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# SESSION #7

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# Overview of the Books of the Bible - Christ

## Gospels

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all take a similar approach in their accounts and therefore these three are known as the Synoptic Gospels, meaning "taking a common view." The differences among them are described below. The Gospel of John takes a different approach from these three. Except for Luke, the Gospel writers did not emphasize *when* events in Jesus' ministry happened. Therefore, many of the events are not given in chronological order.

### Matthew

Author: Matthew

Time: 4 B.C. - 30 A.D.

Summary: Matthew is aimed at a Jewish audience. Its purpose is to witness that Jesus is the promised Messiah of the O.T. Matthew emphasizes the words of the Lord regarding the Kingdom of Heaven.

Theme - Jesus Christ as King

Key Verse: *"Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." (Matt. 1:1)*

Unique Features:

Matthew makes no less than sixty references to the Old Testament writings as fulfilled in Christ, so that the word "fulfilled" becomes characteristic of the book. The word "Kingdom" is met with fifty-five times; "Kingdom of Heaven" thirty-two times; "Son of David" seven times.

The Jews laid great store on Scripture and this Gospel, written particularly for them, abounds in O.T. references.

PREPARATION - Chapter 1:1 - 4:16

1. His Relation to the Past - Chapter 1:1 - 2:23
2. His Relation to God - Ch. 3:1-17
3. His Relation to Humanity- Ch. 4:1-11

PREACHING - Chapter 4:17 -18:35

1. Proclaiming the Kingdom - Ch. 4:12-25
2. What Jesus Taught - Ch. 5:1 - 7:29
3. What Jesus Wrought - Ch. 8:1 - 10:42  
(Ten mighty works showing his ability to rule)  
The cleansing of the leper- Ch. 8:1-4  
Centurion's servant- palsy- Ch. 8:5-13  
Peter's wife's mother- fever- Ch. 8:14-15

The stilling of the storm- Ch. 8:16-27

Gergesene demoniacs healed - Ch. 8:28-34

The man cured of the palsy- Ch. 9:1-17

The woman with hemorrhage- Ch. 9:18-22

The ruler's daughter raised - Ch. 9:23-26

Two blind men given sight- Ch. 9:27-31

The dumb demoniac healed - Ch. 9:32-38

The Apostles empowered to preach - Ch. 10:1-42

(There are a couple of digressions - see Ch. 8:18-22; 9:9-17 - but they are related to the miracles performed. The miracles revealed physically what the Gospel can do spiritually)

4. What People Thought - Ch. 11:1 - 18:35

(Ten reactions to his call)

John the Baptist - in doubt - Ch. 11:1-15

"This generation" - unresponsive - Ch. 11:16-19

Galilean cities - unrepentant- Ch. 11:20-30

The Pharisees - unreasonable - Ch. 12:1-45

His family - misunderstanding - Ch. 12:46-50

The multitudes - undiscerning - Ch. 13:1-58

Herod the king- unintelligent- Ch. 14:1-13

The disciples - of little faith - Ch. 14:14-36

Jerusalem scribe - unimpressionable - Ch. 15:1-20

Gentile multitudes - seeking - Ch. 15:21-39

Pharisees, Sadducees - unrelenting - Ch. 16:1-12

The Apostles - needing education - Ch. 16:13-18:35

PASSOVER - Chapter 19:1 - 28:20

1. Presentation- Ch. 19:1- 25:46

2. Condemnation- Ch. 26:1- 27:66

3. Vindication- Ch. 28:1-20

## **Mark**

Author: Mark

Time: 4 B.C. - 30 A.D.

Summary: The book of Mark describes in detail Jewish customs and is therefore thought to be aimed at a non-Jewish audience (in particular, Romans). Mark describes in very life-like terms the miracles of Jesus and great detail is given to the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Some people think that Mark was the first of the four gospels, probably written shortly after the resurrection. Possibly the book was taken by dictation from the Apostle Peter because some events contained in the book are unique to Peter.

