



**Reading the Bible
in a Year
—chronologically**

OCTOBER

JESUS COMES: THE FOUR GOSPELS

MATTHEW			
A.	In Galilee	Chapters 1-4	Introduction to Jesus' ministry
B.		Chapters 5-7	1st Discourse: <i>The Sermon on the Mount</i>
C.		Chapters 8-9	Miracles of healing
D.		Chapter 10	2nd Discourse: <i>The commissioning of the Twelve</i>
E.		Chapters 11-12	Jewish rejection of John and Jesus
F.		Chapter 13	3rd Discourse: <i>Parables of the kingdom</i>
G.	Going to Jerusalem	Chapters 14-17	Miracles; controversy; Peter's confession; transfiguration
H.		Chapter 18	4th Discourse: <i>The church: humility and forgiveness</i>
I.		Chapters 19-22	Jesus in Jerusalem
J.		Chapters 23-25	5th Discourse: <i>Judgment and the end of the age</i>
K.		Chapters 26-28	Jesus' final days, death and resurrection

After 400 'silent years' between the testaments, the *New Testament* begins with the ministry of the forerunner of Jesus, *John the Baptist*.

Focusing quickly on Jesus himself, the *four Gospels* describe his life and ministry from four different angles, which we will merge into one another to get a consecutive account.

MARK		
A.	1:1-13	Introduction
B.	1:14 - 3:6	Early ministry in Galilee
C.	3:7 - 6:13	Later ministry in Galilee
D.	6:14 - 8:30	Withdrawal beyond Galilee
E.	8:31 - 10:52	Journey to Jerusalem
F.	Chapters 11-13	Ministry in Jerusalem
G.	Chapters 14-15	Suffering and death
H.	Chapter 16	Resurrection

Matthew wrote for *Jewish* readers to help them understand Jesus in the light of their national heritage. He includes many OT quotations, as well as allusions which only Jews would understand (like a reference to the Temple Tax), and structures his Gospel around five major speeches of Jesus—probably a deliberate echo of the five books of Moses.

Mark, by contrast, was written chiefly for a *Roman* readership who had no existing knowledge of God or

the Old Testament. It is the shortest of the four Gospels and full of action and movement.

Mark himself had been a follower of Jesus as a young man. He was later a close associate of *Peter*, who was the source of much of the material included in Mark's Gospel.

LUKE		
A.	1:1 - 9:50	Christ's COMING from heaven to earth
B.	9:51 - 24:53	Christ's GOING from earth to heaven

Luke wrote his Gospel for a *Greek* readership. Luke himself was a Gentile, of Greek origin, with an exceptional command of the Greek language. He was not himself an eye-witness of the events he describes, but had done meticulous *research* in order to present an

orderly account of the life and ministry of Jesus.

He explains Jewish places and customs—that Capernaum was 'a town in Galilee', for example—for the benefit of his non-Jewish readers and says little about the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, which would have meant nothing to them.

John wrote *after* the other Gospels and with a knowledge of them, so he set out to

complement rather than repeat them. He writes for *all Christians*, to assure them of the deity of Christ and to encourage their faith in him.

JOHN		
A.	Chapters 1-12	Jesus: his PUBLIC ministry
B.	Chapters 13-21	Jesus: his PRIVATE ministry