

John 3:16-17

- Our study will take us on a brief journey through each of the books of the Bible.
- Our aim: To impart perspective and the key to each book.
- Our construction: Key word; key verse; Key to Christ.

Matthew

A. Means: Gift of God.

- a. Matthew is the writer of which there is no contest. He is the son of Alphaeus and is a tax collector working for Rome. He is one of the “twelve” called to follow Jesus (Matt.9:9).
- b. One of three synoptic gospel accounts, in other words eyewitness accounts of Jesus ministry..
- c. Discounting the ungodly argument that he plagiarised Mark’s account, Matthew’s perspective looks through the eyes of a Jew who is searching for the Messiah spoken of in the Old Testament scriptures.
- d. The book starts with the genealogy of Christ starting at Abraham and follows the royal lineage for after all Jesus is the son of David. From the presentation of the King (1:1-4:11) to His proclamation (4:12-7:29), to His power (8:1-11:1), to His rejection (11:2-16:12), to His followers (16:13-20:28), further rejection (20:29-27:66) then miraculous proof (28).

B. Keys to Matthew:

- a. Key word: The King.
- b. Key Verses: Matthew 16:16-19 **READ**
- c. Key Chapter: Matthew 28:18-20 ““All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- d. Key to Christ: “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matt.24:44) He is coming back to claim His own for “Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matt.7:21).

Mark

A. Means: Mark is his Latin surname name [Markus] but John is his Hebrew name [Johanan] i.e. Yahweh is gracious. He is the cousin of Barnabus (Col.4:10) and it might be reasonable to suggest Peter led him to Christ (1 Pt.5:13 “Mark, my son”).

B. The theme is similar to Matthew and Luke except Mark is writing primarily to a Latin audience who were noted for their brevity of word. He does not deal with the birth of Christ but jumps in at the time of John the Baptist whose time was to herald the Christ as prophesised (Isa.40:3). Mark is power packed with the miraculous from the casting out of demons (1:21-28) through to the ascension of Christ (16:19) for the miraculous was to confirm Jesus’ authority. He also deals with many thorny issues such as the illegality of divorce and remarriage (Herod is used as an illustration [6:18]) through to the legality of taxes etc.

C. Keys to Mark:

- a. Key word: Servant.
- b. Key verses: Mark 9:1 “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power” and 16:15-16 **READ**.
- c. Key chapter: Chapter 9 the change in law from Moses unto Jesus Whom now people must “Listen to Him” (9:7) according to God from the clouds.
- d. Key to Christ: The obedient servant and power and authority vested in the Son of God.

Luke

A. Means: Greek name.

- a. The author is Luke, a doctor of medicine and most probably a Hellenistic Jew and a companion of Paul on his missionary journeys, who from the prologue is writing to Theophilus a two-volume work. The other being Acts. His precise use of medical and logical terms is a hallmark of his authenticity.
- b. The theme is: Jesus’ compassion for humanity. Luke documents right from Adam the ancestry of Christ and looks at the early life of the Messiah showing how He grew in wisdom stature among men and favour with God (Lk.2:52). The constant use of the pronoun “we” indicates his eyewitness verification with the other biographers. His extensive translation of Aramaic terms to Greek and explanations of Hebrew customs and geography indicate the audience is Greek. He deals with the introduction to Jesus (1:1-4:13), His ministry (4:14-9:50), His rejection (9:51-19:27) and the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ (19:28-24:53).

B. Keys to Luke:

- a. Key word: Son of Man.
- b. Key verses: 19:10 “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- c. Key chapter: Chapter 15 the parables that encapsulate Luke 19:10, the lost sheep, coin and son.
- d. Key to Christ: The plight of the lost is comforted by the efforts of the suffering servant, Christ.

John

- A. Means: Yahweh is gracious.
- B. The apostle John, one of the “Sons of Thunder” is the author. Just as Luke displayed the human side of Christ, John displays the deity of Jesus. His many recordings of undeniable miracles lay the groundwork for Jesus as one of the Godhead and in so doing the cause of belief in the Son of God materialises (Jn.20:30-31). John is interested in the ministry i.e. the last three years of Jesus’ life. In fact over half the testimony is dedicated to the last week of the ministry with four chapters dealing with events at the last supper in the “upper room” (13-16).
- C. A survey of John reveals the nature of the Son of God (1:1-18), the Son of God presented to man by John the Baptist (1:19-4:54), the opposition to Jesus by an increasingly hostile nation (5:1-12:50), the preparation for the crucifixion symbolised by the Passover meal (13:1-17:26), then the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ (18:1-21:25).
- D. Keys to John:
 - a. Key word: Faith.
 - b. Key verses: John 1:29 “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” - John 3:3 “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” - John 20:30-31 “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”
 - c. Key chapter: Chapter 3 the conversation with the leader of the Jews that transforms through the renewing of his mind about Jesus and how to get into His Kingdom that is a lesson for man today especially verse 3, 5 and 21.
 - d. Key to Christ: John 9:11 “A Man called Jesus” sums up the purpose of Jesus coming to earth as a man (Phil.2:5-11) to sympathise with man’s plight and how he may put it right with God.