

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## WALKING WITH JESUS

RLJ-1488

JOHN S. TORELL

MARCH 22, 2015

### PART 1: THE FOUR GOSPELS

#### THE FOUR GOSPELS

Jesus preached, taught and performed miracles from the beginning of His ministry until the crucifixion. The four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John, document the words that Jesus spoke and the miracles that He carried out.

It is important to understand the four Gospel writers did not intend to write four identical documents; instead, each man wrote down exactly what the Holy Spirit inspired them to write. **John 16:12-15; 21:24-25**

At the end of the first century, there were a number of written accounts of the life of Jesus. There were the Gospels of Peter, Thomas, Barnabas and a number of epistles that was supposed to have been written by apostles. However, when the second generation of Christian leaders met around 100 A.D., they carefully examined the written accounts and only those that could be verified to have been written by an apostle or by an immediate disciple of an apostle were accepted as Holy Spirit inspired writings. The New Testament was canonized or closed for further additions by the second generation leaders and any other writings were omitted. **2 Peter 1:12-21**

When the early church was persecuted in Jerusalem and was forced to flee, they spread out in different directions preaching their faith in Christ. They were retelling the miracles that Jesus did, told about the commandments Jesus had given and how everyone must be born again. Thus, the life of Jesus during the first ten years of the early church only existed in oral tradition as men and women shared stories. **Acts 8:1-6**

The Holy Spirit selected four men to preserve a written record of the life of Jesus, confirming the Word with signs and has kept validating the Scripture from generation to generation. **Mark 16:15-20**

#### GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Matthew Levi was one of the original twelve apostles. He was a tax collector for the Roman government and methodically recorded what the Holy Spirit told him to write. Matthew's account was written some nine years after Jesus ascended to heaven. **Matthew 10:1-5**

#### GOSPEL OF MARK

John Mark was not an original apostle. His mother was Mary and the sister of Barnabas. She was one of the women with Jesus during His earthly ministry. **Colossians 4:10**

When Peter was set free from the prison, he went to the house of Mary. **Acts 12:12**

John Mark went with his uncle (Barnabas) and Paul on a mission trip but left them unexpectedly. **Acts 13:13**



John Mark later joined the apostle Peter, who considered John Mark to be his son and traveled to Babylon with him. **1 Peter 5:13**

John Mark learned from Peter what life had been like with Jesus and the Holy Spirit used Mark to write down certain events from Jesus' life. Mark's gospel account was written approximately 32 years after the ascension.

### **GOSPEL OF LUKE**

Luke was a physician who had become a believer in Jesus but had not been with the apostles during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry. He became a companion of Paul, and after diligently searching out the ministry life of Jesus, he wrote his gospel account and also the Book of Acts. **Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3**

Luke's gospel account was written approximately 28 years after the ascension.

### **GOSPEL OF JOHN**

John was the son of Zebedee and an original apostle who was with Jesus from the beginning of His earthly ministry until the end. John saw every miracle that Jesus performed and heard all His teachings. The Holy Spirit moved upon John to write his gospel account some 30 years after the ascension.

John wrote his gospel account before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

In addition, John wrote three letters and also recorded the events he saw and heard when he was taken up into heaven, which is known to us as the Book of Revelation. When John wrote the Book of Revelation in 90 A.D., the New Testament had not yet been canonized. I do not believe it was a coincidence that he was given the final warning from Jesus to future generations and that the Book of Revelation was placed as the last document in the New Testament. **Revelation 22:12-21**

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

***Do you have an ear to hear with?***