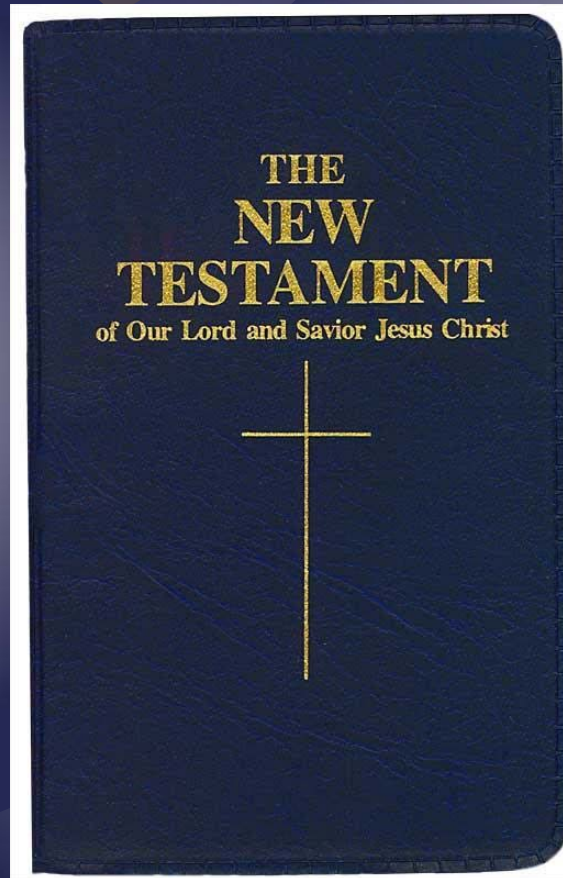
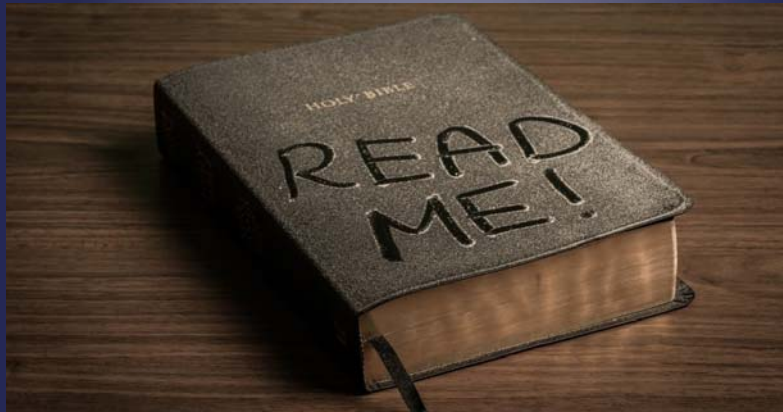


# Week One: What is the New Testament?



# Starters



- ⌘ Today's lesson is viewing the bible as a historical document. This is not a lesson about the inspiration of Scripture.
- ⌘ We need to have a basic map for how our bible was put together.
- ⌘ We must always play by the roles of genre when studying our bibles.

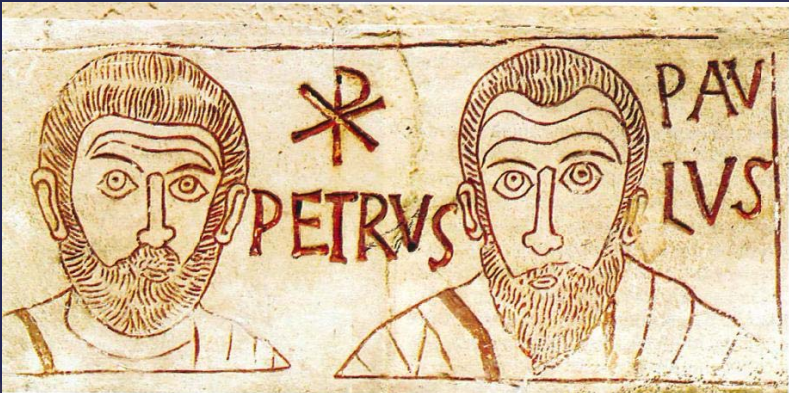
# Who wrote the New Testament?

