

UNIT 2 REVIEW
Rel 211: New Testament Gospels
(Units 10–16 for Quiz 2)

For **identifications**, review the terms below for passive recognition. Make sure that you cannot only identify the person, term, or event, but be able to explain why it is important to the gospel text (e.g., David was the greatest king of united Israel, but he also served as a model for the messianic expectations at the time of Christ and also served as one of the reference points in the Matthean genealogy).

When preparing for **scripture commentary**, be able to explain the original context of the passage (author and situation, not necessarily chapter and verse), and address basic historical questions (when and why was this text written, how did the information in it—from the original source, to the author, through editors and translators—get to us?), literary questions (what kind of writing is the passage, how does it fit into its larger context, and what are its literary aims?), and theological questions (what principles or doctrines does this passage illustrate or teach, and, just as importantly, how does it engage and affect the reader?).

On **essays** (and, to a lesser extent, for the **short answers** on quizzes), try to respond to the question as completely as possible. Begin with a sentence or two for a thesis and then organize it into short paragraphs of three or four sentences for ease of organization and grading (short answers will consist of only four or five sentences or perhaps, in some cases, just a list or chart). While questions may ask you to address rather particular issues of how a gospel is organized or what its purpose is, in the end, your final sentences should address how what the evangelist does causes you to understand the doctrines regarding Christ more fully or appreciate who he is and what he did (Christology!) better.

Course Objectives

- First, to increase the student’s knowledge of the gospels—that is, to familiarize him or her with their basic storylines, characters, themes and theological concepts.
- Second, to help the student read, analyze, discuss, and write about the Bible as both a source of scriptural knowledge and as a sacred *text*.
- Third, to strengthen individual testimonies of sacred truths, particularly by an increased understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ and the doctrines of the Restoration.

Subjects, Names, and Terms

Pre-NT Materials

Kērygma—the preaching tradition or “proclamation” of who Jesus is and what he did (esp. his salvific suffering, death, and resurrection)

- speeches of Peter and Paul in Acts;

much of the teaching of Paul in his letters; Mark

Sayings and Teachings of Jesus

- Discourses and sayings in Matthew and Luke; teachings in James

Hymns and prayers of the early church

- “Christ hymns,” such as those preserved by Paul in Philippians 2:6–11 and Colossians 1:15–20; the canticles in Luke 1–2; John’s *Logos* Hymn (John 1:1–18)

Spiritual sources

- The Comforter “bringing all things to remembrance” (John 14:26)
- Direct revelation of Christ or his message, as in the case of Paul (Road to Damascus; 1 Corinthians 11:23; Galatians 1:12)

AUTHORS AND OTHER SOURCES

Agabus (prophet in Acts)

James the brother of the Lord

John, testimony of

L

Luke, gospel of

M

Matthew, testimony of

Mark, gospel of

Mnason (“old” disciple in Acts)

Paul

Philip

Q

Compositional Issues

Synoptic Gospels

Sayings (*logia*)

- < *kerygma*?

- = M?

Q (*Quelle*)

Two Source Theory

- Matthew = Mark + Q + M

- Luke = Mark + Q + L

Three Stage Theory

- Luke = Matthew + L

L = Paul, John (?), James; possibly Philip the Evangelist, Agabus, Mnason, other family members

Reading Strategies

Ask questions, careful reading, prayerful pondering, consider scholarly contributions, pray and ponder again

Read in sections

- avoid proof texting
- pericopes
- structural analyses

INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

Understanding a Text (see graphic on last page)

- hermeneutics
 - › understanding the meaning *then* and the meaning *now*
- establishing the text
 - › autographs or original texts do not survive
- translation
 - › understanding the meaning of the words themselves
- exegesis
 - › properly understanding the *original* meaning
 - › historical questions
 - › literary questions
 - › theological questions
- exposition
 - › understanding the meaning to *current* audiences
 - › “applying the scriptures to ourselves” (see 1 Nephi 19:23)

higher criticism - provides exegetical tools to understanding the original meaning

[- literary]

[- source]

[- redaction]

- historical

- form

[lower criticism]

[- textual]

GENRES

Narrative (telling a story)

- introductions and prologues
 - genealogies
- transition and summary narratives (at the end of narrative sections)
- miracle stories
- call stories
- conflict or controversy narratives
- vision and dream reports

Discourse (“quoting” speech)

- teaching saying
- parables
- hymns and prayers (often poetic)
- canticles
- formula quotations
- longer speeches: sermons, monologues, etc.

