

Reading the New Testament Well

Introduction, The Gospels and Acts



Step 1: Prayer



'I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.'

Ephesians 1:17 (NIV)

REVELATION



Step 2: Understand The Context of the New Testament



1. The Old Testament



22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). [Isaiah 7:14]

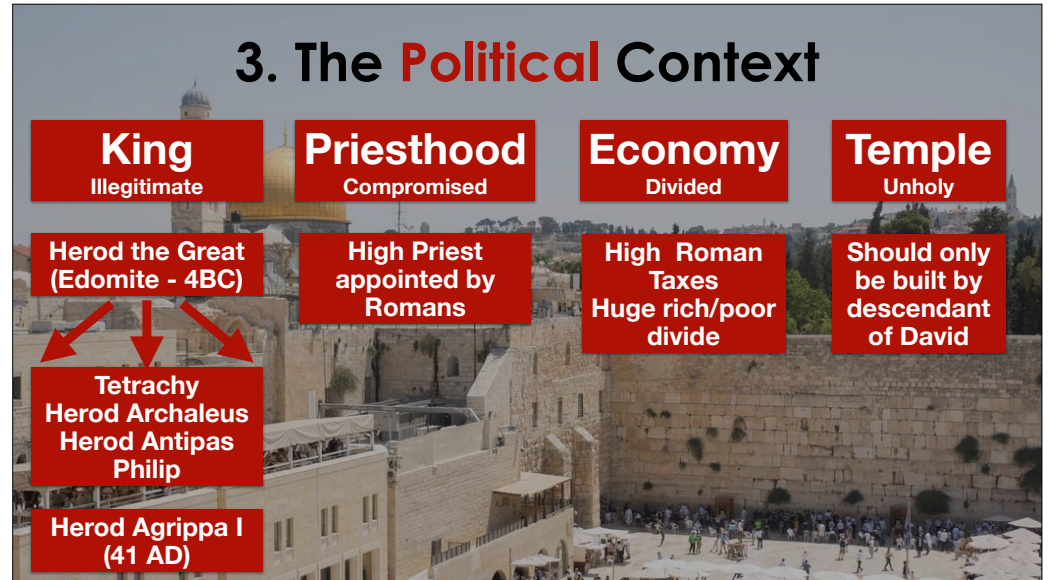
2. The **Historic** Context



3. The **Political** Context



3. The **Political** Context



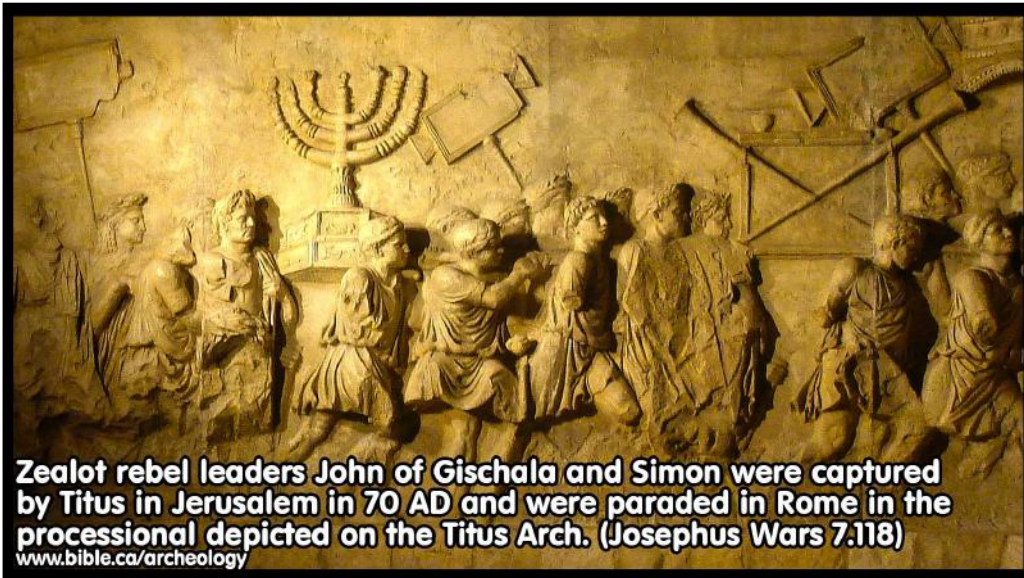


Riots & Unrest



Siege of Jerusalem

Temple destroyed & City looted - AD70



Zealot rebel leaders John of Gischala and Simon were captured by Titus in Jerusalem in 70 AD and were paraded in Rome in the processional depicted on the Titus Arch. (Josephus Wars 7.118)
www.bible.ca/archeology

4. The **Social** Context



Sadducees

*Conservative
ruling class
Compromise*

Pharisees

*Renewal
Movement
Independence*

Zealots

*Fighters
Sharpen Swords
(and pray!)*

Essenes

*Isolationist
It's all broken*

Romans

*Power
Keep the taxes
flowing*

How would each group respond to Jesus?

