**DIVINITY P245/2**

**CHARPTER ONE (EARLY CHURCH OR APOSTOLIC PERIOD OR ORAL TRADITION PERIOD)**

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 1 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

The early Church refers to the first community of believers that existed after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension into heaven. It is also called the apostolic period since it mainly the time when the apostles carried out their assigned work by Jesus. It was also called the oral period since the gospel was spread orally (by mouth). This was from 33 AD to 100 AD.

THE MESSAGE/ CONTENT/ STATEMENT/ COMPONENTS OF THE KERYGMA

The word Kerygma comes from a Greek word “Kerysian” which means to proclaim. So Kerygma refers to the proclaimed message of Jesus Christ which include:

1. The Kerygma stressed that Jesus was born by Virgin Mary.
2. That Virgin Mary conceived by the power and influence of the Holy Spirit.
3. Stressed that Jesus’ coming and birth was according to the Old Testament prophesies ***e.g. Isaiah 40:3***
4. Stressed that Jesus came from the lineage of King David and therefore he was a descendant of King David.
5. It emphasized that Jesus was the promised messiah whose coming was to bring reconciliation between sinful man and God.
6. It stressed the importance of faith or belief in the good news about Jesus Christ as a means of salvation of mankind.
7. It stressed that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in river Jordan and received the power of the Holy Spirit.
8. It stressed that Jesus moved around the Jewish and Gentile areas preaching the good news in form of parables ***e.g. the parable of the sower, mustard seed, growing seed and wicked tenants.***
9. Kerygma stressed that Jesus associated with all classes of people including sinners and outcasts ***e.g. lepers, Levi the chief taxi collector and other tax collectors.***
10. It stressed that Jesus performed miracles using extra ordinary powers from God ***e.g. he healed the leprosy man, fed the 5000 men using 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread.***
11. It stressed that because of the good deeds of Jesus, the Jewish religious leaders became jealousy of him and accused him falsely.
12. It stressed that Jesus was arrested and handed over to Pontius Pilate the Roman governor.
13. It stressed that Jesus was judged, condemned to death and crucified on the cross.
14. It stressed that Jesus died and was buried in a grave on Friday before Sabbath.
15. It stressed that Jesus’ death was according to God’s divine plan for the salvation of mankind.
16. It stressed that on the third day Jesus rose from the dead as he had predicted when he was with his disciples.
17. Kerygma stressed that Jesus appeared to his followers after resurrection ***e.g. he appeared to Mary Magdalene, Thomas, the eleven disciples and the seven disciples on Lake Tiberius.***
18. It stressed that Jesus assured his disciples that he would send them the Holy Spirit that would guide and help them in their ministry.
19. It stressed that Jesus commissioned his disciples to preach the gospel all over the world to both the Jews and Gentiles.
20. It stressed that Jesus ascended into heaven and he is seated at the right hand side of God his Father.
21. It stressed that Jesus will come again the second time to judge the living and the dead (Parousia)
22. It stressed that the apostles proclaimed the good news and called upon people to listen and believe it.
23. It stressed that the apostles called upon people to repent their sins before the judgment day and those who repented were baptized in the name of Jesus.
24. The apostles emphasized that those who believe in Jesus would receive the gift of eternal life.
25. It stressed the belief in the doctrine of Trinity ***i.e. God the father, the son and the Holy Spirit.***

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 2 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

**IMPACTS / EFFECTS / INFLUENCE OF THE MESSAGE OF THE KERYGMA ON THE LIVES OF THE EARLY BELIEVERS**

POSITIVE IMPACTS

1. Kerygma stressed that Jesus was born by Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit **which influenced** the early believers to respect and honour the Virgin Mary.
2. The coming of Jesus Christ was a fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures **and this made** the early Christians to believe and refer to the Old Testament scriptures.
3. Kerygma stressed that Jesus was indeed the promised messiah **which made** the early believers to have faith in Jesus as the promised messiah.
4. It stressed that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist **this encouraged** early believers to baptize the non-believers and baptize them ***e.g. Paul baptized Crispus Gaius.***
5. Kerygma stressed that Jesus associated with all kinds of people **and so** the early believers associated with all people including the Jews and Gentiles.
6. Jesus proclaimed the good news using parables **which made** the early believers to move around preaching the good news about Jesus Christ.
7. Jesus performed miracles **which made** the early believers to perform miracles in Jesus’ name ***e.g. Peter’shealing of a crippled bagger at the gate of the Temple.***
8. Jesus’ performance of good deeds **also made** the early believers to render assistance to the poor Christians ***e.g. Docus used to make linen cloth and would supply them to the widows.***
9. Jesus was opposed, arrested, judged falsely and suffered under Pontius Pilate, **this made** them to accept and endure any form of suffering and persecution ***e.g. Paul and Silas were imprisoned.***
10. Jesus died and was buried**, this influenced** the early believers to accept death and saw it as the only way to meet their savior and God ***e.g. Stephen accepted martyrdom.***
11. Jesus appeared to his followers after resurrection **and this gave them courage** to stand firm and preach the reality of Jesus’ resurrection ***e.g. Paul testified that the risen Lord appeared to him on his way to Damascus.***
12. Kerygma emphasized the need for repentance of sins **which made** the early believers to repent their sins.
13. It stressed the belief in the doctrine of the Trinity **which made** the early believers to believe in the Trinity.
14. It emphasized that those who believe in Jesus Christ would receive eternal life **and this made** the early believers to have firm faith in Jesus Christ.
15. Jesus’ promise to come back the second time **also made** them to patiently wait for the Parousia.
16. The teaching that Jesus will come back the second time to judge the living and the dead **encouraged them to** live holy lives as they waited for the Day of Judgment.
17. Jesus commissioned his disciples to preach the gospel all over the world **which made** the early believers to carry out missionary journeys ***e.g. Paul went to Corinth and Ephesus.***
18. It stressed that Jesus resurrected from death on the third day **which confirmed that** there is life after death.
19. The death of Jesus Christ **also made** them to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in memory of Jesus’ death.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