- ⌘ Jesus did not write any books in the New Testament. One had to have connection with an Apostle to be authorized to write.
- ⌘ We have gospels (biographies of Jesus), apostolic letters, and collections of sermons that were edited (Hebrews and James are examples).
- ⌘ The diversity within the canon is a strength, in my opinion. There is not just one voice like Islam or Mormonism.



The Apostle Paul

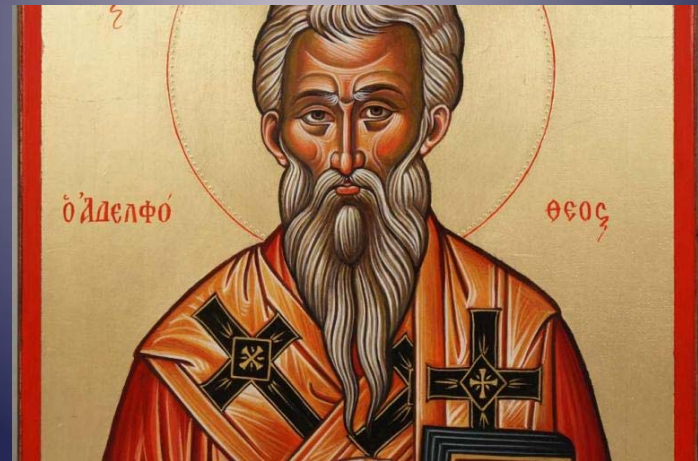
# Timeline of New Testament



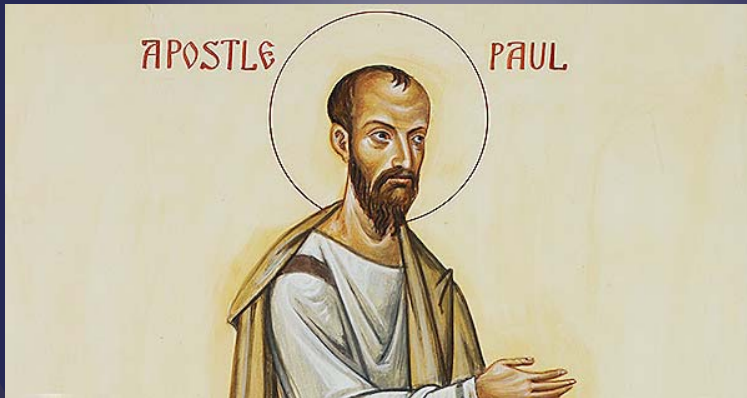
- ⌘ Gospels: Mark (mid 60's), Matthew (70 A.D.), Luke-Acts (75-85 A.D.) and John (80-90).
- ⌘ Paul's letters (48-65 A.D.), John's Epistles (90s), Hebrews (64-68), James (40s), Jude (mid 50s), 1 and 2 Peter (before 65) Revelation and 1,2,3 John (90s).
- ⌘ Notice the letters, mostly, predate the gospels!

# First Letter/document: James

- ⌘ James is our earliest letter in the New Testament.
- ⌘ Perhaps it is a collection of sermons that are edited to fit the form of a letter (I think Hebrews is another example).
- ⌘ James very much has an elevated status (Christology) of his brother Jesus.
- ⌘ Theology is underdeveloped and demonstrates a time when Christianity was very Jewish. Hence why Luther called James “the epistle of straw”.



