

Introduction

The purpose of the Color Coded Gospels is to help the average lay person “see” the uniqueness of all four gospels. By merging all four gospels in chronological order into one it is possible to get a more detailed “big picture”. In many situations each gospel has its own unique approach to telling the story. The goal of this work was to separate all four gospels while at the same time collaborating them.

Some helpful guidelines for reading this work: when multiple gospels have the same wording, Matthew is given priority. Even though Mark was the first Gospel written and was a source for Matthew, Matthew is the bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament. So for that cause, the gospel of Matthew receives priority, meaning that words that could be in both gospels will appear in the coloring (blue) of Matthew.

You will probably notice that grammar has been sacrificed in order to not change the wording of each individual gospel. For example “¹As he ¹Jesus left the temple...” he and Jesus would be the same person however Mark uses the term “he” whereas Matthew uses the name “Jesus”. Instead of choosing one over the other, both are included. You will see grammar such as this throughout this book. Again, for the sake of keeping each gospel unique, grammar takes a back seat.

All four gospels are written to a different audience. (see chart at the end of book). This allows each gospel to add their unique piece to the overall picture. Terms such as the “Kingdom of Heaven” and the “Kingdom of God” are synonymous titles and both are listed as each writer used the term. The Beatitudes of Matthew 5 are compared with the Blessings and Woes of Luke 6. The Genealogies of Luke and Matthew are told separately because one traces the legal line of Jesus whereas the other follows the physical genealogy. Mark, by its structure, is in chronological order.

A project like this will still have questions go unanswered. For example just where do the events of John chapter five fit into the chronological order of Jesus’ ministry? There is the challenge of how many times did Jesus cleanse the temple, once or twice. John describes a temple cleaning early in his gospel however it was not until the last week of Jesus’ ministry that confrontation with the religious leaders took on a stronger tone. For that reason this work has one cleansing merged together later in the gospel story. It is not out of context for John to write out of chronological order. In John chapter 12, verse 3 he describes Mary anointing Jesus’ feet, however it writes about this event beforehand in chapter 11, verse 2. So mentioning an event before it is explained is a style of John’s writing.

It will be my prayer for you that this book is as much a blessing for you to spend time in as it was for me to put together. May God bless your heart’s desire to know Him better!

In His Service,
Pastor David Bowen
Phoenix, Arizona
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Part One:

Jesus' Early Life (Matthew 1) to the Wilderness Temptation (Matthew 4)

Mark 1:1	Introduction
Luke 1:1-4	Introduction
Matthew 1:1-17	Genealogy of Jesus
Luke 3:23-38	Genealogy of Jesus
Luke 1:5-25	The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold
Luke 1:26-38	The Birth of Jesus Foretold
Luke 1:39-45	Mary Visits Elizabeth
Luke 1:46-56	Mary's Song
Luke 1:57-66	The Birth of John the Baptist
Luke 1:67-80	Zechariah's Song
Matthew 1:18-25	The Birth of Jesus
Luke 2:1-7	The Birth of Jesus
John 1:1-18	The Word Became Flesh
Luke 2:8-20	The Shepherds & the Angels
Luke 2:21-40	Jesus Presented in the Temple
Matthew 2:1-12	The Visit of the Magi
Matthew 2:13-18	Escape to Egypt
Matthew 2:19-23	Return to Nazareth
Luke 2:41-52	The Boy Jesus at the Temple (2:41-52)
Matthew 3:1-12	John the Baptist prepares the way
Mark 1:1-8	John the Baptist prepares the way
Luke 3:1-20	John the Baptist prepares the way
John 1:19-28	John the Baptist Denies Being the Christ
Matthew 3:13-17	The Baptism of Jesus
Mark 1:9-11	The Baptism of Jesus
Luke 3:21-22	The Baptism of Jesus
John 1:29-34	Jesus the Lamb of God
John 1:15-18	John the Baptist Testifies
Matthew 4:1-11	The Temptation of Jesus
Mark 1:12-13	The Temptation of Jesus
Luke 4:1-13	The Temptation of Jesus

Part One: Jesus' Early Life to the Wilderness Temptation - 23 Events

10 events told by Luke

4 events told by Matthew

4 events told by John

5 events told by multiple Gospels

- Introduction (2)
- The Birth of Jesus (2)
- John the Baptist prepares the way (3)
- The Baptism of Jesus (3)
- The Temptation of Jesus (3)

What Luke tells us ...

- Genealogy (Luke 3:23-38)
- The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold (Luke 1:5-25)
- The Birth of Jesus Foretold (Luke 1:26-38)
- Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)
- Mary's Song (Luke 1:46-56)
- The Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-66)
- Zechariah's Song (Luke 1:67-80)
- The Shepherds & the Angels (Luke 2:8-20)
- Jesus Presented in the Temple (Luke 2:21-40)
- The Boy Jesus at the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

What Matthew tells us...

- Genealogy (Matthew 1:1-17)
- The Visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12)
- Escape to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-18)
- Return to Nazareth (Matthew 2:19-23)

What John tells us...

- The Word Became Flesh – Christ's PRE-incarnated existence (John 1:1-18)
- John the Baptist Denies Being the Christ (John 1:19-28)
- Jesus the Lamb of God (John 1:29-34)
- John the Baptist Testifies (John 1:15-18)

Part One: 12 Sites (in chronological order)

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|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jerusalem | 7. Nazareth |
| 2. Nazareth | 8. Jerusalem |
| 3. Ein Karem | 9. Judea Wilderness |
| 4. Bethlehem | 10. Bethany |
| 5. Jerusalem | 11. Jordan River |
| 6. Egypt | 12. Judea Wilderness |

Introduction (Luke 1:1-4, Mark 1:1)

¹Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. ¹The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17)

¹A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, ⁷Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, ⁸Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, ⁹Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. ¹²After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. ¹⁷Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

The Genealogy of Jesus (Luke 3:23-38)

²³Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, ²⁴the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melki, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, ²⁵the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, ²⁶the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, ²⁷the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, ²⁸the son of Melki, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, ²⁹the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, ³⁰the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, ³¹the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, ³²the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, ³³the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, ³⁴the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, ³⁵the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, ³⁶the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, ³⁷the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, ³⁸the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold (Luke 1:5-25)

⁵In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years. ⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of

the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. ¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." ¹⁹The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time." ²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²²When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵"The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

The Birth of Jesus Foretold (Luke 1:26-38)

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Mary's Song (Luke 1:46-56)

⁴⁶And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers." ⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

The Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-66)

⁵⁷When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name." ⁶²Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

Zechariah's Song (Luke 1:67-80)

⁶⁷His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: ⁶⁸"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. ⁶⁹He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David ⁷⁰(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), ⁷¹salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— ⁷²to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath he swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.⁷⁶And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, ⁷⁷to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven ⁷⁹to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." ⁸⁰And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel.

The Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-7)

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to his own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary

was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." ²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Word Became Flesh (John 1:1-14)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.