Books of the New Testament

Howard Culbertson
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Matthew</th>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Luke</th>
<th>John</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Incarnation Existence of Jesus</td>
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<td>1:1–3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus’ Birth and Childhood</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Temptation</td>
<td>4:1–11</td>
<td>1:12–13</td>
<td>4:1–13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary Miracle</td>
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<td>2:1–11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Judean Ministry</td>
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<td>(about 8 months)</td>
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<td>2:13 to 4:3</td>
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A harmony of the gospels

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<th>Matthew</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visit to Samaria</td>
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<td>4:4–42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galilean Ministry (about 2 years)</td>
<td>4:12</td>
<td>1:14</td>
<td>4:14</td>
<td>4:43–54</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to 19:1</td>
<td>to 10:1</td>
<td>to 9:51</td>
<td>6:1–7:1</td>
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<td>Visit to Jerusalem</td>
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<td>5:1–47</td>
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<td>Perean and Later Judean Ministry</td>
<td>19, 20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9:51</td>
<td>7:2</td>
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<tr>
<td>(about 4 months)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>to 19:28</td>
<td>to 11:57</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Last Week</td>
<td>21 to 27</td>
<td>11 to 15</td>
<td>19:29</td>
<td>12 to 19</td>
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<td>to 24:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Resurrection Ministry</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20 to 21</td>
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Matthew

- Link between Old and New Testaments
- Jesus is the true Messiah, the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies
- A Jew writing to fellow Jews
- Systematic use of Jesus’ sermons
- Key chapters: 5-7 – Sermon on the Mount
Mark

- The gospel of action (emphasizes works more than words)
- Writing to Romans
- Starts with John the Baptist
- Short and rugged gospel
Luke

- Written for Theophilus, a Roman official
- Christ is savior of every person, not Jews only
- Reflects doctor's heart
- Great joy
- Gospel of prayer
John

- Written to everyone
- Established deity of Christ
- Not so much on what Jesus did as what kind of person He was
- Great themes: light, life, love, truth, the Father-Son relationship
- John 17 -- High Priestly prayer
Gospel comparison

- Matthew is longest; Mark is shortest
- Only Matthew and Luke tell of Jesus' birth and childhood
Gospel comparison

- Geography of ministry:
  - Matthew and Mark: Galilean ministry
  - Luke: ministry in Perea
  - John: ministry in Judea
Acts

- Church history (acts of some of the Apostle – primarily Peter and Paul)
- Paul’s 3 missionary journeys
- Key chapters
  - Acts 2 – Day of Pentecost
  - Acts 15 -- pivotal decision
Romans

- Righteousness of God and salvation through faith
- Established Paul's credentials with church he had never visited
  - missionary fund-raising letter
- Luther / Wesley
1 Corinthians

- Serious problems and disorder in a divided church
- Immorality
- Order in services 13:1; 14:33
- Key chapter: 1 Corinthians 13 -- love chapter
2 Corinthians

• Paul defends his ministry as an Apostle and as founder of Corinthian church, profound concern for young Christians 4:5

• 5:20-21
Galatians

- Settle the debate: Must one submit to Jewish law, including circumcision, to become a Christian? (5:1)
Ephesians

- A prison epistle
- The grandeur of the Church
  - Body of Christ 1:23, 4:16
  - Temple of God 2:20-22
  - Bride of Christ 5:23-32
Philippians

- A prison epistle.
- Beware of legalism
- Live joyfully in Christ in the midst of adverse circumstances
Colossians

• Prison epistle
• Against Gnosticism (superior knowledge)
  – Believed in a ladder of deities
  – Asceticism (isolation from the world and all luxury)
• The deity and all-sufficiency of Christ
1 and 2 Thessalonians

- Eschatology,
  - Last things
  - Christ’s Second Coming
1 Timothy

- Care of the church at Ephesus
- Emphasizes godliness in a minister of Gospel
- Beliefs and feelings about Church administration
  4:12
2 Timothy

- Paul's final letter
- His dying shout of triumph
- Tells Timothy to stand by his faith and to live by high convictions
- “Last words from death row”
Titus

- Warns against counterfeit Christians
- Qualifications for church leaders
- Concerning churches at Crete
Philemon

- Letter from prison
- On behalf of a runaway slave, Onesimus
Hebrews

- Written to persecuted Christian Jews tempted to deny their faith
- Better: The superiority of Christ and faith in Him
- Key chapter: Hebrews 11 -- Faith chapter
James

- 1:27 Good works and pure religion
- The necessity of a living faith
- Exposes subtle sins
  - pride, gossip, aloofness, materialism and practical atheism
- Proving your faith by your works
1 Peter

- The Christian attitude or frame of mind in the midst of suffering
- Emphasis on holiness
2 Peter

- Affirms Second Coming
- Cries out against evils of heresy and teachers of error
- A prediction of apostasy
1 John

- A letter written from Ephesus
- If we are His, we will love one another and live righteously
2 John

- Denounces false and heretical teachers
- Walking in truth and love
3 John

- Vast difference between good and bad behavior
- Emphases:
  - Prayer
  - Faithful work in the Church
  - Christian integrity
- Hospitality toward itinerant ministers, v 11
Jude

- The faith once for all delivered to the saints
- A great doxology
- Immoral character of heretics
Revelation

• The grand finale
• Visions about the future
• Ultimate triumph of Christ and the New Heaven and New Earth