# Paul the apostle



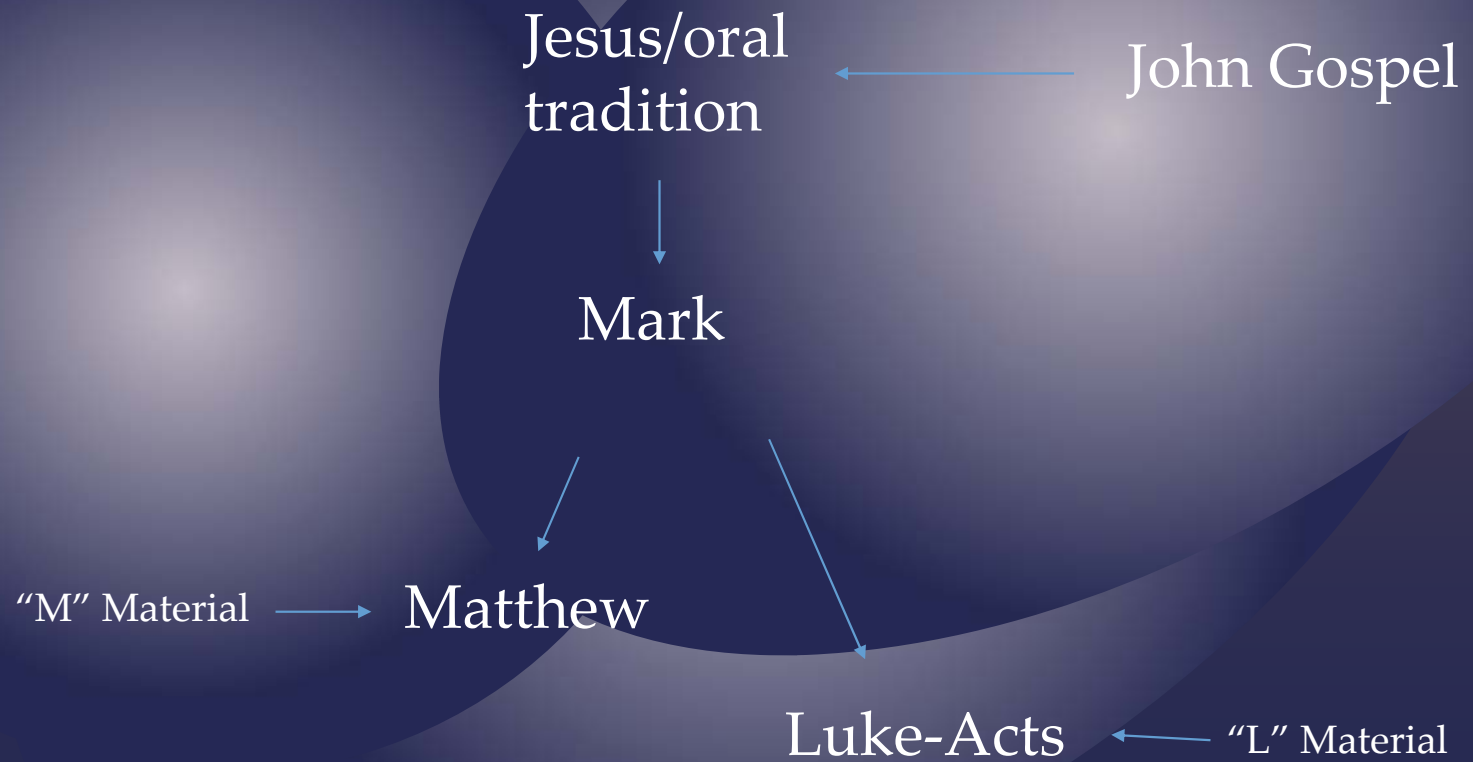
- ⌘ Paul invented “theology”. Romans would be the prime example. The Reformed tradition has followed within this tradition.
- ⌘ This is why you don’t find many Methodist systematic theologies.
- ⌘ We cannot underestimate how Paul shaped early Christianity. For example, he was a close companion of Luke. Paul’s letters and Luke-Acts makes up most of the New Testament!

# Biggest themes in Paul?

- ⌘ What is the biggest topic within Paul's letters? Justification! How does one have proper relationship with a holy and righteous God.
- ⌘ Table Fellowship: Jew and Gentile table fellowship is a huge theme within Paul's letters.
- ⌘ Paul the innovator: Paul was an excellent communicator. He learned how to spread the gospel to a diverse group of people.

