

# Bethel Bible Series

## *A Light in the Darkness*

### New Testament Week 7

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - How do you explain the good news of Jesus Christ to others?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

## **Review of Last Week** - *Jesus the Savior*

Jesus the Savior

Did God send Jesus to save the Jews?

Isaiah 49:6

Are all of God's people going to join Him in heaven?

Matthew 7:13-14

What is this narrow road, the only true way to eternal life in heaven?

John 14:6

Picture Concepts

*Great Waterfall*

*Broken Boats*

*Person Clinging to Cross*

*Large Pointed Rock*

*Second Pointed Rock*

*Third Pointed Rock*

*First Grave*

*Second Grave*

*Third Grave*

*Cross Spanning Chasm*

*Ascending Stairway*

*Pathway to Placid Lake Scene*

## **Lesson** - *A Light in the Darkness*

Purpose of the Gospels

Were the gospels intended to tell the complete history of Jesus?

John 21:25

Why were the gospels written?

John 20:30-31

Luke 1:1-4

Mark 1:1

Matthew 28:19-20

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### Mark (John Mark)

- First and shortest of the four Gospels
- Mark was Peter's "interpreter" and wrote down what Peter said about Jesus
  - Christians gathered in Mark's home for prayer while Peter was in prison
  - Peter called Mark his "son" and went to Mark's home when freed from prison
  - Mark joined Paul & cousin Barnabas on Paul's first journey as far as Perga
  - With Barnabas on second journey; With Paul, and later Peter, in Rome
- Written to Gentiles while Mark was in Rome
  - Hebrew expressions and Jewish customs are explained
  - Uses Latin and Roman terms when Greek might be unfamiliar or confusing
- A Gospel of Action
  - Emphasizes Jesus' deeds rather than words
    - Includes few parables but most of Jesus' miracles
  - Uses the word "immediately" 41 times
  - Uses "and" frequently to keep stories moving
    - (29 of the 35 verses in the Greek of Chapter 3 begin with "and")
  - Records Jesus' Actions (*Crossways 42*)
    - Ministry took place in and around Galilee, Jerusalem only at end of ministry
    - Anointed at baptism as the Messianic King in the form of a Servant
    - Miracles fall into four groups:
      - Isaianic signs (fulfillment of Isaiah prophesy - healing)
      - Miracles over nature
      - Miracles over the demonic realm
      - Miracles over the power of death

### Matthew (Levi)

- Tax collector under Herod Antipas of Galilee
  - Only apostle called individually (statement to Christ's grace)
  - Tax collectors were despised and rejected by the Jews
  - Education and intelligence were required for tax collectors
- Written for Jewish Christians
  - Serves as a bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament
  - Demonstrates that Jesus is the promised Messiah
  - Focuses on Jesus as fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy
    - Quotes 50 times from OT, alludes to OT passages 70 more times
  - Presents Jesus as the New Israel (*Crossways 44*)
    - Taken into Egypt,
    - Anointed at baptism,
    - Tempted 40 days in wilderness,
    - Gave God's Law in Sermon on the Mount,
    - Lived role of Davidic King in the form of a Servant,
    - Exiled for sins of the world through death on the cross,
    - Returned from exile in the resurrection,
    - Promised His presence and His return in glory.

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### Luke

- The longest and most literary of the four Gospels
  - Combined with Acts, accounts for 25% of the NT, more than Paul's letters
- The only Gentile to write a New Testament book
  - Paul's "beloved physician" and companion on his journeys
  - Contracted by Theophilus to write a full and orderly account
  - Written in a polished Greek style, translates Aramaic and Latin words to Greek
- Gospel of Contrasts
  - the rich man and Lazarus
  - the Pharisee and the publican
  - the prodigal and the elder brother
  - Mary and Martha
  - the penitent and the impenitent thieves on the cross
  - the Messiah of the Jews and the Savior of all mankind
- Comparison with Matthew and Mark (*Crossways 45*)
  - Infancy narrative - Matthew and Luke
  - Passion Predictions - Each has three (*numbers indicate chapters*)
  - Post-resurrection appearances - Galilee in Mt & Mk, Jerusalem in Mt & Lk
  - Ascension - Only Luke
  - Synoptic (*seen together, with the same eyes*)
    - Similar structure, same geography and time plan, same passion histories

### John (Son of Zebedee)

- Last written and most theological of the four Gospels
- John was "the disciple whom Jesus loved"
  - Wrote Gospel in old age, before writing Revelations
- Written around themes, not chronological (A spiral, not a straight line)
  - 92% of its material is unique, not included in the synoptic gospels
    - Most of Jesus' time is spent around Jerusalem
  - 20% of its material is devoted to the upper room scene
  - 39% of its verses recount lengthy sermons
  - Written to strengthen Christians, not as a missionary appeal
  - John displays Jesus' humanity, and reports unmistakable claims of His deity
  - The language is richly symbolic
    - Common words are given deep theological meaning and used repeatedly
- The Identity of Jesus (*Crossways 46*)
  - Important titles are given to Jesus already in Chapter 1
  - Jesus replaced the "foundation stone" of the temple where God and man meet
  - Jesus' titles climax with Thomas' confession that Jesus is Lord and God
  - The first 12 chapters show that Jesus replaces Jewish institutions and feasts
  - Jews said that resurrection, judgment & eternal life come at the end of time
    - Jesus said the believer can possess them here and now in this life

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*Dark Clouds Over Earth*  
Isaiah 8:20-22

*Manger Scene*  
Isaiah 9:1-2, 6

*Light Surrounding the Christ Child*  
John 12:46  
John 1:4-9

*Cross and Thorns*  
John 3:19-21  
John 12:35-36a  
Mark 15:33

*White Clouds and Beam of Light*  
Genesis 50:20  
Colossians 1:12-14

*Infant Hands and Crucified Hands*  
Luke 23:33

*Golden Crown*  
Luke 23:42-43  
2 Peter 1:11

*Ring of Light Encircling Globe*  
John 8:12  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
1 Peter 2:9

Closing Prayer

Summary

Distribute Materials

Next Week - *The Empty Tomb*