

Gospel of John (lesson 3)

This lesson looks at how the other three gospels start their accounts of Jesus ministry. All four gospels are needed to piece together the account. The four gospels are sometimes parallel with the same account in each but a different point of view. The gospel of John has the most unique accounts not found in the other three.

Matthew 1:1-16 lists the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to Joseph. He summarizes by:

Matthew 1:17

17 Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Luke 3:23-38 lists the genealogy of Jesus from Joseph all the way through Adam and back to God.

Luke 3:23

23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli,

Luke 3:38

38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

The Jews were very legalistic and the genealogy of Jesus was crucial to give him any credibility with the Jews. The lineage is very important because the Messiah is both priest and king.

Mark starts his account with a quote from Isaiah being fulfilled by John the Baptist preparing the way for the Messiah. His account then goes through the baptism of Jesus by John and the temptation of Jesus in the desert.

Luke starts with the prophecy of John the Baptist's birth and the interaction between Mary and Elizabeth. John's father was Zechariah a priest. That made John a priest, and we see that Mary was cousin to Elizabeth and also in the priestly tribe of Aaron.

John 1:15

15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"

In human terms, John was physically older than Jesus. We find out this fact from Luke 1:24 – 38. John understood his assignment. He was to wake the people from their spiritual slumber and to present or identify the Messiah. John recognized his creator in contrast to the bulk of the Jews in John 1:10, 11. The Old-Testament prophets cried aloud, to show people their sins; this New-Testament prophet cried aloud, to show people their Savior.

Gospel of John (lesson 3)

John 1:16, 17

16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

The law given through Moses could only convict of sin, the sacrifices only covered up the sin, it could not remove the sin. The grace and truth of Jesus brought true salvation and the remission of sins. Grace is unmerited favor giving us salvation when we do not deserve it. What truth do we need from Jesus? Jesus is the truth that counteracts the lies of the devil.

John 1:18

18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

Jesus made God the Father known to man. How does this truth make a difference in your life?