Gospels (Matthew – John)

Books in section:

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

Timeline of writing: _____ +/- 10 years

Timeline of events: Events surrounding Jesus' birth to His _____ 4 BC – 33AD +/- 4 years

Intertestamental Period (_____ period) Context for the Gospels:

A _____ world defined:

- Confusing good and evil
- Without light, there is _____
- Progression leads to _____ darkness
- Pinnacle of _____ depravity

Silent period _____ Old and New Testaments

- _____ darkness
- God not proving _____ revelation
- Bondage _____ and spiritually
- This is the spiritual climate and _____ when Jesus is born

Intertestamental Period (_____ period) Context for the 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 _____
- Jews worship at the temple, though high priests are _____ by government
- Hebrew language has been _____ with Aramaic and Greek
- Babylonian captivity led to development of synagogues and _____ factions have developed such as Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, etc.
- The land, _____, culture, worship, freedom, etc. of Israel are not as God desired.

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 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. These books provide a clear understanding for the hope in Christ.
God's plan revealed through the Gospels:

- Matthew, Mark, Luke (_____)
- These books hold a _____ view, share many of the same stories
  - Matthew
    - _____ audience
    - Focuses on Jesus, the Teacher who fulfilled prophecy as King of the Jews
  - Mark
    - _____ audience
    - Focuses on Jesus, the Servant of the Lord
  - Luke
    - _____ audience
    - Focuses on Jesus, the Son of man (humanity of Jesus)

- John (_____)
- 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 _____ to rule righteously and end suffering
  - Mark - Those seeking a savior whose _____ we can follow
  - Luke - Those who seek a savior they can _____ to
  - John - Those who seek a savior who has and will continue to _____ 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 Sprit'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?