

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November – New Testament Historical Books  
The Presence of the Kingdom

The promised King has come to earth bringing with him the truth that His kingdom will come on earth. See The Lord's prayer.

Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the Synoptic gospels.  
This means that they can be seen or taken together.  
All three point us to the King and His Kingdom

The gospel of Mark

Most of the gospel of Mark is believed to be copied by Matthew and Luke which means it is the earliest gospel. NB Only 24 verses from Mark do not appear in Matthew and Luke!

Mark grew up in the hub of the life of the early church Acts 12:12

Peter refers to Mark as “my son Mark” 1 Peter 5:13  
Peter was the source of Mark's eye witness account.  
He gives vivid details eg. Jesus sleeping on a cushion 4:38  
Quotes some of Jesus' aramaic words e.g 5:41  
Shows Jesus' human emotions e.g 8:12 6:34  
This is not to diminish Jesus' divinity – He begins the gospel with “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God”  
It's a simple, down to earth, straight forward account. e.g Jesus the carpenter 6:3

His relationship with Paul – from this (Acts 15:36-40 ) to this (2 Timothy 4:11)

The gospel of Matthew is written by a Jew for Jews

Emphasizing Jesus Son of David e.g Matthew 1:1

16 times he repeats “ to fulfill what was spoken by the prophets” e.g 1:21-23

His aim is to convince his fellow Jews that Jesus is the promised Messiah

Much teaching on the Kingdom, it's rules -(the Sermon on the Mount) and what it looks like -(the parables) It's not easy to describe a spiritual realm. It's like seed, a net, yeast, a banquet etc.

Gospel of Luke is written by a gentile for gentiles  
He's a doctor who writes “an orderly account”

Main emphasis is that the Kingdom of God is for everyone

He shows us more about the character of the King e.g Prayer is important, as are women, the poor and outcasts. Maybe this also shows us something about Dr. Luke

Jesus said “the Kingdom of God is within you” Luke 17:21

In all 3 of the synoptic gospels we see Jesus sending out his disciples with these instructions,  
”Preach the Kingdom and heal the sick”

John is the gospel that is different  
Sometimes referred to as the spiritual or theological gospel  
He wants us to understand truth at a deep level

He writes after the other gospels and gives us a better idea of the length of Jesus' ministry  
Jesus overlapped with John the baptist and ministered for about 3 years.

Jesus is God's Son, truly divine, yet fully man. The Word became flesh. He laid aside his divinity

Jesus says, If you have seen me you've seen the father John 14:9 & 8:28

John gives us the most in depth teaching on the Holy Spirit, the person who is to replace Him on earth. John 14, 15 and 16

The Holy Spirit is the key to the continuation of the Kingdom of God on the earth

The Acts of the Apostles (also written by Luke) is about the continuing ministry of Jesus because he's risen and is alive in us.

Luke writes at the beginning of Acts "In my former book I wrote about all that Jesus began.....

It is through the church that the Kingdom and the King's reign will continue to grow. How?

Matthew 28:18 Jesus sends us with His authority

Now we need power as well Read Acts 1:1-11 Disciples instructed to wait for the Holy Spirit v 8  
Over a period of 40 days He taught them more about the Kingdom v 3

Jesus as a man needed the Holy Spirit:-

Luke 3:22

.. 4:1

.. 4:14

.. 4:18

Acts 1:2

We need to be full of the Holy Spirit too 1:8

To fulfil His purpose – His Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven – we can walk in His authority and power. Where ever we go we have all the resources to be the Kingdom.

The apostles had the assurance of Jesus' return. The final restoration of His Kingdom on earth v.11

Throughout the Acts we see the Kingdom being preached and demonstrated by healing and miracles

We also see the beginning of persecution Acts 5,7 &12 for example

Jesus warned us that the more we live as His Kingdom people, persecution is to be expected

Matt.5:11 & John 15:20

Kingdom life is exciting and rewarding but not necessarily easy!

