

Monday Night Discipleship: Introduction and Synoptic Gospels

Overview:

- I. Introduction/Review
 - II. Carson and Moo: What are the Synoptic Gospels? (Chapter 1-2)
 - A. What are the Synoptic Gospels?
 - B. How did they come into being?
 - C. What style of literature are the Gospels?
 - D. What do the Gospels tell us about Jesus's life?
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- I. Introduction/Review:
 - A. What is the Bible?
 1. It's a unified book, a collection of writings-
 2. Uniquely inspired-
 3. Authoritative-
 - B. Important terms regarding the Bible's truthfulness:
 1. Inerrant/Inerrancy-
 2. Infallible/Infallibility-
 3. Inspired-
 4. Neo-orthodox-
 5. Trustworthy, True, Authoritative-
 - C. What's the purpose of the Bible?

D. How are the 66 books of the Bible organized?

1. Divided into two testaments-
 2. Organized Topically by Genre
 - a) Old Testament
 - (1) Law - (Genesis-Deuteronomy)
 - (2) Historical - (Joshua-Esther)
 - (3) Wisdom Literature - (Job-Song of Songs)
 - (4) Prophets- (Isaiah-Malachi)
 - (a) Major Prophets- (Isaiah-Daniel)
 - (b) Minor Prophets- (Hosea-Malachi)
 - b) New Testament
 - (1) The Gospel- (Matthew-John)
 - (2) The Acts of the Apostles- (Acts)
 - (3) Epistles- (Romans-3 John)
 - (a) Paul's Letters- (Romans-Philemon)
 - (b) General Letters- (Hebrews-3 John)
 - (4) Apocalyptic- (Revelation)

E. What is the Verbal Plenary Theory and what makes it different from the other views of Biblical inspiration?

The Verbal Plenary Theory- This view affirms that there exists a _____ authorship in the writing of the Bible.

F. What does the term 'canon' mean?

Canon- a _____ list of Scriptural books that God gave His Church, set apart by their uniquely authoritative and uniquely inspired qualities. These Scriptural books were received by the early church as a collective body and distinguished by their apostolic authorship or by apostolic association.

G. What was the standard for the 66 books of the Bible to be recognized as canonical?

1. Old Testament- There is _____ information about the recognition of the Old Testament canon.

2. New Testament- In order for ancient writings to be considered part of the New Testament canon, they needed to be Apostolic, Catholic, and Orthodox.
- Apostolic- _____ by an apostle or directly affiliated with one.
 - Catholic- “widely, if not universally, recognized by the _____.”¹
 - Orthodox- each book in the canon _____ with each other in sound doctrine in accordance with the writings of the apostles.

H. Can more books be added to the canon? Why or why not?

II. Carson and Moo: What are the Synoptic Gospels? (Chapter 1-2)

A. What are the Synoptic Gospels?

- This term refers to the Gospel according to _____, _____, _____.
- ‘Synoptic’ - “seeing _____”

| | Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) | John |
|-----------|--|---|
| Structure | Jesus’s ministry is structured by geographic sequence. | Jesus’s ministry in Jerusalem while he makes repeated visits in the city. |
| Content | Similar events: healings, exorcisms, and teaching ministry | John does not include exorcisms, Synoptic parables, nor does John include important events found in the Synoptics |
| Tone | Intense and swift action- | More meditative and less events about Jesus, but more on the teachings of Jesus |

¹ Robert L. Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 59.

B. How did the Synoptics come into being?

1. Important questions:

2. The three stages:

a) Oral Traditions: Form Criticism- assesses the period when the words and actions of Jesus were passed on simply by _____
_____.

b) Written Sources: Source Criticism - the goal of source criticism is to pinpoint which written _____ the gospel writers used when writing the synoptics.

(1) Common Dependence Theories- theorizes that the synoptic authors wrote independently from one another, but used _____ common source.

(2) Interdependence Theories- theorizes that the synoptic authors used one or more of the other _____ accounts to write their account.

(a) Matthean Priority- In this view, Matthew was written first, then Luke used Matthew to write his account, and then Mark used both Luke and Matthew for his account.

(b) Markan Priority- In this view, Matthew and Luke independently wrote from one another, but used Mark as well as an unknown source referred to as Q.

(3) Two Important Caveats:

(a) The limitations of human explanation-

(b) These are working theories, not final conclusions-

c) Final Composition: Redaction Criticism - assesses the theological _____ why they used these sources in the way they did.

C. What style of literature are the Gospels?

1. The Early Church-

2. Biography-

D. What do the Gospels tell us about the historical outline of Jesus's life?

1. It is somewhat possible to construct a historical outline, but this was not the intent of gospel authors-
2. It is somewhat possible to harmonize the gospel accounts, but this was not the intent of the gospel authors-
3. It is somewhat possible to estimate dates within Jesus's life because of well-known historical people recorded in secular history- because of historical people like: Cesar Augustus, Herod Antipas, and Pontius Pilot, we are able to arrive at these dates in Jesus's life²:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Jesus's birth | 6-4 B.C |
| The beginning of Jesus's ministry | A.D. 28-29 |
| The length of Jesus's ministry | Roughly 2 years |
| The death of Jesus | Most likely Friday, Nissan 14 or 15, A.D. 30; or April 3, A.D. 33 |

R.E.A.P.

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the

² D.A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo, *Introducing the New Testament: A short guide to its history and message*, ed. Andrew David Nasselli (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 19.

