

BAC Podcast Notes

Episode 9: "The Gospels"

This week's episode covers the four New Testament Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

- "Gospel" means "good news" and refers both to Jesus' message of salvation and to the books in the New Testament that document Jesus' life and ministry

Overview of the Gospels

- Jesus is conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:18)
 - Jesus is fully God and fully man
 - Jesus does not inherit a sinful nature like the rest of mankind
- Jesus' life parallels Israel's in many ways
 - Escape from murderous threats
 - Pharaoh ordered all Israelite boys to be killed at birth (Exodus 1:16), but Moses escapes
 - King Herod orders all boys two years old and younger to be killed around Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16), but Jesus and his family escape
 - Escape to Egypt
 - Israel went to Egypt to escape a deadly famine (Genesis 46)
 - Jesus and his family go to Egypt to escape King Herod's threats (Matthew 2:14)
 - "Crossing" the Jordan
 - Israel crossed the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land (Joshua 3)
 - Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River before beginning his ministry (Matthew 3:13–17)
 - Wandering/Testing
 - Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years (Numbers 14:34)
 - Jesus is tempted by Satan in the wilderness for 40 days (Matthew 4:1–11)
 - 12 "Tribes"
 - Israel had 12 tribes (Genesis 49:28)
 - Jesus has 12 disciples or "apostles" (Luke 6:13)
 - In all these events, Jesus' life parallels Israel's history, but this time there is a different outcome
 - Jesus lives a sinless life and fulfills the Law Israel repeatedly failed to keep
 - Jesus performs many miracles and healings and casts out demons
 - Demonstrates the truth of his message
 - Shows that God's reign has come to earth
 - Foreshadows the New Creation
- Jesus doesn't meet the Jewish people's expectations of the Messiah
 - The Jews expect political and national gain from the Messiah, but Jesus spent most of his time
 - with a small group of men and claimed to be God
 - The Jewish religious leaders see Jesus as a false teacher who threatens their traditions and authority
 - Conflict with the religious leaders leads to Jesus being crucified by the Romans

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- Jesus’ death is part of God’s plan
 - Jesus takes the sin and brokenness of the entire world on himself
 - Jesus fulfills God’s righteous standard that Israel and all humanity failed to keep
 - After he dies, he rises from the dead, showing his victory over sin, death, and evil
 - Before ascending to heaven, he leaves his followers with the command to “Go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19)

Connection to the Rest of the Story

- Jesus is the Messiah predicted by the Old Testament—but he comes not to set Israel free from political oppression but to set humanity’s hearts free from sin
- By purchasing the salvation of the world, Jesus brings a blessing to all nations, fulfilling God’s promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:13)
- As the King who will sit on the throne of his Kingdom forever, Jesus fulfills God’s promise to David (2 Samuel 7:13)
- Jesus initiates a New Covenant (Luke 22:20), which replaces the “Old” Covenant God made with Israel at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19)

The Uniqueness of Each Gospel

- Each Gospel covers the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus, but each does so from a slightly different perspective
- **Matthew**
 - Written to a Jewish audience
 - Traces Jesus’ genealogy to David and Abraham
 - Focuses on how Jesus fulfilled many Old Testament promises and prophecies
 - Written to persuade his Jewish audience that Jesus is the predicted Messiah
- **Mark** (close associate of the Apostle Peter)
 - Written to a Roman audience (non-Jewish)
 - Focuses on the actions of Jesus
 - Portrays Jesus as a suffering servant
 - Seeks to teach his audience that those who follow Jesus must be willing to suffer
- **Luke** (close associate of the Apostle Paul)
 - Addressed to Roman official (Theophilus) and written to a Gentile audience (Luke was likely a Gentile himself)
 - Focuses on Jesus as the Savior of all people
 - Written through painstaking research—high attention to detail and commitment to chronological order
- **John**
 - Written for the world (most “general” audience)
 - Most theological of the Gospels
 - Focuses on the divinity of Jesus
 - Writes “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31)