Theme - Jesus Christ as Servant

Key verse: *"The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)*

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Unique Features:

Being originally written (as is thought) for Romans, there are very few references to the Old Testament Scriptures contained in this Gospel. Jewish words are explained (Ch. 3:17; 5:41; 7:11,34; 14:36); and also Jewish customs (Ch. 7:3-4;14:12; 15:42). Latin expressions are frequently used such as Legion, Centurion, etc. The Romans admired action, and this Gospel depicts the Lord as a worker.

SANCTIFICATION - Chapter 1:1-13

1. The Witness of John - Ch. 1:1-8
2. The Anointing of Jesus - Ch. 1:9-13

SERVICE - Chapter 1:14- 8:30

1. First Disciples and first work - Ch. 1:14 - 3:12
2. Appointed of Apostles and Extension of Labor- Ch. 3:13 - 6:6
3. Co-operating in Service - Ch. 6:7 - 8:30

SACRIFICE - Chapter 8:31-15:47

1. Anticipated - Ch. 8:31 -10:52
2. Approached - Ch. 11:1 -14:42
3. Accomplished - Ch. 14:43 -15:47

SERVICE RENEWED - Chapter 16:1-20

### **Luke**

Author: Luke

Time: 4 B.C. - 30 A.D.

Summary: The book of Luke gives us the most complete look at the life of Jesus. Luke uses eyewitnesses as sources for his writings. He stresses Jesus' humanity and compassion as well as the power of the Holy Spirit and of prayer.

Theme - Jesus Christ as the perfect man

Key Verses:

*"When the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man." (Lk. 23:47)*

*"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. " (Lk. 19:10)*

Unique Features:

It was written particularly for Greeks who delighted in wisdom, beauty and system. Luke, therefore, tells the story of Jesus, unfolding his development in a systematic manner, setting the facts in chronological order in a manner not attempted by the other writers. Luke was an artist with the pen, drawing the portrait of Jesus as the perfect man. He followed up by writing the book of Acts (the Acts of the Apostles).

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THE SON OF MAN IN HIS HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS - Chapter 1 :1- 4:13

1. Prologue - Ch. 1:1-4
2. In the Days of Herod - Ch. 1:5 - 2:52
3. Thirty Years Later - Ch. 3:1 - 4:13

THE SON OF MAN AS PROPHET - KING IN GALILEE - Chapter 4:14 - 9:50

1. Introductions - Ch. 4:14- 9:17
2. Culminations - Ch. 9:18-50

THE SON OF MAN IN HIS JUDEAN/PEREAN MINISTRY - Chapter 9:51 - 19:27

1. In Judea - Ch. 9:51 -13:21
2. In Perea - Ch. 13:22 -19:27

THE SON OF MAN REJECTED AS ISRAEL'S KING - Chapter 19:28 - 23:56

1. Before the Arrest- Ch. 19:28-22:46
2. After the Arrest - Ch. 22:47 - 23:56

THE SON OF MAN GLORIFIED - Chapter 24:1-53

1. The initial Appearance - Ch. 24:1-8
2. Forty Days Later- Ch. 24:9-53

### **John**

Author: John

Time: 4 B.C. - 30 A.D.

Summary: The Book of John was written in order that men may believe that Jesus is the Son of God and consequently the Redeemer of all who believe in Him and the things concerning the Kingdom of God. John cites eight signs (miracles) to establish and prove this point, culminating in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. John is the only book of the four Gospels that does not cite any parables; instead John emphasizes Jesus as the manifestation of God.

Theme - Jesus Christ as the Word made flesh

Key Verse:

*"These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:31)*

Unique Features:

There are many key words in John's Gospel, and dominant throughout is the word "believe" which occurs over eighty times. This word implies a belief that has developed into faith or conviction. As such, this Gospel was written for believers. They are enabled thereby to perceive the inner strength of Jesus, and to see his faith also came from a greater source, even God. Another peculiarity is the frequent use of the word "Jew." It is only found once in Matthew, twice in Mark and in Luke, but over sixty times in John.