5. The **Messianic** Hope

True **Freedom**

Overthrow Oppressors
& Cronies

Remove Compromised
Monarchy & Priesthood

True **Worship**

Rebuild Temple

Glory of God returns

“An anointed one (Davidic King) who would,
'purge the earth of wickedness, gather faithful Israel together,
and reign forever from the throne of David over a transformed earth.' ”
(Ladd: Theology, p. 137.)

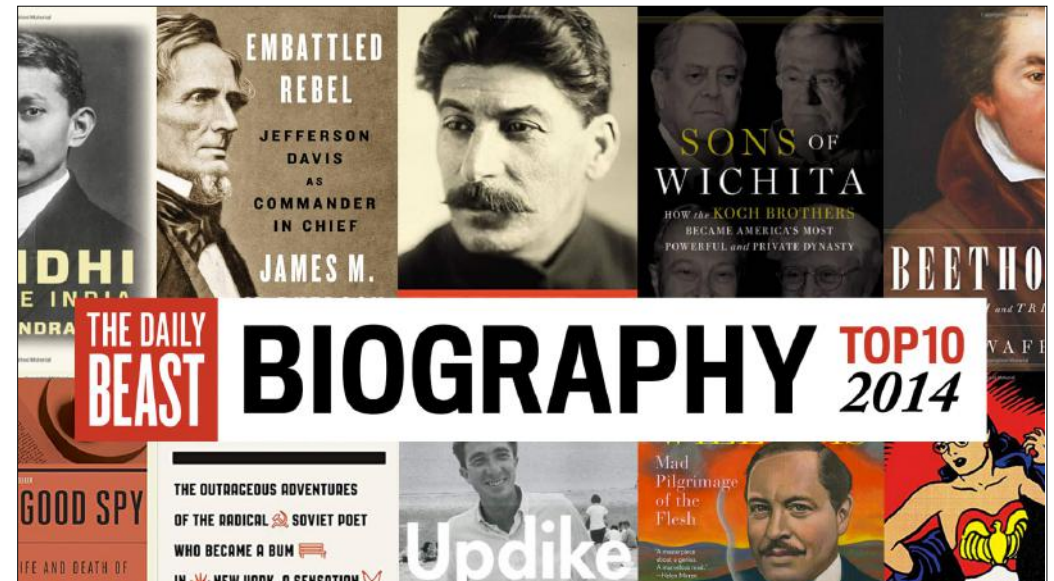


The Gospels and Acts

εὐαγγέλιον

euangelion / good news

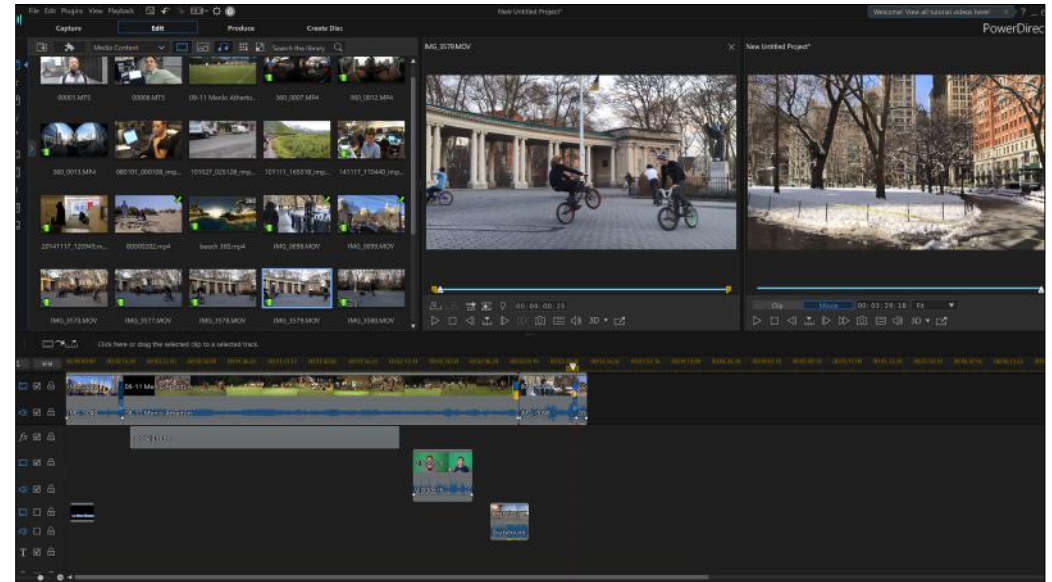
(Old English: god-spel)



