

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*

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GOSPELS**Introduction Lesson 2**

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The link between the Old Testament and the New is plain. The first verse in Matthew speaks of David and Abraham. The second and third verses in Mark refer to the prophets, and quote from Malachi and Isaiah. The fifth verse in Luke mentions Abia and Aaron. The seventeenth verse in John speaks of Moses, and the twenty-first verse mentions Elijah. Evidently, then, something has gone before, to which these gospels are related, and without some knowledge of the OT they cannot be understood. The New Testament cannot be forced to stand alone or much of its truth will be lost to the reader. If we did not have the gospels, there would be no link between the types and the applications. If we did not have the Old Testament, the gospels would be an unsolved mystery. They would be the record of fulfillments of which there were no predictions. If we took away the epistles, that which comes before is rendered useless, for there would be salvation with no application.

Let us expand briefly upon this idea of the Bible as a complete unit. One can make little sense of Nehemiah, Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi without an understanding of what led to the captivity. The prophets at the close of the kingdom age - Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel - require an understanding of their predecessors - Micah, Amos, Habakkuk, Joel and Isaiah as well as Leviticus and Deuteronomy. How much would be lost from these earlier prophets if we did not have the history of Judges and Samuel. Samuel, Judges and Ruth leave much to be desired if we could not build them atop the Pentateuch.

When we come to the New Testament we find it written almost entirely on the foundation of the Old Testament. If we removed all the quotations from, references to, and allusions made to the Old Testament we would have little remaining of our New Testament and what did remain would be nonsensical.

As previously mentioned, I am not one who favors the theory that Matthew, Mark and Luke are from shared material and present one view of Christ, while John was written later and presents another or a second view. However, for study and consideration let us look at the basis for that position.

- In the three, the scene of Christ's ministry is mainly in Galilee but in the fourth, it is mainly in Judaea.

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- In the three, the ministry would appear to have lasted little more than a year, but in the fourth, three Passovers are recorded, so we know the ministry extended over several years.
- What is reported of Christ's teaching differs in these records. In the three it is often given in parables, but in the fourth there are no parables (unless the vine, and the good shepherd are regarded as such); but instead are discourses relating to the deep things of God.
- The three present the outward and earthly aspect of our Lord's life. The fourth sets forth the inward, and the heavenly.
- The three major on His deeds; the fourth on His words.
- The three reflect specially His humanity; the fourth, specially His divinity.
- Recalling our reference to the four creatures, three of them - man, lion, ox - are earth bound; one of them - eagle - soars in the heavens.

Below is a list of the order of the events found in the four gospel records relating to the crucifixion of Christ Jesus.

1. Jesus arrived at Golgotha (Matthew 27:33, Mark 15:22, Luke 23:33, John 19:17).
2. They offered Him a drink that would numb Him and lessen the pain, the same drink that was offered to all who were crucified. But Jesus refused to drink it (Matthew 27:34, Mark 15:23).
3. Jesus was nailed to the cross which was then lifted and placed in the hole that had been prepared for it. A thief was crucified on either side of Him (Matthew 27:35-38, Mark 15:24-28, Luke 23:32-38, John 19:18-24).
4. Jesus spoke His first words from the cross - *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do* (Luke 23:34).
5. The soldiers parted the garments of Jesus (Matthew 27:35, Mark 15:24, Luke 23:34, John 19:23).
6. The Jews mocked Him as He hung on the cross (Matthew 27:39-44, Mark 15:29-32, Luke 23:35-38).
7. The two thieves at first joined in the mocking, but later, one repented and believed (Matthew 27:44, Mark 15:32, Luke 23:39-43).
8. Christ's second word from the cross, *Verily I say unto thee. To day shall thou be with me in paradise*, was spoken to the penitent thief (Luke 23:43).
9. Jesus speaks for the third time; *Woman, behold thy son!...* as He gave the care of Mary into the hands of John (John 19:26-27).

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10. Absolute, total darkness covered the earth (Matthew 27:45, Mark 15:33, Luke 23:44).
11. Christ's fourth statement from the cross: *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34-36).
12. The Lord's fifth words; *I thirst* (John 19:28).
13. The sixth words of Jesus; *It is finished!* (John 19:30).
14. The seventh and final words of Christ from the cross: *Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit* (Luke 23:46).
15. Jesus dismissed His spirit (Matthew 27:50, Mark 15:37, Luke 23:46, John 19:30).