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John concerns himself more with the Judean ministry which Matthew and Mark hardly touch upon, and he records only eight miracles (which he terms "signs") that set in sequential order the whole purpose of God in Christ.

Prologue - Chapter 1:1-18

The Beginnings of Jesus' Ministry - Chapter 1:19-51

Jesus' Public Ministry - Chapters 2 - 11

The Passion Week - Chapters 12 - 19

The Resurrection - Chapter 20:1-29

Closing and Epilogue - Chapter 20:30 - 21:25

# Life and Death in the Bible

## WHERE DOES LIFE COME FROM?

The formation of life is outlined for us in the first couple of chapters of the book of Genesis in the account of creation. The verse to note especially is found in Genesis 2: 7,

*"The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. "*

Another similar description of "life" can be found in the account of the flood, in Genesis 7:21. Here it describes the living beings which died in the flood.

*"All flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died."*

LIFE--> God supplies it through "the breath of life."

## WHERE DID DEATH COME FROM?

Death was not a part of the original creation. Everything God had made was deemed "very good." However, God did give one simple law to Adam and Eve in the garden:

*"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. " (Gen. 2:17)*

That promise was kept following the eating of the fruit by Adam and Eve. The curse of death was pronounced upon them by God in *Genesis 3:15-19*. Note especially the end of verse 19 where we have the familiar words, *"for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. "*

Though death was not originally part of creation, it now passed on to all men. This is brought out in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans in the 5th chapter. Verse 12 says,

*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"*

And later in verse 18 it says,

*"Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. "*

Genesis 5 shows that death now reigns because of sin. The persons listed in the generations of Adam are described by the phrase, *"and he died."*

Romans 6:23 says,

*"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

SIN--> Death is brought about as a consequence of sin and applies to all mankind.

#### WHAT HAPPENS AT DEATH?

Throughout the ages people have wrestled with this question. Everyone wants to know what lies beyond death. The Bible teaches that death is simply the REVERSAL of life. We turn to the book of Job for further testimony of this fact. . Job 33:4 reminds us that life is from God. It says,

*"the Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life."*

In the next chapter, verse 14 and 15 say,

*"If he (God) set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust."*

See also: *Ecc. 12:7; 3:18-20;*

Death likened to sleep: *Dan. 12:2; 1 Cor. 15:18,20; 1 Thess. 4:13-18*

#### WHAT LIES BEYOND DEATH?

In the prophecy of Daniel, in chapter 12 and verse 2 it is written:

*"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."*

The Lord Jesus Christ declared:

*"The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28-29)*

And Paul, in his defense before Felix, declared:

*"But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. " (Acts 24:14-15)*

See also: 1 Cor. 15 (note argument of verse 12);

John 6:39-40;

John 11:23-27

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## Terminology (Part 3)

PATRIARCH - Father and ruler of a family, Abraham & his immediate descendant.

*"Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils." (Hebrews 7:4)*

PSALM - music of a stringed instrument, by implication, a poem set to music.

*"Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works. " (Chron. 16:9)*

BLASPHEMY - Railing, evil speaking. To limit the power of God in any way.

*"Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven unto men." (Matt. 12:31)*

TEMPTATION - To try or tempt. A trial. The trial of man's integrity, virtue, constancy; also an enticement to sin, whether arising from the desires or from the outward circumstances.

*"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. " (1 Timothy 6:9)*

MEEK - Humble, lowly, submissive to God's power and control, forbearing.

*"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth. " (Numbers 12:3)*

ANTICHRIST - Those found in opposition to Christ. Can be singular or plural, as in antichrists.

*"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." (1 John 2:18)*

MEDIATOR - One who intervenes between two to restore peace and friendship.