'Theological biographies'

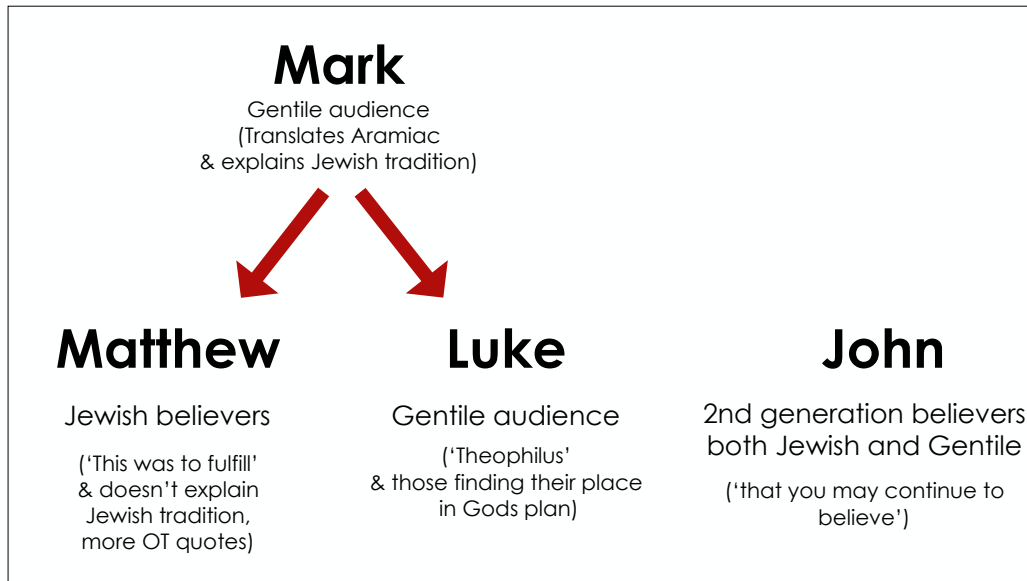
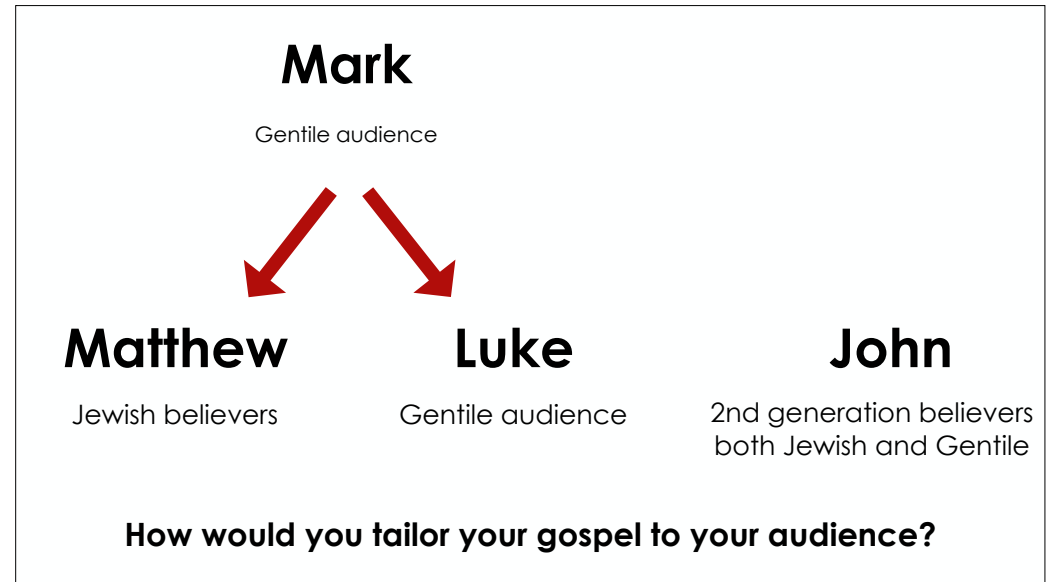
'Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.'

John 20:30-31



**What problems can this
cause us?**

**Similarities &
Differences**



	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Author	Matthew (Levi) (The Apostle & Tax Collector)	John Mark (Host of early church & early Missionary)	Paul's 'dear friend' Luke the Doctor' Col 4:14	John (The Apostle & Fisherman)
Key Sources	Mark, Himself Other witnesses	Peter, Other witnesses	Mark, Paul, Other witnesses	Himself Other witnesses
Purpose	Jewish believers (possibly thinking of going back)	Gentiles	Gentiles (possibly feeling out of place in the early church)	Encourage 2nd generation to keep on
Key Elements	Fulfilment, Jesus as Messiah & King The 5 great discourses	Urgent 'Who do you say I am'	Plan of Salvation Inclusion, The Spirit Verifiable	Glory! Sevens

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene — 2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

5 Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

6 And all people will see God's salvation.'"

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham....10 "What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

11 John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"13 "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

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The Kingdom of God / heaven



'The Kingdom is primarily the *dynamic reign* or *kingly rule* of God, and derivatively, the sphere in which the rule is experienced.'