The following is a list of those facts relating to the crucifixion that all four gospels record.

Incident	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The betrayal	26:21,47	14:18,43	22:21,47	13:21; 18:3
Denial by another	26:69	14:66	22:56	18:17
Disciple's cowardice	26:51	14:47	22:50	18:10
Judged by priests	26:57	14:53	22:54,66	18:13,24
Condemned by Pilate	27:2	15:1	23:1	18:28-29
Barabbas chosen	27:21	15:11	23:18	18:40
Crucifixion	27:35	15:25	23:33	19:18
Jesus stripped	27:35	15:24	23:34	19:23-24
Jesus' death	27:50	15:37	23:46	19:30
Grave prepared	27:59	15:46	23:53	19:40-42
Resurrection	28:6	16:6	24:6	20:2, 10

Let us also make note of the appearances of Christ after His resurrection

1. To Mary Magdalene Mark 16:9-11, John 20:11-18
2. To other women Matthew 28:9-10
3. To Simon Peter Luke 24:33-35, 1 Corinthians 15:5
4. To disciples on the way to Emmaus Mark 16:12-13, Luke 24:13-32
5. To ten apostles and others (Thomas not present) Luke 24:36-43, John 20:19-25
6. To the eleven apostles Mark 16:14, John 20:26-31, 1 Corinthians 15:5
7. By the Sea of Galilee He appeared to Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James and John and two other of his disciples (John 21:1-14). Here we are told. *This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.*

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8. Jesus appeared to His disciples on a mountain in Galilee Matthew 28:16
9. To the apostles, and over 500 disciples in Galilee Mark 16:15-18, Matthew 28:16-20, 1 Corinthians 15:6
10. To James, the Lord's brother 1 Corinthians 15:7
11. He appeared to all of the disciples assembled together 1 Corinthians 15:7
12. To the apostles Luke 24:44-53, Acts 1:3-12, Mark 16:19-20
13. He appeared to the Apostle Paul Acts 9:3-6; 22:6-10, 1 Corinthians 15:8

The contents of the four gospels can be summed up by considering the words of Romans 1:1-4. They contain *the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.* This brilliantly gives us to see what is found in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

It is important that we note the gospels are primarily a historical record and do not contain the fullness of Christian doctrine. One cannot claim to follow the teaching of Christ and ignore the apostolic writings, for it was Christ Himself who promised a fuller revelation would be given through the Holy Spirit after He had ascended (e.g. John 16:12-14).

These additional revelations are said to be the fulfillment of the word of God (Colossians 1:25) and are called scripture in the very same sense that the writings of the Old Testament prophets are called scripture (2 Peter 1:20-21; 3:15-16).

It is incorrect to think that the gospels contain-all there is to Christianity just as it is incorrect to think that the Old Testament writings were God's full revelation to man. We must see in the gospels both the additional light shining on the old covenant (Romans 15:8, Matthew 5-7, Matthew 24-25) and the breaking of light upon the new covenant. While we rightly divide the word, no portion thereof can stand alone.

GOSPELS
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Name: _____

All answers must have scripture back-up to receive full credit

1. Show the verses in the gospels that depict the link to the Old Testament.

2. Explain why people believe in the synoptic view of the gospels.

3. How do you know that Jesus' ministry lasted 3 and a half years.

4. Why are there no parables in the book of John?

5. Which three books reflect the humanity of Jesus?

6. Match the following animals to its location, and explain its significance to the Lesson.

a. ox	heavens
b. man	earth
c. eagle	earth
d. lion	earth

7. Which book majors specifically on His words?

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8. Why do you think the accounts of the crucifixion are mentioned in all four gospels? Show scripture that will confirm your answer.
9. Why is it important to understand that no scripture can stand alone?
10. Explain the character of Jesus, depicted in each of the following books:
- Matthew
 - Mark
 - Luke
 - John

true/false

- Only archeologists need to read the genealogies in -Genesis, Numbers, Joshua, etc.
- Only when one understands the Greek and Hebrew, can they fully understand the Bible.
- When the Bible editors comment that verses in the KJV text do not appear in the most widely used manuscripts, they are liars.



Memory verses, write these out on the back of this page. (must be in KJV)
Colossians 1:25; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Peter 3:15-16.

any questions?