1. Some believers refused to work **since** they knew that Jesus Christ was coming anytime.
2. Some believers got impatient and backslid **when** Jesus did not come back quickly as they expected.
3. **Due to** the expected Parousia, some believers opted to remain single or unmarried.
4. Some Christians sold everything they had **thinking that** Jesus’ return was so soon and as a result they became poor.
5. The delayed Parousia **led to** loss of the gospel message due to emergence of false preachers.
6. The belief in Parousia **led to** loss of lives of some preachers ***e.g. Stephen who was stoned to death.***

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 3 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

**IMPORTANCE OF THE MESSAGE OF KERYGMA TO THE CHURCH TODAY**

1. The message of the Kerygma enables Christians today to believe in the Trinity of God ***e.g. the Catholic and Anglican Church.***
2. The message of the Kerygma enables Christians today to honour and pray through the Virgin Mary ***e.g. the Catholics.***
3. It enables Christians today to live holy lives in preparation for the judgment day.
4. It enables religious leaders today to perform miracles in Jesus’ name ***e.g. Pastor Robert Kayanja of Rubaga Miracle Centre heals the sick.***
5. Kerygma enables many Christians today to have hope in life after death.
6. It enables Christians to carryout baptism by either immersion or sprinkling of water on someone’s forehead.
7. It enables Christians to carryout charity where Christians share material possessions with the needy ***e.g. Sanyu Babies home takes care of abandoned babies.***
8. It enables Christians to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ as the promised messiah.
9. It enables Christians to preach the good newsabout Jesus Christ with vigour because they believe that Jesus is the messiah.
10. It enables Christians to celebrate Holy Communion in remembrance of Jesus Christ.
11. It enables Christians to recite the Apostles’ Creed especially in the catholic and Anglican Church every Sunday.
12. It enables Christians today to steadily wait for the second coming of Jesus Christ.
13. The message of the Kerygma enables Christians to carryout missionary journeys to different parts of the world.
14. It encourages some Christians to accept rejection by families and friends for the sake of the gospel.
15. It enables Christians to witness for Christ in many forms ***e.g. through praise and worship.***
16. The celebration of Christmas, Good Friday and Easter is a result of the message of the Kerygma.
17. It enables Christians to repent their sins so as to be forgiven by God.
18. It enables Christians to endure all forms of suffering and persecution for the sake of the gospel.
19. It enables Christians to associate with all kinds of people regardless of race or background.
20. It encourages Christians to testify the news of Jesus’ resurrection to others especially to those who oppose it e.g. the Muslims.
21. It enables Christians to accept martyrdom for the sake of Jesus Christ ***e.g. the Uganda martyrs.***
22. It enables Christians to read and believe in the Old Testament scriptures since they were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

**LESSONS/ RELEVANCE/APPLICATION OF KERYGMA TO MORDERN CHRISTIANS**

1. Modern Christians ***should*** respect and honour Virgin Mary since she was the mother of Jesus Christ.
2. Christians ***should*** read and believe in the Old Testament scriptures since they were fulfilled in Jesus’ life and ministry.
3. Modern Christians ***should*** respect and honour Jesus Christ as the promised messiah who came to bring salvation to sinful mankind.
4. Modern Christians ***should*** have strong faith in Jesus Christ so as to receive salvation.
5. Modern Christians ***should*** accept baptism and also baptize new converts as the apostles called upon people to be baptized.
6. Modern Christians ***should*** associate with all categories of people regardless of sex, status or background just like Jesus associated with sinners.
7. Modern Christians ***should*** preach the good news about Jesus Christ to all people.
8. Modern Christians ***should*** carryout charitable works to the needy since Jesus performed many good deeds.
9. Modern Christians ***should*** extend love for one another as Jesus expressed love even to the outcasts in society.
10. Modern Christians***should*** perform miracles in Jesus’ name just like Jesus performed many miracles during his time.
11. Modern Christians ***should*** endure all forms of suffering and persecution for the sake of the gospel just like Jesus endured all kinds of suffering and opposition during the reign of Pontius Pilate.
12. Modern Christians ***should*** accept martyrdom e.g. the Uganda Martyrs just like Jesus died on the cross for sins of mankind.
13. Modern Christians ***should*** have hope for life after death since Jesus Christ resurrected on the third day.
14. Modern Christians ***should*** pray and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them since Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples.
15. Modern Christians ***should*** testify the news of Jesus’ resurrection to the non-believers as proof that He resurrected from death since he appeared to his followers.
16. Modern Christians ***should*** carryout missionary journeys to various parts of the world since Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel all over the world.
17. Modern Christians ***should*** repent their sins before God since the apostles called upon people to repent their sins.
18. Modern Christians ***should*** patiently wait for Parousia since Jesus promised that He would come back to judge the living and the dead.
19. Modern Christians ***should*** believe in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
20. Modern Christians ***should*** live holy lives in preparation of Jesus’ return to judge the living and the dead.
21. Modern Christians ***should*** celebrate the Lord’s Supper in memory of Jesus’ death.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 4 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

