

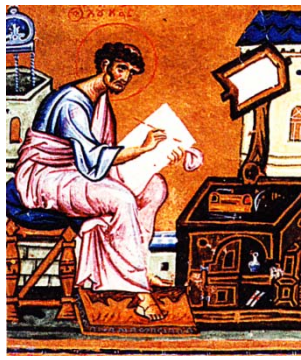



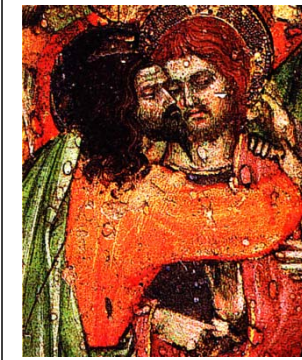




THE NEW TESTAMENT (27 BOOKS)					EXTERNAL SOURCES - HISTORIANS	
HISTORICAL BOOKS		LETTERS & EPISTLES		FUTURE EVENTS	TACITUS	JOSEPHUS
Gospels (Good News)	Life of Early Church	Paul's Letters	General Letters	Apocalypse	Roman 120 C.E.	Jewish 85 C.E.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew • Mark • Luke • John 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans • 1 & 2 Corinthians • Galatians • Ephesians • Philippians • Colossians • 1 & 2 Thessalonians • 1 & 2 Timothy • Titus • Philemon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews • James • 1 & 2 Peter • 1, 2, 3 John • Jude 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revelation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refers to Jesus being crucified under Pontius Pilate • Refers to followers of Jesus in many parts of Roman Empire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talks about Jesus' amazing teaching and miracles • Mentions Jesus appearing to the disciples after death

		THE ORTHODOX, OR CANONICAL GOSPELS (WINNERS)				GNOSTIC GOSPELS (LOSERS)		
		Archbishop Athanasius letter from 367: provided the first known list of the 27 New Testament books; told Christians to ignore the other books. (35, USN and WR Special Edition).				Emphasis on esoteric knowledge (gnosis in Greek) and self-knowledge as the path to salvation. The virgin birth, the Resurrection and other elements of the Jesus story are not literal, historical events but symbolic keys to a higher understanding. Found in 1945 in Nag Hammadi, Published in English in 1978.		
		SYNOPTIC GOSPELS – seeing with the same eye						
Oral Tradition	Lost Gospel of Q	Mark	Matthew	Luke	John	Thomas	Mary	Judas
Jesus 4 B.C.E. - 30C.E.	50-60 C.E.	70-75 C.E.	75-85 C.E.	85-95 C.E.	95 C.E.	60-92 C.E.	3 rd -5 th Century C.E.	4 th Century C.E.
<p>Almost as soon as the reports of the Crucifixion and Resurrection spread, Jesus's followers began to tell his story and eventually came to write it down. Here is a short overview of how – and in what order – it is now thought that the gospels proliferated</p>	<p>Over more than a century, scholars have reconstructed a hypothetical text based on a comparison of what is in the synoptic gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. Matthew and Luke both draw extensively from Mark in their accounts, as well as from some other source that scholars call the "Q" gospel, from the German word Quelle, meaning "source." No record of this text has ever been found.</p>	 <p>The shortest of all the canonical gospels, Mark is also thought by most scholars to be the earliest. Written as a narrative, it covers the time from Jesus's baptism by John in the River Jordan up to the Ascension. Included in this gospel are many of Jesus's sayings and parables, as well as the story of his miracles.</p>	 <p>Most scholars now think Matthew was written after the destruction of Jerusalem. His gospel depicts Jesus in a Jewish, messianic context, and includes a full account of his life and ministry, from birth to Resurrection, including the parables, the Sermon on the Mount, the miracles and the sayings.</p>	 <p>The author of this gospel also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. His narrative includes the story of Jesus's life from his birth to the Resurrection, his ministry to the poor, women and oppressed groups, and his miracles. It focuses on his teachings about salvation and fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.</p>	 <p>The last canonical gospel, John focuses more on spiritual themes rather than historical events and emphasizes the divinity of Jesus and his role as the Messiah. He does not include the parables and exorcisms and the Second Coming. However, John recounts private conversations between Jesus and his disciples.</p>	 <p>Unlike the four canonical gospels, which combine stories with sayings, Thomas is a collection of 114 sayings attributed to Jesus (including brief dialogues), supposedly transcribed by Didymus Judas Thomas, one of the Twelve. Some of the sayings contradict those found in the canonical gospels.</p>	 <p>Written in the form of a dialogue between Jesus and his disciples, this gospel depicts Mary of Magdala as one of Jesus's most beloved disciples, singled out by Jesus for special teachings and private revelation. She is a leader among the male apostles and comforts them when Jesus dies.</p>	 <p>The Gospel of Judas reveals Judas to be the most beloved and trusted of all the Apostles rather than the evil betrayer seen in the canonical gospels. In this version, paradoxically, he commits a supreme act of obedience and love by handing Jesus over to the detachment of soldiers to be crucified in accordance with God's will.</p>

¹ Sources of Information: "Mysteries of Faith. Secrets of Christianity." Copyright 2007. U.S. News and World Report. "Mysteries of Faith." Copyright 2003. U.S. News and World Report. "Resurrecting Jesus" in MacLean's. March 29, 2010.