

| | Matthew | Mark | Luke | John |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Probably was written | 2nd (prior to 70 AD) | <i>Synoptic Gospels</i> | | 4th (80-100 AD) |
| | | 1st (58-60 AD) | 3rd (60-61 AD) | |
| Was a | Jew, customs officer, tax collector, highly educated, multi-lingual, knew shorthand. | Jew, secretary. Peter's friend and translator | Gentile, Physician, highly educated, Paul's best friend. Also wrote Acts. | Fisherman. Highly intelligent deep thinker, gifted writer. |
| One of Jesus' 12 Disciples? | Yes | No | No | Yes |
| Perspective | Publican view | Literal view | Human view | Common man view |
| Theme words or verse | Jesus is the Messiah of OT and King of the Jews (24:30) | The humanity (like us) of Jesus, yet the Son of God who forgives sins. | Jesus is the Great Physician ministering to those who are aware of their need. He came to save sinners (19:10) | So you may believe Jesus is the Christ...and have life (20:30-31) . |
| His name means | Gift of God | (Common Roman surname) | From Lucania | God is gracious |
| Presents Jesus as | Messiah | Servant | Son of Man | Son of God |
| Genealogy | Abraham (legal) | | Adam (bloodline) | Eternal (pre existence) |
| What Jesus | said | did | felt | was |
| Written to | Jews | Romans | Greeks (Gentiles) | Church |
| Ends with | Resurrection | Ascension | Promise: Spirit | Promise: return |
| Style | Groupings, not chronological | Snapshots | Narrative | Supernatural |
| Keyword | fulfilled (38 times) | Euthos (Truly) (42x) | It came to pass (40x) | Verily, verily (24x) |
| Symbol and ensign (Ezekiel 1:10) | Lion (Judah) The King | Ox (Ephraim) Burdon bearer/servant | Man (Reuben) Became man to save men | believe (100x) Eagle (Dan) Unique, intelligent, majestic |
| Camp side (Numbers 2) | east | west | south | north |
| Chapters | 28 | 16 | 24 | 21 |
| Passion Week | Chapter 26 on | Chapter 14 on | Chapter 22 on | Chapter 18 on |
| Interesting facts | The heptatic structure of Jesus' genealogy in chapter 1 proves the Holy Spirit's involvement. Precise and exact account of Jesus' words, due to his shorthand ability, and multi-lingual ability. Matthew (Levi) was a tax collector and hated by all Jews, so this writing, to him, had to be profound (and it is). His words were never quoted in the Bible, but his written work is one of the best. | John Mark was a missionary with Paul, and a companion of Peter. Mark copied down Peter's teachings which permeates the book with Peter's no-nonsense "blue-collar" lifestyle. Mark was probably a young teen during Jesus' ministry, and he probably was referring to himself in Mark 14:51-52. Mark's book is a "Fast-paced pastoral summary of Christ's teachings". | Written with the Gentile world in mind. Shows sympathy toward groups despised by Jews including women, Samaritans, Publicans, and social outcasts. Presents Jesus as a savior to all sinners. Luke conducted numerous interviews as an aid to writing this book. He was a meticulous detail-oriented historian, and was facts driven. | John was a meditative person, rather than a man of action like the others. An incredible memory and deep insights. The synoptic Gospels merely recorded the facts of Jesus, John gives deep insights to them, and their effects on the people. "Deeper Truth Gospel". Therefore, he calls Jesus' miracles "signs". Adds elements to support and help understand the Synoptic Gospels. Gives 7 emphatic "I AM" statements |