

2019-2020 Bible Study

#3

9/24/19

Introduction to the Early Church

The Early Church

- The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ 0-33 A.D.
 - Infancy
 - Public Ministry
 - Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension
- Beginning of the Kingdom of God (the early Church) 33-100 A.D.
 - Apostolic Era and the beginning of the Oral Tradition 33-100 A.D.
 - Pentecost 33 A.D.
 - The conversion and the missionary journeys of Paul 44-58 A.D.

The Early Church (Cont)

- Council of Jerusalem 50 A.D.
- Beginning of the Roman Persecution by Nero 64 A.D.
- Martyrdom of Peter and Paul 64-67 A.D.
- Fall of Jerusalem 70 A.D.
- Death of John (the last Apostle) – 100 A.D.

Books of the New Testament

- 4 Gospels
- 1 Acts of the Apostles
- 21 Epistles
- 1 Revelation

Titles for Jesus

- Son of God
- Son of Abraham
- Son of David
- Son of Joseph
- The carpenter
- The rabbi

The Early Church (Cont)

- Transmission of the Faith
 - Apostolic Fathers
 - Fathers of the Church
 - A few great theologians and apologists
 - Writings of the Saints
 - Augustine
 - Thomas Aquinas
 - Pope St. John Paul II
 - Father Romano Guardini
 - F. J. Sheed
 - Father John Hardin
 - Archbishop Fulton Sheen
 - Bishop Robert E. Barron

The Explosion of Christianity

- 12 Apostles
- Grew to over
2.2 Billion Christians
- In the World by 2010

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels

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Outline for Intro to Synoptics

- Types of biblical criticism (Methods of Bible Study)
 - Source criticism
 - Form criticism
 - Literary criticism
 - Historical criticism
 - Narrative criticism
- Great young scholars
- Definitions
 - Synoptic
 - Gospel

Outline for Intro to Synoptics (Cont)

- Questions to be posed when reading one of books of the Bible
 - Who is the author?
 - Who was his audience?
 - What was the purpose of him writing to that audience?
- Highlights of the synoptic gospels
 - Matthew
 - Mark
 - Luke
- Infancy narrative
 - Matthew
 - Luke

Types of biblical criticisms

- **Source criticism** – searches the text for evidence of original sources
- **Textual criticism** – examines the text and its manuscripts to identify what the original text would have said
- **Form criticism** – seeks to classify units of scripture into literary patterns (poems, parables, sayings, elegies, legends) and trace each to its period of oral transmission (JEPD)
- **Literary criticism** – focuses on the literature's structure, authorial purpose, and reader's response to the text

Types of biblical criticisms

- **Historical criticism** – (also known as the historical-critical method or higher criticism) is a branch of literary criticism that investigates the origins of ancient text in order to understand "the world behind the text"
 - **Jesus Seminar** – a group of about 50 critical biblical scholars and 100 laymen founded in 1985 who were active through the 1980s and 1990s and into the early 21st century. The **Seminar** used votes with colored beads to decide their collective view of the historicity of the deeds and sayings of **Jesus of Nazareth**

Types of biblical criticisms

- **Narrative criticism** - the main thesis is that readers of the gospels should read the narratives and respond to them as the authors hoped

A few great young scholars

- Father Sebastian Carnazzo
- Tim Gray
- Brant Pitre
- Edward Sri
- Scott Hahn

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke)

- Synoptic:
 - To be looked at together
 - Lined up in columns, compared, or contrasted because they are so similar
- Gospel
 - From the English word *godsel* “Good News”
 - From the Hebrew *bsorah*
 - From the Greek *euangelion*
- A term found in the Old Testament meaning the information brought from the battlefield by a runner related to victory in battle

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- Isaiah - *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings **good news, tidings***” (Isaiah 52:7)
 - This was about “salvation”(being saved from your enemies, restoration of the kingdom)
 - In the New Testament, it is about being **saved from sin and death**

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- For every book in the Bible, you need to ask three questions:
 - Who is the author ?
 - Who was his audience ?
 - What was the purpose of him writing to that audience ?

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- Matthew
 - Tax collector and Apostle known as Levi
 - Jewish Christians in Jerusalem and Judea
 - To attract other Jews to the New Way
- Mark
 - Young secretary to Peter in Rome
 - Jewish and Gentile members of the church in Rome
 - Provided a copy of Peter's message
- Luke
 - Medical doctor and traveling companion of Paul
 - Gentile converts to Christianity in Asia Minor
 - Helped Paul bring others to Christianity

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- The Infancy Narrative of Jesus is presented in
 - **Matthew 1-2**
 - Genealogy
 - Betrothal
 - Birth in Bethlehem
 - Visit of wise men
 - Flight to Egypt
 - Killing of innocents
 - Return to Nazareth

Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels (Cont)

- **Luke 1-2**

- Zechariah's Encounter with Gabriel
- Call and fiat of Mary
- Mary's journey to Elizabeth and birth of John
- Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem
- Birth of Jesus in cave
- Visit of angels and shepherds
- Presentation of Jesus
- Loss of teenage Jesus for three days

The Gospel according to Matthew

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Outline to Intro of Matthew

- Setting the stage for a Jew living in 65 A.D.
- The call of Matthew by Caravaggio
- Author
- Composition
- Canonicity
- Structure
 - Chiasm

Setting the Stage

- You are a 30-year-old 1st Century Jew
 - Living in Jerusalem in 65 A.D.
 - Married with a family
 - Working as a shopkeeper
 - Attempting to live a “righteous life”
 - Curious about “the new way” of Judaism including:
 - Who is the Rabbi *Joshua*, son of *Joseph* the carpenter, from Nazareth
 - The rumor that he is the long awaited “Messiah”

Setting the Table for 65 A.D.

- 26-36 Pontius Pilate was 2nd Roman Governor
- 30 Jesus was crucified and the early church began
- 33 First Deacons were appointed
- 35 Stephen was martyred
- 37 Christian worship spread to Antioch
- 38 Paul flees Damascus
- 41-44 Herod Agrippa I ruled in Jerusalem
- 42 James was beheaded (by Agrippa II)

Setting the Table for 65 A.D.

- 44 Paul was brought to Antioch
- 45 Paul visits Jerusalem to help with famine
- 44 Paul begins 1st missionary journey
- 48-49 Herod Agrippa II ruled Jerusalem
- 49 Jews expelled from Rome by Claudius
- 50 Apostles and Paul meet for 1st council
- 64 Emperor Nero begins persecution of Christians
- 66-70 Jewish Revolt
- 68 Peter and Paul martyred