Mixed genres, including dramatic episodes

longer narratives that contain extended dialogues and “pronouncement stories”

- esp. Infancy Narratives, Passion Narratives, Resurrection Narratives
- “correction narrative,” dramatic encounter of misunderstood teaching, often with a passion prediction

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS AND VERSIONS

JST

KJV

[NIV]

[NJB]

[NKJV]

[NRSV]

MAJOR DEEDS AND MIRACLES OF JESUS

Jesus feeds 5,000+

Jesus feeds 4,000+

Jesus heals

- blind men (2)
- Canaanite woman’s daughter
- centurion’s servant

- dumb man
- Gadarene demonics
- leper
- paralytic
- Simon’s mother-in-law
- woman with issue of blood
- young demonic

Jesus ministers to crowds

Jesus forgives the woman who was a sinner

Jesus restores to life

- the son of the widow of Nain
- girl (daughter of Jairus in Mark and Luke)

Jesus stills the storm

Jesus walks on water

Jesus curses the fig tree

MAJOR DISCOURSES OF JESUS

Sermon on the Mount

- Beatitudes
- Marks of the Disciple
- Fulfilling the Law
 - Meaning of “fulfill”
 - to fill completely, to make complete . . . i.e., to make deeper!
 - to perform, execute, accomplish
 - to fill the requirements of, answer (a purpose), comply with (conditions), to bring to an end, finish, complete (a period, portion of time, a work, etc.)
 - Meaning of fulfilling the law here?
 - Types and shadows of Christ would soon be fulfilled
 - Fulfilling the intent (spirit vs. letter; principle vs. observance)
 - Fulfilling with a higher standard (lower speed limit example)
 - fulfilling by sacrifice *and by teachings*

- 6 Antitheses

thesis (proposition: here, the Mosaic Law), antithesis (counterproposition: here, the law of Christ); no synthesis because Jesus’ counterpropositions are authoritative and stand!

- on anger

- on adultery
- on marriage
- on oaths
- on resisting evil
- on enemies
- “be ye perfect”
- true piety
 - almsgiving
 - prayer and forgiveness
 - the lord's prayer
 - fasting
- orientation towards god
 - wealth and true treasure
 - dependence upon god
- proper conduct
 - judging
 - treatment of sacred things
 - prayer with faith
- false teachers and disciples

Mission Sermon

Sermon in Parables

Sermon on the Church

Eschatological Sermon

Sermon on the Plain

- two kinds of men: beatitudes and woes
- love and mercy
- inward character of true disciples

OTHER MAJOR TEACHINGS OF JESUS

“Behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”

Church discipline

coming persecutions

“Come unto me . . . my yoke is easy”

directions to would-be followers

divorce

faith and the mustard seed

fasting

“the last shall be first”

leaven of the pharisees and sadducees

lost sheep

“Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her”

parable of the candlestick

parable of the faithful and unfaithful slave

parable of the friend at midnight

parable of the good Samaritan

parable of the great supper

parable of the king's division of the sheep and the goats

parable of the laborers in the vineyard

parable of the leaven

parable of the man without a wedding garment

parable of new cloth/old clothes, new wine/old bottles

parable of seats at a wedding feast

parable of the scribe prepared for the kingdom

parable of the sower

parable of the talents

parable of the tens bridesmaids

parable of the treasure/pearl of great price/net

parable of the two sons

parable of the unforgiving servant

parable of the unprofitable servant

parable of the watchful servant

parable of the wedding banquet

parable of the wheat and the tares

parable of the wicked tenants

persecutions foretold

precedence in the kingdom

prophesy of the temple's destruction

question about David's son

question about the greatest commandment

question about paying taxes

question about the resurrection

question on temple tax (= children of the kingdom)

rewards for discipleship

Sabbath

signs of the end time

things that defile

true riches: the young man and the apostles

voluntary poverty (mission of the twelve)

PRAYERS OF JESUS

“I thank thee that thou hast hid these things . . .” (Matthew)

Prophetic Forerunners and Types

Elijah as worker of miracles

Elijah and John the Baptist as preachers of repentance

Jonah in the belly of the whale for three days
[consider also Jonah as a type of the Pharisees, condemnatory of sinners and looking for their judgment—the Lord “removes their protection,” killing Jonah’s gourd and destroying the Jews city and temple]

[Isaiah as Suffering Servant]

Jeremiah as prophet of destruction and one who laments the fall of his people

CHARACTERS IN THE GOSPELS

Andrew

daughter of Jairus

James, son of Zebedee

Joanna

John, son of Zebedee

John the Baptist

Martha

Mary of Bethany

Mary Magdalene

rich young ruler

Simon Peter

Susanna

widow of Nain

woman who was a sinner

woman with the issue of blood

HISTORICAL FIGURES AND CHARACTERS

Herod Archelaus

TERMS

abomination of desolation

almsgiving

`am Ha'aretz

“beloved physician”

“cutting off”

doxology

exegesis

- diachronic

- synchronic

- existential

exorcism

jot (*iota*)

keys, priesthood

Levites

logia

Mammon

Parousia

Passion

petitions

- God

- human

petra

Petros

Pharisees

publican

Sadducees

“Son of Man,” meanings of title

strait

synoptic

teleios

temple tax

Theological History (*Heilsgeschichte*)

- God working in Israel

- God working in the person of Jesus

- God working in the Church

tithe (stroke or seriph)

“Verily I say unto you . . .”