George Eldon Ladd
A Theology of the New Testament

Resources

Dave Roderick:

<https://www.thecommunitychurch.net/talks/20180610/leadership-tgdek-lcb5g-nxdjw-f4cy2-xd6bn-44s83-5jdfp-lm2jb-r2tra-xsme6-zchsb-ascef-brzz4-fpzn9-wcwbj-8y82c-y56yr-7zns-k53tn-e87fa-w78sa-l3cdd-ec247-f5g2e-5s3n8-f9xf8-88rn9-rhz57>

Tim Mackie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yACigFnNKwg>

Bible Project:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/gospel-kingdom/>

Break?

H O R I Z O N T A L L Y

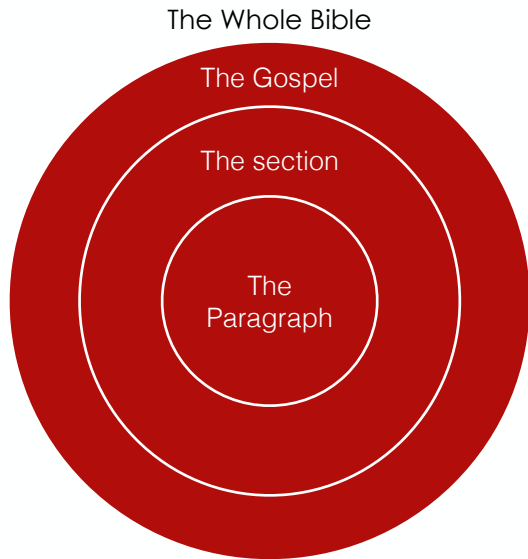
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'How to Read the bible for all its worth'
Fee & Stuart

Horizontally

Mark 13:14	Matthew 15:16	Luke 21:20-21
14 "But when you see	15 "So when you see	20 "When you see
		Jerusalem surrounded by armies,
the desolating sacrilege	the desolating sacrilege	then know that its desolation has come near.
set up where it ought not to be	standing in the holy place, as was spoken of by the prophet Daniel	
(let the reader understand),	(let the reader understand),	
then those in Judea must flee to the mountains;	16 then those in Judea must flee to the mountains;	21 Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains,

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Jesus heals a Woman and Jarius daughter
Luke 8:40-56

The Parable of the Sower

Luke 8:1-15

'After this....'



1. Path

- Unbelief

2. Rock

- Believe and then give up when things get tough

3. Thorns

- Believe but are choked by those around them

4. Good Soil

- Believe, put it into practice and bear fruit



The Lamp on a Stand

Luke 8:16-18

Jesus's Family

Luke 8:19-21

Don't just listen - put it into practice!

The Storm

Luke 8:22-25

- Hear but are choked by fear

Healing the Possessed man

Luke 8:26-39

- Hears and puts it into practice



Heals the woman

Luke 8:43-48



Heals Jairus' daughter

Luke 8:49-56

- they hear and put their faith into practice

Parables

'A story that entertains you at the front door
whilst the truth sneaks in through the back
door, creeps up,
and smacks you on the back of the head'

What is your favourite joke?

Empathy, Impact and **Response**

**What are the points of reference
designed to draw us in
and what did they mean then....**

What is the **turn?**

Can there be more than one target?

Debates about the real meaning!

Importance of knowing the culture for the full impact

Acts 8



Magician



Eunuch

Luke

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Grace for
Unexpected people

Holy Spirit

Prayer

Historically
grounded

Acts

Luke

Acts

Healing

'Pick up your mat'

Paralytic
Lk 5:17-26

Aeneas
9:32-35

Raised from the Dead

'Get up'

Jarius' daughter
Lk 8:40-56

Tabitha
9:36-43

The Death, Resurrection & Exaltation of Jesus

Described

Preached

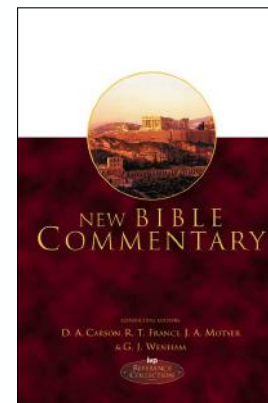
Suffering & the road to Confrontation

The road to
Jerusalem

The road to
Rome

H O R I Z O N T A L L Y

Resources



'New Bible Commentary'

D. Carson, R.T. France,
A. Motyer & G. Wenham

Resources

