

Gospels

THE MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST

A survey through the Bible 8 Week Study

- ▶ Purpose:

- ▶ An 8-week survey through the eight major sections of Scripture, revealing God's salvific plan in Christ as the central theme. Luke 24:26-27 Jesus explains how He can be revealed in the OT.

- ▶ Goals:

- ▶ Reveal God's plan through each section of Scripture
- ▶ Encourage a habit of Bible reading, as the continuity and chronology come into focus
- ▶ Allow personal understanding of the Word result in sharing His gospel

Gospels (Matthew – John)

- ▶ Matthew
- ▶ Mark
- ▶ Luke
- ▶ John

Gospels (Matthew – John)

- ▶ Timeline of writing: 60-90AD +/- 10 years
- ▶ Timeline of events: Events surrounding Jesus' birth to His ascension 4 BC – 33AD +/- 4 years
- ▶ Intertestamental Period (silent period) :
Context for Gospels

A Dark World Defined

- ▶ Confusing good and evil

A Dark World Defined

▶ Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who **substitute darkness for light and light for darkness**, who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

▶ Isaiah 5:20

▶ CSB

A Dark World Defined

- ▶ Confusing good and evil
- ▶ Without light, there is distress

A Dark World Defined

▶ When one looks at the land,
there will be **darkness and
distress; light will be obscured by
clouds.**

▶ Isaiah 5:30

▶ CSB

A Dark World Defined


▶ They will wander through the land, dejected and hungry. When they are famished, they will become enraged, and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. **They will look toward the earth and see only distress, darkness, and the gloom of affliction, and they will be driven into thick darkness.**

▶ Isaiah 8:21–22

▶ CSB

A Dark World Defined


- ▶ Confusing good and evil
- ▶ Without light, there is distress
- ▶ Progression leads to deeper darkness



▶ The Lord said to me, “Son of man, look toward the north.” I looked to the north, and there was **this offensive statue** north of the Altar Gate, at the entrance. He said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing here—more detestable acts that the house of Israel is committing—so that I must depart from my sanctuary? You will see even more detestable acts.” Then he brought me to the entrance of the court, and when I looked there was a hole in the wall. He said to me, “Son of man, dig through the wall.” So I dug through the wall and discovered a doorway.

▶ Ezekiel 8:5–16

▶ CSB



▶ He said to me, “Go in and see the detestable, wicked acts they are committing here.” I went in and looked, and there engraved all around the wall was every kind of abhorrent thing—crawling creatures and beasts—as well as **all the idols of the house of Israel**. Seventy elders from the house of Israel were standing before them, with Jaazaniah son of Shaphan standing among them.


▶ Ezekiel 8:5–16

▶ CSB

▶ Each had a firepan in his hand, and a fragrant cloud of incense was rising up. He said to me, “Son of man, do you see what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, **each at the shrine of his idol?** For they are saying, ‘**The Lord does not see us. The Lord has abandoned the land.**’ ” Again he said to me, “You will see even more detestable acts that they are committing.” Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the Lord’s house, and I saw women sitting there **weeping for Tammuz.**

▶ Ezekiel 8:5–16

▶ CSB



▶ And he said to me, “Do you see this, son of man? You will see even more detestable acts than these.” So he brought me to the **inner court** of the Lord’s house, and there were about twenty-five men at the entrance of the Lord’s temple, between the portico and the altar, with **their backs to the Lord’s temple** and their faces turned to the east. They were bowing to the east in **worship of the sun.**

▶ Ezekiel 8:5–16

▶ CSB

A Dark World Defined

- ▶ Confusing good and evil
- ▶ Without light, there is distress
- ▶ Progression leads to deeper darkness
- ▶ Pinnacle of spiritual depravity

Silent Period Between OT & NT

- ▶ God not providing special revelation
- ▶ Spiritual darkness
- ▶ Bondage physically and spiritually
- ▶ This is the spiritual climate and need when Jesus is born

Intertestamental Period (silent period) :

Context for Gospels

- ▶ From the creation of man to the 5th century BC, God spoke to man. He did this in many ways including direct speech, visions, dreams, angels, through prophets, and even animals. For the 400 or so years preceding the Gospels, however, God was silent.
- ▶ Jews live in the land, though it is not theirs
- ▶ Jews worship at the temple, though high priests are appointed by government
- ▶ Hebrew language has been replaced with Aramaic and Greek
- ▶ Babylonian captivity led to development of synagogues and religious factions have developed such as Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, etc.
- ▶ The land, language, culture, worship, freedom, etc. of Israel are not as God desired.

Gospels (Matthew – John)

- ▶ **Theological significance:**
- ▶ This section gets its name from the term gospel, meaning “good news.”
- ▶ The purpose is to present the good news of the Redeemer and Savior, Jesus.
- ▶ The Gospels provide a clear understanding for the hope in Christ.
- ▶ They present four portraits of Christ, allowing the reader to explore the very heart and mind of God.
- ▶ His words and actions provide understanding of exactly how God interacts with His creation.

God's plan revealed through the gospels:

▶ Matthew, Mark, Luke (Synoptics)

- ▶ These books hold a similar view, share many of the same stories

▶ Matthew

- ▶ Jewish audience
- ▶ Focuses on Jesus, the Teacher who fulfilled prophecy as King of the Jews

▶ Mark

- ▶ Roman audience
- ▶ Focuses on Jesus, the Servant of the Lord

▶ Luke

- ▶ Greek audience
- ▶ Focuses on Jesus, the Son of man (humanity of Jesus)

God's plan revealed through the gospels:

▶ John (Autoptic)

- ▶ This book holds a unique view, most of the stories are not found in the other Gospels
- ▶ Greco-Roman/gentile audience
- ▶ Focuses on Jesus, God in flesh (Deity of Jesus)

▶ Each portrait is relevant to various people and cultures today.

- ▶ Matthew – Those seeking a king to rule righteously and end suffering
- ▶ Mark – Those seeking a savior whose example we can follow
- ▶ Luke – Those who seek a savior they can relate to
- ▶ John – Those who seek a savior who has and will continue to destroy evil

How to Interpret:

- ▶ Utilize basic interpretive principles (OICA)
 - ▶ Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, Application
- ▶ Use these books to develop or sharpen your view of God, man, sin, salvation, etc.
 - ▶ When reading the Gospels, allow the text to answer “why would God...” type questions.
 - ▶ Rely on the text itself, not your memory of the events and teaching discussed.
 - ▶ Recognize the Holy Spirit’s involvement, inspiring each author to emphasize different aspects of a similar event or teaching.
 - ▶ Pay attention to the details surrounding the actions and words of Jesus, they allow you to understand why Jesus said/did what he said/did.

Analyze and apply a passage:

▶ John 5:1-15

- ▶ What happened?
- ▶ What was the miracle?
- ▶ Who was the audience that witnessed the miracle?
- ▶ What was the context surrounding the miracle (i.e. time, place, situation?)
- ▶ What was the response of the Jews, audience, and person who received the miracle, if applicable?
- ▶ What did Jesus demonstrate about His power by performing the miracle?



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