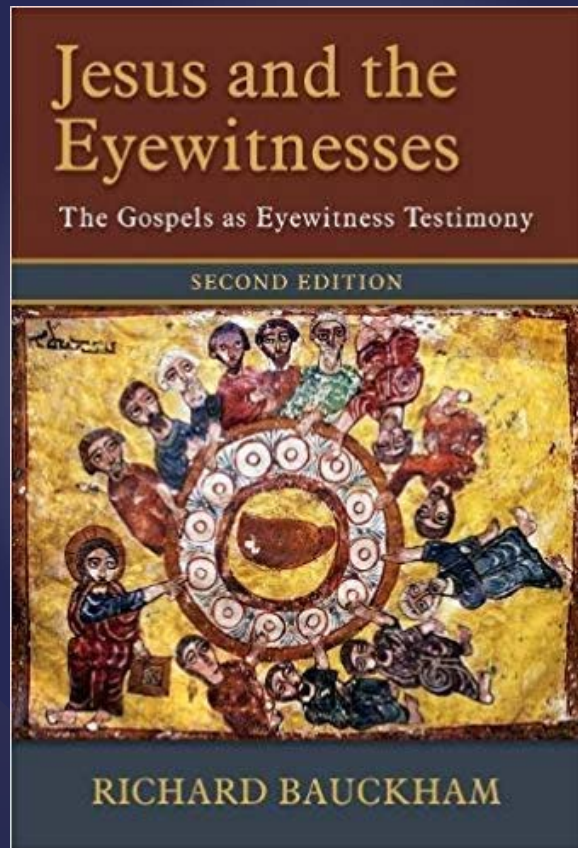


# Map of Gospels





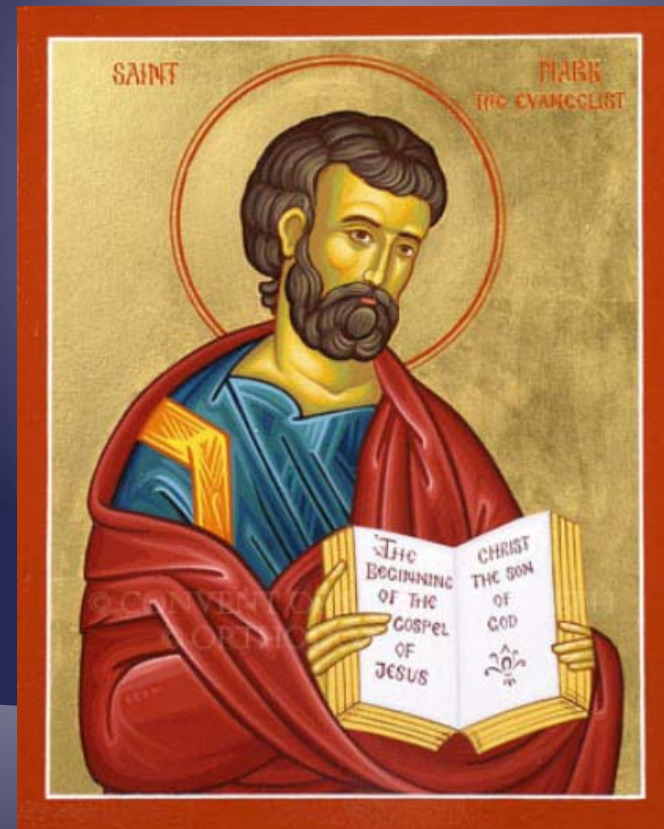
# Why a gospel?



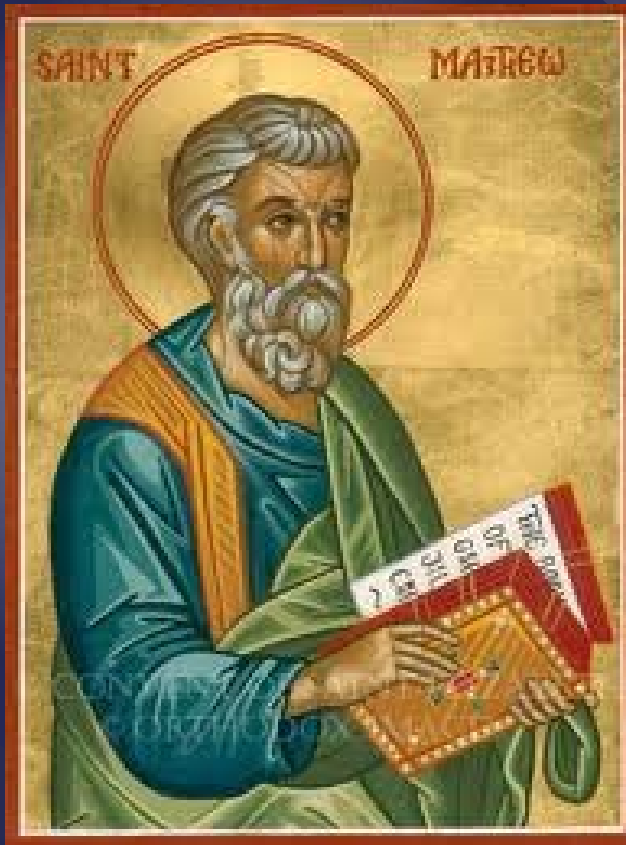
- ⌘ Why, historically, do we have gospels? Why are they later than the letters of our New Testament?
- ⌘ Answer: the eye witnesses were dying off. The Christian movement needed to preserve their stories of Jesus for future generations. The oral tradition needed to be handed down to future Christians such as us!
- ⌘ “Testimony should be treated as reliable until proved otherwise. “First, trust the word of others, then doubt if there are good reasons for doing so.” Richard Bauckham

