost source.

I. Opening Prayer

II. What is a gospel?

- A. Good news
- B. Political dimension
- C. Genre—Greek Bios

III. Canonical

- A. The Synoptics—Matthew, Mark, and Luke
- B. John
- C. Q? and the Gospel Source Hypothesis

IV. Protogospels

- A. Infancy Gospel of James
- B. Infancy Gospel of Thomas
- C. Arabic Infancy Gospel

V. Gnostic gospels

- A. The Gospel of the Ebionites
- B. The Gospel of the Hebrews
- C. The Gospel of the Nazarenes

VI. Canonization requirements

- A. Orthodoxy
- B. Catholicity
- C. Apostolicity/history

VII. Canonization History

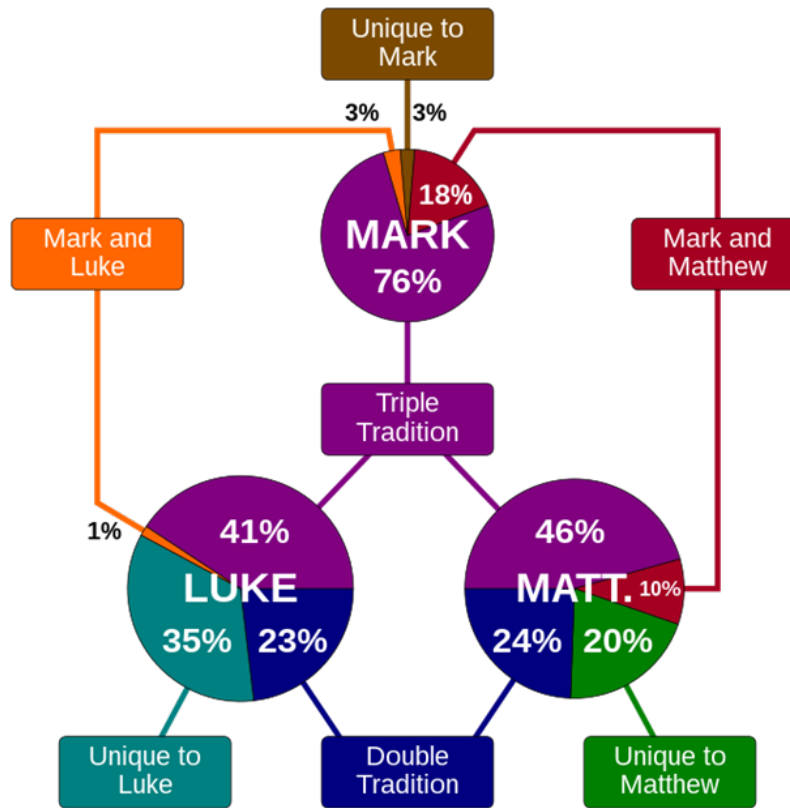
- A. Marcion
- B. St. Irenaeus Circa 180 , four -“post of the world”
- C. St. Athanasius uses the word canonization
- D. 382 the council of Rome

VIII. One gospel four evangelist (gospelers)

- A. Diatesseron by Tatian—Gospel Harmony
- B. Witnesses with distinct voices

IX. Closing Prayer—Blessed Assurance

Relationships between the Synoptic Gospels



BLESSED ASSURANCE

**1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain:

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

(Refrain)

**3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

(Refrain)