

GOSPEL COMPARISONS

MATTHEW

- ✓ **Main Audience:** Primarily written for a Jewish audience.
- ✓ **Main Theme:** Jesus as the promised Jewish **Sovereign**; both Messiah and the King who fulfills Old Testament prophecies. It heavily features Jesus's teachings and links his life to the history of Israel
- ✓ **Main Teachings / Emphasis:** The phrases *Kingdom of Heaven* and *Kingdom of God* appear 37 times. Focus on the connection between Jesus and King David, and makes 53 Old Testament citations and more than 70 allusions to Hebrew Scripture, points out that Jesus fulfills 13 O.T. passages.

MARK

- ✓ **Main Audience:** Gentile Christians (non-Jews), specifically those living in Rome. Many scholars believe this group was facing severe persecution.
- ✓ **Main Theme:** Jesus as the **Servant**. This gospel is fast-paced and action-packed, focusing on Jesus's miracles and his humanity, offering hope to believers who were suffering.
- ✓ **Main Teachings / Emphasis:** Mark regularly explains Jewish customs and geography, and a strong emphasis is on Jesus' actions, not his words, and the word 'immediately' or its equivalent comes over forty times – a concept resonant with servants.

LUKE

- ✓ **Main Audience:** Written for a universal Gentile audience, often specifically addressed to a person named Theophilus.
- ✓ **Main Theme:** Jesus as the **Savior** for all people. This gospel emphasizes God's mercy and highlights Jesus's care for the poor, the outcasts, and the marginalized.
- ✓ **Main Teachings / Emphasis:** Luke emphasizes what Jesus felt, focusing on the emotions of the man and reinforces this with regular references to 'the Son of Man'. Luke further underlines this through the 10 prayers of Jesus.

JOHN

- ✓ **Main Audience:** A diverse, general Christian audience.
- ✓ **Main Theme:** Jesus is presented as the eternal **SON** of God --- Deity. This gospel focuses on the evidence for his Deity and calling people to believe in Him for forgiveness and the only way for eternal life.
- ✓ **Main Teachings / Emphasis:** John focuses on signs validating Jesus' eternal Sonship and the statements of Jesus that express His deity. John records seven 'I am' statements declaring Jesus' divinity and seven miracles that validate this claim. The focus on seven of each is John's own pointer to Jesus' deity – the scriptural number symbolic of God and perfection.