THE LIFE/ACTIVITIES OF THE EARLY CHURCH

1. The early Christians carried out missionary journeys to different places ***e.g. Paul carried out three major journeys to Cyprus, Corinth and Ephesus.***
2. They endured suffering and persecution for the sake of the gospel ***e.g. Stephen was stoned to death for preaching the gospel message.***
3. They carried out baptism of new converts as a way of initiating them into Christianity ***e.g. Peter baptized about 3000 converts, Phillip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch*** (a figure in the NT Read ACTS 8)
4. They established churches where the gospel was preached in both Jewish and Gentile places ***e.g. Paul established the church in Corinth, Galatia and Rome.***
5. They wrote gospels and letters that acted as references while preaching the gospel ***e.g. the gospel of Mark, Mathew, Luke and John.***
6. They carried out pilgrimages to holy places ***e.g. Jerusalem the centre of Christianity and Bethlehem where Jesus was born.***
7. They performed miracles in Jesus’ name which led to the spread of the gospel ***e.g. Peter and John healed a lame man at the gate of the Jerusalem Temple and Paul healed a lame man in Lystra*** (present day Turkey)
8. They exercised spiritual gifts like speaking in tongues and prophesy ***e.g. on the day of Pentecost, the apostles who were gathered in a special room started speaking in tongues.*** Read ACTS 2
9. They gave inspiring testimonies which increased the spread of the gospel ***e.g. Paul testified that he met the risen Lord Jesus Christ on his way to Damascus which proved Jesus’ resurrection***. Read ACTS 9:1-9, ACTS 22:6-11, ACTS 26:9-20
10. They promoted good morals through exemplary life which enabled the spread of the gospel all over the world ***e.g. extending love to their enemies.***
11. They carried out catechism which involved giving oral instructions to the newly converted Christians.
12. They settled disputes between and among conflicting believers thus ensuring unity and harmony in the church.
13. They answered difficult questions through theological debates ***e.g. the Jerusalem council resolved that the Gentiles were free to be circumcised or not***.
14. The apostles preached the gospel orally from person to person and from door to door hence conversion of many people to Christianity.
15. They carried out Lord’s Supper celebrations that involved breaking the bread in memory of Jesus’ death and resurrection. At times, this was done in form of agape meals. (love feasts)
16. They worshipped and praised God through hymns and songs in the Jerusalem temple and the synagogues thus leading to the spread of the gospel.
17. They were actively involved in praying and fasting to overcome the challenging situation hence leading to the spread of the gospel.
18. They confessed and repented their sins as a way of living a changed life acceptable by God before the second coming of Jesus
19. They confirmed new believers in the Christian faith by laying hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit and God’s blessings ***e.g. Peter and John laid hands on the Samaritans whom they had baptized.***
20. They visited, prayed for and anointed the sick with olive oil which gave hope and encouragement to early believers.
21. They lived a life of meditation reflecting upon the word of God in relation to their conduct.
22. They carried out charitable works that involved helping the needy hence the fast spread of the gospel in the early church.
23. They appointed new leaders ***e.g. the seven deacons who would help the apostles in distributing items to the poor.***
24. They carried out fellowships which were usually organized in people’s homes as a way of encouraging one another.
25. They read and interpreted the Old Testament scriptures relating them to Jesus’ life and ministry.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 5 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

WAYS/FORMS OF WORSHIP IN THE EARLY CHURCH

1. Worship involved fellowships in which Christians encouraged one another and learnt from each other.
2. It involved praising of God in hymns and songs in the synagogues and people’s homes.
3. It involved preaching and teaching of the good news about Jesus Christ the son of God as well as the promised messiah.
4. Worship involved appointing of leaders ***e.g. the appointing of the seven deacons.***
5. It involved baptizing new converts ***e.g. Peter baptized around 3000 people.***
6. It involved practicing of the spiritual gifts ***e.g. prophesying, speaking in tongues and interpreting them.***
7. Worship involved symbolism ***e.g. kneeling down to honour God, raising hands and clapping hands as a sign of thanksgiving.***
8. Worship involved the celebration of the Lord’s Super by taking bread and wine in memory of Jesus’ death and resurrection.
9. It involved alms giving to the poor through sharing material and financial resources by the rich believers with the poor.
10. Worship involved performing of miracles in Jesus’ name ***e.g. Paul healed a lame man in Lystra. CENTAL ANATOLIA TURKEY PAUL BARNABASI MET TIMO***
11. It involved giving of testimonies about the good things Jesus had done for them.
12. It involved women covering their heads as a way of respecting their husbands and they were supposed to keep quiet.
13. Worship involved catechetical lessons to the newly converted Christians.
14. Worship involved confirmation of believers through laying hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit and God’s blessings.
15. It involved giving offerings to God ***e.g. tithe as a way of thanksgiving.***
16. It involved repentance and confession of sins before God the merciful and forgiving father.
17. It involved reading of scriptures especially Old Testament scriptures relating them to Jesus’ life and ministry.
18. Worship involved praying as a way of communicating to God especially during challenging situations.
19. It also involved fasting.