*"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" (1 Timothy 2:5)*

MESSIAH - Anointed; the Hebrew form of the Greek word Christ

*"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. " (Daniel 9:25)*

### ***Terminology (Part 3)***

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PASSOVER - to pass over; connected with the final plague and Israel's deliverance from Egypt

*"And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover." (Exodus 12:11)*

SAVIOUR - One who saves; deliverer

*"The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence." (2 Samuel 22:3)*

ISRAEL - Israel meaning "a prince of God," was a name given to the patriarch Jacob; the family or descendants of Jacob; the nation of Israel.

*"And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." (Genesis 32:28)*

*"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:" (Hebrews 8:10)*

EXHORT - Beseech, comfort, entreat

"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. "  
(1 Thessalonians 4:1)

CHURCH - "called out ones," assembly, gathering of people

*"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. " (Matthew 18:17)*

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# WORKSHOP – SOUL

1 The English word for “soul” first appears in the King James Version in Genesis 2:7. Look up this word in Strong’s concordance. (*Remember Strong’s concordance lists all the English words in alphabetical order in the main part of the concordance. Once you have found the word, then find the passage; the passages are listed from Genesis to Revelation according to the table of contents.*)

2 What is Strong’s number for this word? 5 \_\_\_\_

FACT: There are 8,674 Hebrew and Chaldean words and 5,624 Greek words in the Strong’s dictionaries.

3 Look this number up in the Hebrew and Chaldee dictionary in the back of the concordance.

4 Write down the Hebrew word. n e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

5 What is the basic meaning of this word? (*the basic meaning usually appears right after the word, its pronunciation, and root words*)

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6 How else is this word translated? List examples which begin with “b” and “c”. (*After the explanation about the literal and figurative usage of the word, an alphabetic list of words occurs after a colon “:” indicating how the word has been translated in the King James Version.*)

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FACT: The Hebrew word “nephesh” occurs 752 times, and is translated 44 different ways.

7 In the English “soul” first occurred in Genesis 2:7. That word turned out to be number 5315 in Strong’s corresponding to the Hebrew word “nephesh”. We have determined that the word is translated into a large number of other words. One of these other words is “creature”.

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- 8 Look up “creature” in the concordance and look for the first two occurrences of the word with Strong’s number 5315 next to it. These will be examples of where “nephesh” is translated “creature”.
- 9 What does “creature” refer to in these places? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**FACT:** The Hebrew word “nephesh” is translated “creature” 9 times. However, the most popular words used are “soul” (475 times) and “life” or “lives” (120 times).

- 10 At this stage you would normally review the use of the word throughout the Bible. Since there are so many occurrences of “nephesh” lets look at just a few of interest. *(If you wish, you can review other occurrences later.)*
- “nephesh” refers to “people”.  
See Genesis 2:7 where it is translated “soul”
  - “nephesh” refers to “animals”. *(you have already seen this)*  
See Genesis 1:21 (creature),24 (creature),30 (life)
  - It can touch.  
See Leviticus 7:21 (soul)
  - It can eat.  
See Leviticus 17:12 (soul)
  - It can be killed.  
See Leviticus 24:17 (man),18 (beast)
  - It can die.  
See Ezekiel 18:4 (soul), Psalm 22:29 (soul)
  - It is identified with the blood.  
See Genesis 9:4-5 (life, lives)

- 11 Based on your findings, what would you say “soul” refers to in the Hebrew?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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FACT: The Hebrew word “nephesh” corresponds to the Greek word “psuche” which occurs 105 times and is translated “soul” (58 times) and “life” or “lives” (40 times).

*Note: If you wish, you can review the Greek occurrences later.*

12 Does the term “immortal soul” occur in the Bible? We know that “soul” occurs a large number of times, so it would take a couple of hours to check this out if we looked at every occurrence of “soul”. It would be easier to look up “immortal” and check for “immortal soul” since the occurrence(s) are far fewer.

**Review your findings on the word “immortal” in the workshop on page 52.**