

BOOK	MATTHEW (One of the Twelve Disciples)	MARK (Convert, accompanied Paul)	LUKE (Doctor, only Gentile author)	JOHN (Not Synoptic) (One of the Twelve Disciples)
DATE	60-65 AD	55-65 AD	60-63 AD	85-90 AD
AUTHOR	Matthew (tax collector, appointed by the Romans to collect taxes from the Jews)	Mark traveled with Peter and Paul on missionary journeys.	Luke was probably a physician	John was the disciple known as the "beloved disciple."
PURPOSE	To prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the eternal King.	To present the person, work and teachings of Jesus	To present an accurate account of the life of Christ and to present Christ as the perfect human and Savior.	To prove conclusively that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in Him will have eternal life.
RECIPIENT	Jews	Romans	Greeks and Gentiles	To anyone who would believe (John 1:12)
GENEALOGY	Writings take the Jewish reader back to "Father" Abraham and the Old Testament Covenant. Abraham was chosen by God to be the "father" of the nation of Israel	None (Starts with John the Baptist)	Back to Adam via Joseph's family (3:23-38)	Before creation begins. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God..." John 1:1
PRESENTS JESUS	Promised Messiah or King Jesus presented as a baby boy with a royal heritage.	Servant Shows Jesus as a powerful, working servant (man with no childhood or "royal" heritage) doing great deeds that no other man could possibly do. Jesus presented as going about the Father's business.	Divine Man (God-Man) Jesus as the Perfect Son of Man, saving all mankind. Begins by saying that he is writing a history based upon eyewitness accounts so that "you might know the certainty of those things...":	Divine Word of God John shows Jesus as the Christ and creator. An integral part of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son (Jesus) Holy Spirit)
SPECIAL FEATURES	Prophecies from the Old Testament and laws that Jesus gives about the kingdom (Sermon on the Mount). Preaches using parables of the Kingdom. He writes about the entire "Passion Week" showing the authority of Jesus the Messiah King.	Terse, orderly, uses "straightway" 50 times in the KJV to show Jesus' action and power. Miracles showing Jesus in action. Mark's gospel is straightforward and full of action.	Healings, parables or stories, humanity and universality for everyone (perfect man), miracles, sermons, prayers. Gives the Sermon on the Mount in story form... Greeks loved stories.	Gives spiritual discourses (talks, sermons) gives the healings and miracles which show that Jesus is the divine Son of God and Savior of the World.
CLOSING STYLE	Gives "The Great Commission" "Go ye therefore and teach all nations...and lo, I am with you allway, even unto the end of the world"	The Lord (Jesus) is in Heaven and his Disciples are still on earth and the Lord is working through them. Jesus is still working with them as faithful servant even though he has gone on to be with the Father.	Jesus is carried up into Heaven. The disciples worshipped him and were continually in the temple praising Him and worshipping him.	John writes that Jesus is so wonderful and powerful and did so many miracles and actions that "even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written about Jesus."