**WAYS/FORMS OF WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH TODAY**

1. Worship involves baptism of new converts which is done by immersion into water orsprinkling of water on someone’s forehead.
2. Worship involves readingand interpreting of scriptures from both the Old Testament and the New Testament.
3. Worship involves preaching of the good news to the believers in church.
4. Worship involves praising God through hymns and Christian songs.
5. It involves praying and fasting as a way of dedicating their lives to God.
6. It involves celebration of the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Jesus’ death for the sins of mankind.
7. Worship involves the use of symbolism or gestures ***e.g. kneeling, clapping and raising hands to honour the Lord.***
8. It involves performance of miracles mainly in the Pentecostal churches ***e.g. healing the sick and casting demons.***
9. It involves the works of the Holy Spirit ***e.g. speaking in tongues and prophesying mainly in Pentecostal churches.***
10. Worship today involves day and night fellowships where Christians meet and encourage one another.
11. It involves giving of testimonies about the good things that God has done for them as a sign of appreciation.
12. It involves giving of offertory in form of tithe, pledges and thanksgiving to the mighty God.
13. Worship today involves offering charity to the needy Christians ***e.g. Pastor Umar Mulinde gives food to his followers in hard times like Covid lockdown.***
14. Today, worship involves use of musical instruments e.g. loud speakers, keyboards, guitars and pianos.
15. Worship is normally done on Sundays for the Catholics, Anglicans and Pentecostals wile Saturdays for the seventh Day Adventists.
16. Worship takes place on important Christian days ***e.g. Easter Sunday, Palm Sunday, Christmas and All Saints day.***

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 6 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE WAYS OF WORSHIP IN THE EARLY CHURCH WITH THOSE IN PRESENT CHURCH.

SIMILARITIES

1. In both there is praying and fasting as a way of communicating with God.
2. In both early church and today, there is preaching and teaching of the gospel orally by religious leaders.
3. In both there is repentance and confession of sins as a way of renewing believer’s faith in Jesus Christ.
4. In both there is praising God through singing songs and hymns that glorify God.
5. In both there is reading and interpreting of scriptures to emphasise the message of God to His people.
6. In both there is baptizing of new converts that enables them to receive the Holy Spirit.
7. In both worship is carried out on Sunday in memory of Jesus’ resurrection.
8. In both there is giving of testimonies about the good things the Lord has done for believers.
9. In both, worship involves symbolism ***e.g. kneeling, clapping and raising of hands.***
10. In both, worship involves performing of miracles in Jesus’ name ***e.g. healing the sick and casting demons.***
11. In both early church and today, worship involves practice of spiritual gifts ***e.g. speaking in tongues and interpreting them.***
12. In both, worship involves celebration of the Lord’s Supper in memory of Jesus’ death and resurrection.
13. In both, worship involves alms giving to the needy through sharing material and financial resources by the rich with the poor.
14. In both worship, there is organization of fellowships by believers which promote unity in Christ.
15. In both worship, there is confirmation of believers which involve laying of hands upon them.
16. In both, worship involves giving offerings to God as a way of appreciating and thanking Him for His provisions.
17. In both, several participants are involved in worship of their God which includes the old and young believers.
18. In both, there is a leader who conducts the worship of God.

DIFFERENCES

1. In today’s worship there is baptism majorly by sprinkling of water on the forehead of infants while in the early church there was baptism of only adults by immersion into water.
2. In the early church giving testimonies during worship was more genuine and common while today testimonies are rarely given and sometimes forged.
3. In the early church worship was informal while today it is formalized.
4. In the early church worship took place anywhere like under trees, people’s homes while today it takes place in a special place or church.
5. In the early church, leaders were inspired by the Holy Spirit while today most clergy undergo special training.
6. In the early church women were required to veil their heads during worship while today it is optional.
7. In the early church there was agape meal or table fellowship while today it has changed to Holy Communion.
8. In the early church prayers were more spontaneous (sudden) while today prayers are written down.
9. In the early church speaking in tongues wasmore genuine and very common while today speaking in tongues is rare and very artificial where some people even forge.
10. In the early visible manifestations of God were very common while today such manifestations are just limited and sometimes forged.
11. In the early church there were few days of worship like Sunday and Pentecost while today there are many days of worship like Easter, Palm Sunday e.t.c.
12. In the early church they read mostly the Old Testament during worship while today they read both Old and New Testament scriptures.
13. In the early church women were supposed to remain silent in worship while today women play very active roles and even take positions of leadership ***e.g. Pastor Imelda Namutebi.***
14. In the early church they used local instruments during worship like drums while today modern and advanced instruments are used ***e.g. pianos and public address systems.***
15. In the early miracle performance was very common during worship while today miracles are rare and sometimes fake.
16. In the early church the spirit of brotherhood among Christians was deeply rooted while today it is rare and at times artificial.
17. In the early church the scripture was in Greek (Koine) while today the scriptures are read in different languages.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 7 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

REASONS FOR THE GOOD FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP IN THE EARLY CHURCH