# Mark's Gospel

- ⌘ Mark's gospel is action oriented. He uses the word "immediately" about every six to seven words!
- ⌘ Demons are some of the main actors. Jesus kingdom versus Satan's kingdom.
- ⌘ Focus is on the cross of Jesus. Perhaps Mark was written for early Christians to endure Nero's persecution.



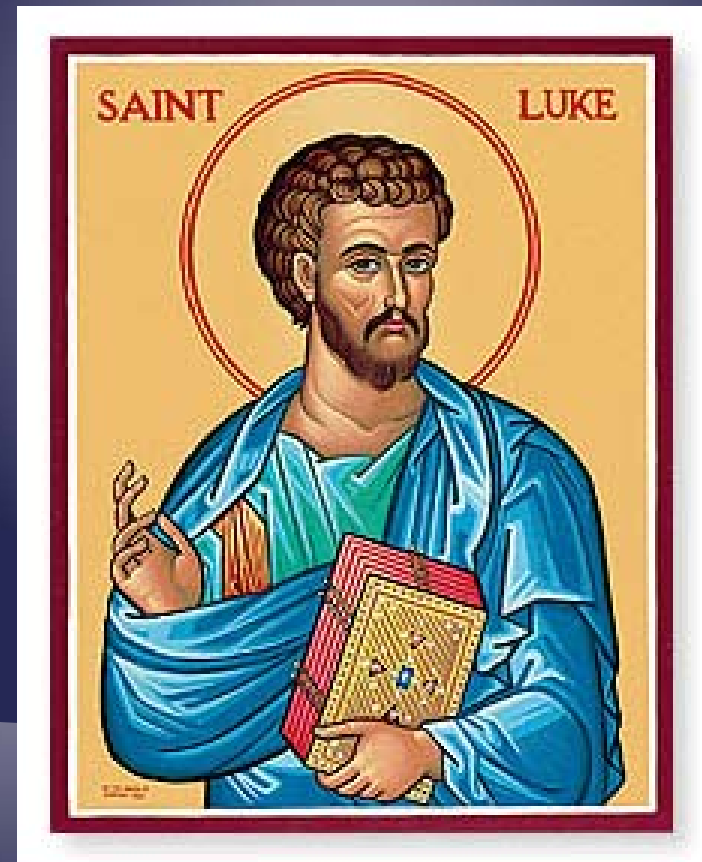
# Matthew's gospel



- ⌘ Matthew used Mark's gospel as a template and included his own material (named "M" material).
- ⌘ Jesus is portrayed as the new Moses who delivers people from their sin.
- ⌘ Jesus is portrayed as teacher over against prophet in Mark.

# Luke's Gospel

- ⌘ Luke uses Mark and Matthew and his special material named "L".
- ⌘ An example of "L" material? Luke chapter 15.
- ⌘ Luke's gospel is the most chronological of any gospel.
- ⌘ Special role given to the Holy Spirit.
- ⌘ Luke-Acts are meant to be read together.



# John's Gospel

- ⌘ Why is John's gospel so different than Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John? Location and date.
- ⌘ John's gospel was written in Asia Minor and is dependent on different sources. Prime example, Nicodemus.
- ⌘ John's gospel is written top down versus bottom up. John's prologue is a great example of his different writing style!