EVENTS

proclamation of John the Baptist

Baptism of Jesus

Temptations of Jesus

Galilean Ministry

Jesus calls his first disciples

- James and John

- Matthew

- Simon Peter and Andrew

Jesus organizes and ordains the Twelve

rejection at Nazareth	
Peter walks on water	
Mission of the Twelve	<u>PLACES</u>
death of John the Baptist	Antioch
Peter's declaration	Bethany
Transfiguration	Capernaum
Mission of the Seventy	Galilee
Triumphal Entry	Jerusalem
cleansing of the temple	Mount of Olives
authority of Jesus questioned	Nazareth
denunciation of the leaders of Old Israel	Samaria
lament over Jerusalem	Syria

Larger Issues, Potential Essay Questions

FOCUSES

- Mortal Ministry
- Suffering
- Passion
- Sacrifice
- Resurrection

COMPOSITION ISSUES FOR EACH TEXT STUDIED

- major themes
- stylistic features
- authorship
 - ▶ external evidence
 - ▶ internal evidence
- audiences
- structure
- Outline (subdivisions) of Matthew

Largely topical although following the basic geographic progression of Mark; alternating narrative sections and discourses highlighting the teachings of Jesus.

- ▶ Infancy Narrative (1:1-2:23)
- ▶ Part 1: Proclamation of the Kingdom (3:1-7:29)
 - ▶ Discourse: Sermon on the Mount (5:1-7:29)
- ▶ Part 2: Galilean Ministry (8:1-10:42)
 - ▶ Discourse: Mission Sermon (10:1-42)
- ▶ Part 3: Opposition to Jesus (11:1-13:52)
 - ▶ Discourse: Sermon in parables (13:1-52)
- ▶ Part 4: Rejection by Israel (13:53-18:25)

- ▶ Discourse: Sermon on the church (18:1-35)
- ▶ Part 5: Journey to and Ministry in Jerusalem (19:1-25:46)
 - ▶ Discourse: Eschatological Sermon (24:1-25:46)
- ▶ Climax: Passion, Death, and Resurrection (26:1-28:20)
- ☐ Outline (subdivisions) of Luke so far

Smooth geographic progression, intended to illustrate Luke's understanding of Theological history and to lay out the gospel message "in order."

 - ▶ Prologue (1:1-4)
 - ▶ Infancy and boyhood Narrative (1:5-2:52; righteous "Old Testament" characters reminiscent of God working in Israel)
 - ▶ Preparation for Ministry (3:1-4:13; begins God's work in the person of Jesus)
 - ▶ Galilean Ministry (4:14-9:50)

CONCEPTS, ISSUES FOR REFLECTION, ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT PASSAGES

- ☐ Outline the basic structure of Matthew and Luke (refer to the outlines above). What does this reveal about each author's intent and purposes?
- ☐ How did Matthew show that Jesus Christ was the "new Moses?"
- ☐ Describe how Christ's teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, not just his later sacrifice, "fulfilled the law"
- ☐ How well do we meet the demands of the Sermon on the Mount?
- ☐ How are the miracles in Matthew reminiscent of the Miracles of Moses? How does this affect the way Matthew organizes and orders them?
- ☐ Consider some ways that the JST amplifies our understanding of Matthew (e.g., in the parable of new cloth/old garments and new wine/old bottles).
- ☐ Summarize the Mission Sermon. What is significant about the predicted persecutions and promised rewards? How do they apply to our lives?
- ☐ Compare Matthew's Sermon in Parables with the parables of Mark. What new ones does Matthew add? What would have been his source or sources for this non-Markan material?
- ☐ Why were the Pharisees and the Sadducees "a wicked and adulterous generation?" What did Christ mean when he warned his disciples to beware of the their leaven?
- ☐ How were Elijah, John the Baptist, Jeremiah, and Jonah prophetic types for Jesus?
- ☐ Analyze exegetically "Thou art Peter (*petros*) and upon this rock (*petra*) I will build my church . . ." (Matthew 16:19). How did Matthew get this information? Why did he include it in his narrative? What are some of the linguistic issues here and how do they affect our interpretation? What is our understanding of "this rock?"
- ☐ Relate the Question over the Tribute (temple tax) and discuss its significance.
- ☐ What do we learn about repentance, forgiveness, and discipline in the Sermon on the Church? How is it important to Matthew's theme?
- ☐ What is the significance of the Eschatological Sermon? What kind of additions does Joseph Smith–Matthew make? How do the parables on preparedness apply to us?
- ☐ Discuss the attribution of the Third Gospel to Luke. Why are we so secure in this attribution? How does Luke's background affect his approach?

- List some of the unique contributions of Luke and discuss their significance.
- Describe other elements of Luke's style and format.
- Discuss the meaning of "Theological History" and describe its implication for the structure and intent of Luke's gospel.
- Compare and contrast the genealogies of Jesus in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. What are some of the ways that the differences can be explained?
- What are the differences between Matthew's Sermon on the Mount and Luke's Sermon on the Plain? How do we account for them?
- Why is it that Luke seems to have a particular interest in women? What kinds of unique incidents does he include with his female characters and what do they teach us about Jesus and his ministry?
- Why does Luke record so many healing stories not preserved in Matthew and Mark?