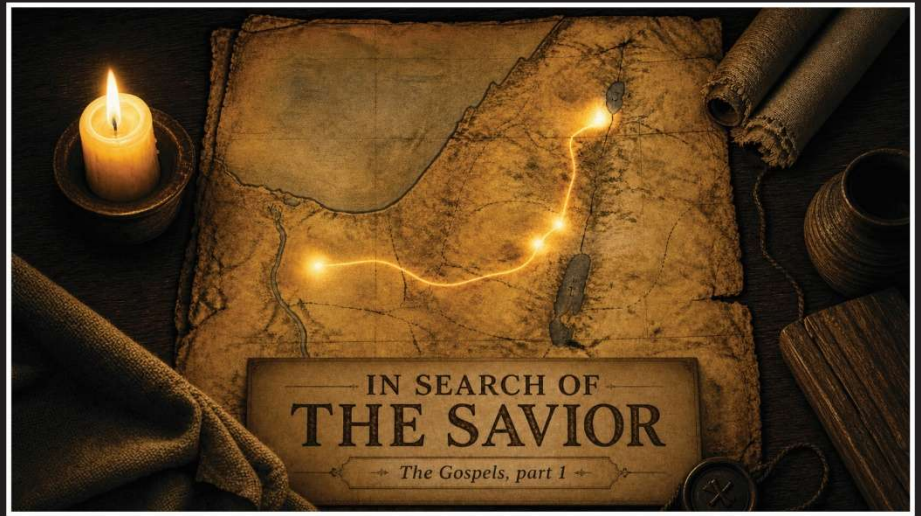


Midweek Study

Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor



Four Witnesses, One Story

Luke 1:1-4

"The four Gospels comprise about 46 percent of the New Testament, and when the Book of Acts is added, the figure goes up to 60 percent. The early church placed the Gospels at the beginning of the New Testament canon, not because they were the first books to be written, but because they are the foundation upon which Acts and the Epistles are built. The Gospels are at once rooted in and the fulfillment of the Old Testament, and they provide the historical and theological backdrop for the rest of the New Testament."¹

1 – MATTHEW (KING)	2 – MARK (SERVANT)	3 – LUKE (PERFECT MAN)	4 – JOHN (SON OF GOD)
1. WRITTEN BY? Matthew (Levi), tax-collector and one of Jesus' 12 disciples.	1. WRITTEN BY? Mark (John Mark), wrote down what Peter personally remembered about the life of Christ.	1. WRITTEN BY? Dr. Luke, a personal assistant of the Apostle Paul.	1. WRITTEN BY? John, the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ.
2. WRITTEN WHEN? 40–42 AD	2. WRITTEN WHEN? 60–63 AD	2. WRITTEN WHEN? 58–60 AD	2. WRITTEN WHEN? 96 AD
3. WRITTEN WHY? To present Jesus as the King of the Jews, the long-awaited Messiah.	3. WRITTEN WHY? To present Jesus as God's Servant who was actively helping people.	3. WRITTEN WHY? To present Jesus as the Perfect Man.	3. WRITTEN WHY? To present Jesus as the Son of God (not merely human)
5. KEY PHRASE: <i>Jesus Christ is King</i>	5. KEY PHRASE: <i>Jesus Christ is Servant</i>	5. KEY PHRASE: <i>Jesus Christ is the Perfect Man</i>	5. KEY PHRASE: <i>Jesus Christ is the Son of God</i>
QUICK FACTS • Sermon on Mt (ch 5–7) • Jesus Tempted (ch 4) • To JEWISH people • Lineage from Joseph	QUICK FACTS • More miracles in this book (even though shorter) • "Immediately" used 42x (showing action) • To ROMANS • PETER preached ONLY what he personally saw (that's why no birth or childhood) • 5 SERMONS put in writing (try reading the whole book out loud.) • Never intended to be a gospel.	QUICK FACTS • Luke interviewed people during 2 year imprisonment of Paul. • Gospel was intended for a non-Jewish audience (unlike Matthew). • Lineage from Mary • Obviously interviewed Mary ("Mary pondered these things in her heart") • Demonstrates Jesus' interest in outcasts from Jewish society. • Luke emphasized women's role in Jesus' ministry. • Work of Holy Spirit receives special attention in Luke. • He intended it to be accurate.	QUICK FACTS • Jesus is ETERNAL (John 1:1–18) • 92 % UNIQUE from the other three Gospels. • God came in the flesh (1:14)
FAST FACTS ON THE LIFE OF CHRIST			
 Born approx. 5 BC	 Ascended 30 AD	 Synoptic? Matt., Mark, Luke	 3 ½ year ministry
 Name "Jesus" means "The Lord Saves"	 Miracle in all 4 Gospels? Feeding of 5,000		

¹Wilkinson, B., & Boa, K. (1983). *Talk thru the Bible* (303). Nashville: T. Nelson.

Why We Can Trust The Gospels

Luke 1:1-4

3 PILLARS hold up our confidence in the account of Jesus:

I. Thorough **Research** (v.1)

"Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us,"

- Multiple sources
- Verified events

II. Eyewitness **Reports** (v.2)

"just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us,"

- They saw it themselves
- They served the Word faithfully

III. Careful **Record-Keeping** (vv.3-4)

"it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed."

- The record was precise (v.3)
- The record was purposeful (v.4)

Applications For Today:

1. You Can Hold Your Bible with Confidence.

2. Read All Four, Not Just Your Favorite.

3. Know Your Audience When You Share the Gospel.