1. Christians in the early church were guided by the power of the Holy Spirit hence had good fellowship and worship.
2. In the early church majority of the Christians were of the same Jewish race. This helped them to relate well due to similar culture.
3. The good fellowship and worship in the early church was due to the small size of the church by then. Believers could easily meet in people’s homes to fellowship.
4. The high belief in the second coming of Jesus Christ enabled the early believers to have good fellowship and worship.
5. Christians in the early church had genuine faith in Jesus Christ as the messiah hence good fellowship and worship.
6. The early believers were united as one body of Christ regardless of race or status. This kept them together hence good fellowship and worship.
7. The spirit of love for one another which the early believers expressed justifies the good fellowship and worship.
8. Believers in the early church had a spirit of concern for one another especially during times of suffering and persecution where they comforted each other. This instilled good fellowship and worship.
9. The practice of praying to God and praying for one another brought about good fellowship and worship.
10. The practice of offering charity to the needy Christians by the rich Christians justifies the good fellowship and worship in the early church.
11. The good fellowship and worship was due to the miracles that the apostles performed.
12. The celebration of the Lord’s Supper where they came together to break bread in remembrance of Jesus’ death led to the good fellowship and worship.
13. The early believers used Aramaic as a common language that made communication among them easy hence the good fellowship and worship.
14. The early believers had genuine repentance of sins to God and confession of sins to one another which fostered good fellowship and worship.
15. There was good fellowship and worship in the early church because some of the eyewitnesses of Jesus were present and they instilled faith in the new converts.
16. The good conduct among believers brought about good fellowship and worship e.g. the acts of visiting the sick and praying for them.

REASONS WHY THE SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD IS DYING OUT IN THE CHURCH TODAY

1. Hypocrisy among some believers today.
2. Numerous divisions in the church today.
3. Discrimination among Christians today.
4. Limited faith in God.
5. Poverty among some Christians.
6. Influence of western culture.
7. High levels of permissiveness in society.
8. Decline in the morals among Christians.
9. Increasing number of false preachers.
10. Limited influence of the Holy Spirit.
11. Selfishness among some Christians.
12. Bad examples of some church leaders.
13. Differences in the levels of education.
14. High belief in materialism.
15. Difference in political affiliations and ideologies.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 8 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

**WAYS/METHODS OF TRANSMITTING THE GOSPEL IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

1. The gospel was transmitted through oral preaching by word of mouth from person to person and house to house.
2. The gospel was spread through exercising of spiritual gifts ***e.g. speaking in tongues and prophesying.***
3. It was also spreading through performance of miracles by the apostles of Jesus Christ which attracted many to Christianity.
4. The gospel was spread through carrying out missionary journeys to different areas especially the gentile land where many got converted.
5. The good news was spread through baptizing and converting of new people to Christianity.
6. The gospel was spread through carrying out catechism lessons to the newly baptized Christians.
7. It was spread through carrying out charitable works to the needy Christians ***e.g. giving them food, clothes and shelter.***
8. It was spread through endurance of persecution and martyrdom which attracted more people to Christianity***e.g. Stephen who was stoned to death.***
9. The gospel was spread through writing of Christian gospels and letters which were sent to Christians in distant areas for reference ***e.g. Paul wrote the 1st and 2nd Corinthians.***
10. It was spread through establishment of churches in different ***areas e.g. Paul established churches in Corinth and Galatia.***
11. The good news was spread through visiting the sick, praying for them and anointing them with olive oil.
12. The good news was spread through giving testimonies about what Jesus had done for them.
13. The gospel was spread through composing of Christian hymns and songs.
14. The gospel was spread through reading of the Old Testament scriptures by the early believers.
15. It was spread through the appointment of the seven deacons who helped to distribute material property to the gentile Christians.
16. The gospel was spread through fasting and praying where Christians dedicated their lives to God and also prayed for one another.
17. The gospel was spread through conducting theological debates where difficult questions were answered by the apostles.
18. It was spread through laying hands on fellow Christians to receive God’s blessings and the Holy Spirit.
19. The gospel was transmitted through living exemplary lives ***e.g. love even for their enemies which attracted many people to Christianity.***
20. The gospel was spread through repentance and confession of sins to one another.
21. The gospel was transmitted through celebration of the Lord’s Supper which involved breaking of bread in remembrance of Jesus’ death.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 9 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

**WAYS/ETHODS OF TRANSMISSION OF THE GOSPEL TODAY**

1. The gospel is transmitted through preaching orally ***e.g. in church, along streets and in taxis.***
2. The gospel is spread through organizing conferences and seminars by different religious denominations ***e.g. the Episcopal conference every year at Namugongo for the Catholics.***
3. The gospel is spread through organizing day and night fellowships.
4. The gospel is spread through writing of Christian ***literature e.g. magazines some of which are distributed free of charge to the people.***
5. The gospel is spread through performance of miracles by different religious leaders ***e.g. Pastor Robert Kayanja of Rubaga Miracle centre heals the sick.***
6. It is spread through organizing of bible study lessons where Christians read and interpret the scriptures.
7. The gospel is spread through composing of Christian hymns and songs ***e.g. Pastor Wilson Bugembe who composed BIRIBA BITYA***
8. The gospel is spread through mass media ***e.g. Christian television stations like Salt TV, LTV and Top TV have been used to spread the gospel to several people.***
9. The gospel is spread through music, dance and drama. Plays have been staged to show the birth and life of Jesus.
10. The gospel is spread through visiting of the sick in hospitals where they have been prayed for and comforted.
11. The gospel is spread through offering of charitable works to the needy people ***e.g. Sanyu Babies home takes care of abandoned children.***
12. The gospel is spread through carrying out missionary journeys to various places with the aim of converting many people to Christianity.
13. It is spread through establishment of Christian schools ***e.g. Uganda Martyrs Namugongo, St Henrys College Kitovu.***
14. The gospel is spread through exercising gifts of the Holy ***Spirit e.g. speaking in tongues and prophesying.***
15. The gospel is spread through teaching Christian Religious Education in schools and colleges.
16. The gospel is spread through having good ***morals e.g. showing love for one another which may attract non-believers.***
17. The gospel is spread through enduring of suffering and persecution ***e.g. the Uganda Martyrs and Bishop Janan Luwum who died for the sake of the gospel.***

