

Who is Jesus?

John 1

Gospel According to Matthew
Gospel According to Mark
Gospel According to Luke

} Synoptic Gospels

Gospel According to John

Synoptic: “See together with a common view; literally: “together sight”

- Cover many of the same events – mostly in Galilee region
- 90% of Mark is in Matthew; 50% of Mark is in Luke
- Chronical the life of Jesus

John

- Makes the case for the IDENTITY of Jesus.
- Mission toward: Cross...Resurrection...Ascension
- Persuasive on the truths of Christ
- Theological; thematic
- “That you may believe” ... and may have life in His name”

NOT in John	IN John
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Narrative parables• Transfiguration• Lord’s Supper• Casting out demons• Jesus’ temptations• Olivet Discourse• Jesus’ baptism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water into wine• Nicodemus• Resurrection of Lazarus• Private interactions w/ disciples• More ministry in south (Judea, Samaria)• Explicitly identifies with God; “I am” statements• <u>Images</u>: life/death, above/below, light/dark, truth/lies, sight/blindness, vines/branches, wind, water, bread, shepherds, Word made flesh

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

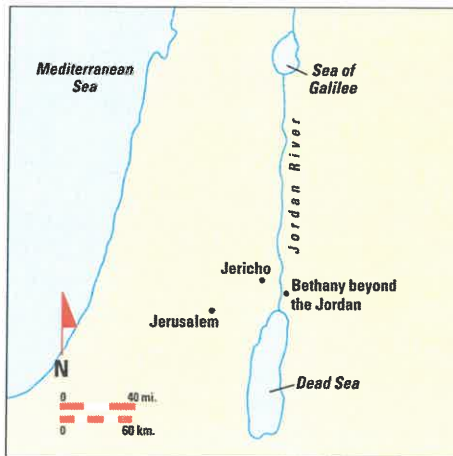
¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

THE WORD	
HEBREW CULTURE	GREEK CULTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agent of creation; powerful creation activity <i>By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. (Ps 33:6)</i> <i>And God said, "Let there be," [light, water, earth, expanse, animals, etc...] Gen 1</i> • God's <u>message</u> to His people • <u>Law</u>; standard of holiness • <u>God</u> Himself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Logos" – Nature is ordered & rational • Impersonal • A rhetorical device that uses logic, reasoning & factual evidence • An eternal and unchanging truth, present from the time of creation, available to anyone who seeks it. • The meaning of life is to contemplate & discern its order

Can we pick out John's many descriptors of Jesus (The Word)?

The Prologue – Who Jesus is

Verses	Description
1-3	Pre-existence of Logos or Son; Jesus was <u>with</u> God and <u>was</u> God All things were made by Jesus
4-5, 9	Jesus is the true source of life & light Light is rejected by darkness, yet not quenched by it
10-11	World made by Jesus; world saw Jesus; yet did not know Jesus
12-13	By Jesus' will, gave some the right to be His children
14	The Word (Jesus) became flesh; dwelt with us; showed His glory; is the only son of God
16	From Jesus, we received abundant grace
17	Jesus fulfilled the Law so we can have grace
18	Jesus broke the barrier; we can see God the Father -- in Jesus



The Testimony of John the Baptist

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about

yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

"Are you Elijah?"

Malachi 3:1

3 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 4:5 [Last verse in Old Testament]

⁵ "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Jesus, Himself, confirms that John the Baptist fulfills the typology of Elijah

Matthew 11

Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

**""Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'**

¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

SIMILARITIES [John the Baptist & Elijah]:

1. Edgy; bold message to disobedient people; irresistible authority; extraordinary stature
2. Appearance
3. Both fed by wildlife
4. Spoke out to religious leaders of the day
5. Both suffered from depression & doubt at the height of persecution

“Are you the Prophet?”

Deuteronomy 18: 15-18 [Moses speaking to the people]

A New Prophet like Moses

¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Behold, the Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”