

BIBLE 101 – Lesson Four

Between the Testaments and Preparation for Understanding the Gospels

The Gospels are the account of Jesus' life which includes: birth narratives, age 12 at temple, temptation-baptism and beginning of 3 years of ministry age 30-33, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension. The gospels inform us about what Jesus did (where he went, miracles he performed) and what he said (teachings). They also inform us about what others did in relation to Jesus and what others said to and about Jesus. It is important to understand Jesus' life from a first century Jewish perspective. Each of the four gospels tells the story of Jesus' life from a different perspective:

Gospel	Disciple?	Audience/ Focus
Matthew	Yes?	Jewish audience / OT prophetic fulfillment
Mark	No	Roman audience / emphasis on action and servanthood
Luke	No	Intellectual audience / Jesus' humanity, journalistic history
John	Yes	Global audience / evangelism, God-among-us

Things to consider:

- 400 years between testaments
- Political climate
- Geography:
 - Nazareth in Galilee
 - Samaria
 - Judea
 - Jews in other regions
- Religious climate (Jewish Sects):
 - Sadducees
 - Pharisees
 - Scribes
 - Essenes
 - Zealots
 - Christians (The Way)
- Temple
 - Location
 - Layout
 - Sanhedrin
 - Corruption
 - Pilgrim Festivals
 - Surrounding Area