**COMPARISON BETWEEN THE METHODS OF TRANSMISSION OF THE GOSPEL IN THE EARLY CHURCH AND THOSE OF THE PRESENT CHURCH IN UGANDA**

Similarities

1. In both there is oral preaching of the gospel which in most cases involve moving from door to door to have personal contact with the listeners.
2. In both there is catechism that involves giving instructions to newly converted members of the church.
3. In both there is praying and fasting as a way of communicating to God about the needs of life both personal and for others.
4. In both there is baptizing of new converts who have just joined Christianity which enables them to receive the Holy Spirit.
5. In both there is Lord’s Supper celebration that involves taking bread and drinking wine in memory of Jesus’ death and resurrection.
6. In both good morals are emphasized through living a good example to others which even the non-believers emulate.
7. In both enduring of suffering and persecution for the sake of the gospel is encouraged and used as a method of transmitting the gospel.
8. In both there is emphasis on repentance of sins so as to live a holy life acceptable before God.
9. In both there is organization of fellowships in which Christians encourage one another and learn from each other.
10. In both there is praising and worshipping of God which involves singing songs and hymns that honour and glorify God.
11. In both there is confirmation of believers that involve laying hands upon them to receive the Holy Spirit and God’s blessings.
12. In both there is visiting of the sick, praying and anointing them with olive oil so as to remain courageous and strong in their faith.
13. In both there is reading and interpreting of scriptures for spiritual growth and development of believers.
14. In both Christian leaders are appointed to spread the Christian faith by winning more members to Christianity.
15. In both missionary journeys are organized to promote the spread of the gospel in distant areas all over the world.
16. In both there is giving of testimonies about the good things the Lord has done for believers to give glory back to God.
17. In both there is alms giving to the needy through sharing material and financial resources by the rich with the poor.
18. In both there is writing of Christian literature to safeguard the gospel from being misinterpreted by the false preachers and teachers.
19. In both there is theological debates that are organized that help in answering difficult questions.
20. In both spiritual gifts are emphasized as a way of spreading the gospel e.g. speaking in tongues.
21. In both there is giving of offertories to God as a way of appreciating and thanking Him for His provisions e.g. tithe

Differences

1. Today reading scriptures is more determinant when spreading the Christian faith where as in the early church the gospel was mostly spread by word of mouth.
2. Today the gospel is spread formally in schools through teaching CRE while in the early church it was spread informally.
3. Today the gospel is spread through drama and plays while in the early church it was largely spread through narration.
4. Today new religious organizations e.g. YMCA, TWCA and scripture union help to spread the gospel while in the early church they mainly had catechism.
5. Today electronic media e.g. radios and televisions are used to spread the gospel while in the early church it was largely by word of mouth.
6. Today print media e.g. newspapers and magazines are used to spread the gospel while in the early church they used scrolls.
7. In the early church miracles were commonly used to spread the gospel while today miracles are rare and sometimes faked.
8. Today religious leaders are trained to spread the gospel while in the early church religious leaders were just appointed without formal training.
9. Today churches have been constructed through which the gospel is spread while in the early church it was either in people’s homes, synagogues or under trees.
10. Today the gospel is spread through Sunday schools where they teach young Christians important Christian principals while in the early church they carried out catechism.
11. In the early church the gospel was transmitted through spiritual gifts while today spiritual gifts are rare and sometimes forged.
12. Today people use public address systems and musical instruments to spread the gospel while in the early church it was by word of mouth.
13. In the early church it was more of person to person contact while today it is one preacher to many listeners.
14. In the early church there was adult baptism by immersion while today it is more of infant baptism through sprinkling water on the forehead.
15. In the early church basically Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages were used to spread the gospel while today many international and local languages are used e.g. English and Luganda.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 10BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

**FACTORS THAT FACILITATED THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL DURING THE APOSTOLIC PERIOD**

1. The inspiration by the Holy Spirit made the apostles to preach the gospel without fear hence leading to the expansion of the church.
2. The use of Greek as a common language made it easier for the apostles to spread the good news since communication became easier.
3. The persecution of Christians with in the Roman Empire made it easier for the apostles to spread the gospel ***e.g. Paul and Silas preached to fellow prisoners.***
4. The good transport system with in Roman Empire made it easier for the apostles to move from one place to another preaching the good news.
5. The high level of literacy and modernity in the Roman Empire made easier for apostles to write down the gospels since people were now able to read and write.
6. The belief in the Parousia made the apostles to preach the gospel quickly in preparation for Jesus’ return.
7. The news about Jesus’ resurrection attracted many people to join Christianity with hope that they would also resurrect.
8. The writing of Christian gospels and letters influenced the spread of the gospel since people in distant places also received the gospel ***e.g. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians.***
9. The prevailing peace and stability within the Roman Empire created a conducive environment for the apostles to preach the gospel without any interruptions.
10. The prevailing freedom of worship within the Roman Empire made the apostles to preach the gospel and convert people to Christianity without fear.
11. The presence of Roman cities ***e.g. Corinth, Rome and Galatia which attracted a big population made it easier for the gospel to be spread.***
12. The good conduct of Christians ***e.g. love for one another including their enemies attracted many people to join Christianity.***
13. The performance of miracles by the apostles attracted many people to Christianity ***e.g. Peter’s healing of a crippled beggar at the beautiful temple gate.***
14. The moving testimonies which Christians gave about what the Lord had done for them attracted many people to Christianity.
15. Jesus’ instructions to the disciples to go and preach the gospel all over the world influenced the spread of the gospel.
16. The presence of synagogues within the Roman Empire helped in the rapid spread of the gospel ***e.g. they were used as worshipping centres where people would gather for the worship of God.***
17. The conversion of Saul to Christianity was a basis for many people to convert. Paul had been a persecutor of the church therefore many people who saw him preaching followed and accepted the gospel.
18. The virtues of Christianity ***e.g. love, unity and brotherhood helped in the rapid spread of Christianity.***
19. The determination of the apostles facilitated the spread of the gospel ***e.g. James, Peter and Paul were highly determined to preach amidst various challenges.***
20. The conduct of missionary journeys by the apostles helped in the spread of the gospel ***e.g. when Paul went to Corinth and Ephesus he preached to many people who eventually converted to Christianity.***
21. The practice of offering charity to the needy Christians ***e.g. giving the food and clothes attracted more to Christianity.***
22. The injustices which existed in Roman Empire made some oppressed people to join the church ***e.g. slaves and women.***
23. The presence of the Old Testament scriptures helped in the spread of the gospel since they were used for reference.
24. The trade that existed between towns also facilitated the spread of the gospel ***e.g. Christian traders converted their trading partners.***
25. The baptism and conversion of new believers to Christianity facilitated the spread of the gospel ***e.g. Paul baptized Stephanas and his family.***
26. The martyrdom of the apostles helped in the rapid spread of Christianity ***e.g. the martyrdom of Stephen attracted more people to Christianity.***
27. Paul’s Roman citizenship helped in the fast spread of the gospel since he was able to move to all Roman cities with ease.
28. The constant fasting and prayers that that Christians carried out strengthened them hence facilitating the rapid spread of the gospel.
29. The preaching of the good news orally inspired many people to join Christianity.
30. The carrying out of fellowships where Christians shared the word and encouraged one another facilitated the fast spread of the gospel.
31. The theological debates that helped to answer the difficult questions ***e.g. circumcision of Gentiles facilitated the spread of the gospel.***

THE ROLE / WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL IN THE EARLY CHURCH

1. The Holy Spirit enabled the apostles to preach the good news to many people before the return of Jesus Christ.
2. The Holy Spirit helped the apostles to perform miracles in Jesus’ name ***e.g. Peter raised Dorcas from death while in Joppa.***
3. The Holy Spirit empowered the Christians to baptize new converts ***e.g. Paul baptized Crispus, Gaius, Stephanas and his family.***
4. It made the apostles to answer difficult questions that were asked by the believers and non-believers ***e.g. the question about marriage in the Corinthian church.***
5. The Holy Spirit guided Christians to conduct fellowships among themselves where Christians comforted and encouraged one another.
6. The Holy Spirit encouraged Christians to participate in the Lord’s Supper where they broke bread to symbolize the body of Jesus Christ.
7. The Holy Spirit empowered Christians to worship, praise the Lord and compose songs and hymns in honour of the Lord.
8. The Holy Spirit guided Christians to appoint church leaders ***e.g. deacons like Stephen, Nicholas and Phillip.***
9. The Holy Spirit enabled some persecutors of the church to be converted to Christianity ***e.g. the conversion of Saul and Tarsus.***
10. The Holy Spirit made the apostles to accept martyrdom for the sake of the gospel ***e.g. Stephen was stoned to death.***
11. It was the Holy Spirit which encouraged believers to repent their sin and confess their sins to one another.
12. The Holy Spirit gave early Christians charismatic gifts ***e.g. speaking in tongues and prophesying.***
13. The Holy Spirit guided Christians to have the spirit of love for one another including their enemies.
14. The Holy Spirit guided the apostles to lay hands on believers so as to receive blessings.
15. The Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to carry out missionary journeys ***e.g. Paul went to Ephesus and Cyprus.***
16. It guided the apostles to establish new churches where they preached the gospel ***e.g. Paul established a church at Corinth.***
17. The Holy Spirit guided the early believers to carry out charitable works where the rich shared material and financial resources with the poor.
18. The Holy Spirit inspired the apostles to write down the New Testament gospels and letters ***e.g. John the beloved disciple wrote the gospel of John and the book of Revelation.***
19. The Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to live a life of meditation.
20. The Holy Spirit guided the Christians to carry out fasting and ***prayer e.g. they prayed to God and also prayed for one another.***
21. The Holy Spirit empowered Christians to visit the sick, pray for them and anoint them with olive oil.
22. The Holy Spirit encouraged the Christians to read and interpret the Old Testament scriptures especially relating them to Jesus’ life and ministry.
23. The Holy Spirit guided Christians to make holy pilgrimages to Jerusalem.
24. The Holy Spirit directed the early church members to give moral instructions to the new converts.
25. The Holy Spirit helped Christians to work in unity and consult each other.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 11BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

THE WORK/ ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL TODAY

1. The Holy Spirit guides Christians to perform miracles in Jesus’ name ***e.g. Pastor Robert Kakande heals the sick and casts out demons.***
2. The Holy Spirit empowers Christians to preach the gospel to all kinds of people.
3. The Holy Spirit guides Christians to baptize new converts into Christianity both the old and the infants.
4. The holy spirit guides Christians to compose Christian songs and hymns ***e.g. Judith Babirye’s “YESSU BERA NANGE”***
5. It guides Christians to write Christian literature ***e.g. Pastor Tom Mugerwa’s books like “TO BE PERFECTED IN GOD”***
6. The Holy Spirit guides Christians to perform charitable works to the needy ***e.g. Sanyu Babies home takes care of abandoned babies.***
7. It guides Christians to translate the bible into local languages.
8. The Holy Spirit guides Christians to celebrate big Christian ***days e.g. Easter Sunday and Christmas.***
9. The Holy Spirit guides Christians to exercise spiritual gifts ***e.g. speaking in tongues and prophesying.***
10. It inspires Christians to repent their sins before God and to forgive one another.
11. It guides Christians to organize day and night fellowships.
12. It guides Christians to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Jesus’ death.
13. It guides Christians to establish churches in different parts of the country ***e.g. Victory Church in Ndeeba for Pastor Joseph Sserwadda.***
14. It guides Christians to carry out pilgrimages to holy places ***e.g. to Namugongo Martyrs’ shrine every 3rdJune to remember the Uganda Martyrs.***
15. It guides Christians to carry out catechism among the young converts.
16. It guides Christians to interpret scriptures and defend the gospel against false preachers and those who are against Christianity.
17. It inspires Christians to give offertory in form of tithe and thanks giving which helps in doing God’s work.
18. The Holy Spirit empowers Christians to express the spirit of love for one another regardless of race or status.

FACTORS THAT LIMIT THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AMONG CHRISTIANS TODAY

1. Some Christians today lack genuine faith in Jesus Christ hence limiting the work of Jesus Christ.
2. The practice of religious syncretism hinders the work of the Holy Spirit. Some Christians tend to worship God alongside other gods.
3. There is high belief in science and technology among some people who even doubt the existence of God.
4. Some Christians today lack genuine love for one another hence limiting the work of the Holy Spirit.
5. There are numerous divisions in the church today based on different religious denominations ***e.g. Catholics, Anglicans, Born Agains e.t.c.***
6. Some Christians today have high belief in witchcraft which seems to be an immediate solution to their problems.
7. The rise of false preachers in the church hinders the work of the Holy Spirit***e.g. Joseph Kibwetere of Kanungu cult.***
8. Some Christians today miss use spiritual gifts ***e.g. they forge tongues and miracles which hinders the work of the Holy Spirit.***
9. High levels of discrimination among Christians today hinders the work of the Holy Spirit.
10. Some religious leaders are too materialistic to an extent that they have commercialized church services so as to get money from the believers.
11. Some religious leaders are jealous and envious of others which limit the work of the Holy Spirit.
12. Power struggles and conflicts among different churches and church leaders hinder the work of the Holy Spirit ***e.g. conflicts between Pastor David Kiganda and Pastor Aloysious Bujingo.***
13. Some Christians are involved in sex immoralities ***e.g. prostitution and adultery hence limiting the work of the Holy Spirit.***
14. High level of permissiveness in society especially among the youth has limited the work of the Holy Spirit ***e.g. indecent dressing and watching pornography.***
15. Some Christians today are work oriented. They spend too much time looking for money and carrying out business ventures and spend little time for God.
16. Lack of exemplary behavior among Christians today ***e.g. some have involved themselves in child sacrifice.***
17. The influence of western culture on some Christians has limited the work of the Holy Spirit. Some youths have become drug addicts due to this influence.
18. Some Christians today have high belief in African Traditional culture. Some practices and customs ***e.g. offering sacrifices to ancestors contradict the Christian beliefs hence limiting the work of the Holy Spirit.***

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 12 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

THE ROLE OF PAUL IN THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL IN THE EARLY CHURCH

1. Paul gave testimonies about his conversion experience on his way to Damascus to many people which led to their conversion to Christianity.
2. Paul preached the gospel of Christ courageously to all people without fear of his past background as a persecutor.
3. Paul carried out missionary journeys to various areas ***e.g. Corinth, Ephesus and Cyprus where his teachings made many people to convert to Christianity.***
4. Paul performed miracles on his way to Damascus ***e.g. he healed a slave girl who had a demon.***
5. He wrote many Christian letters teaching Christians about their morals and instilling their faith in the risen Lord ***e.g. Ephesians, Romans and Corinthians.***
6. Paul established churches in areas where he preached the gospel ***e.g. Rome, Corinth and Galatia.***
7. Paul baptized some people who were converted to Christianity ***e.g. Gaius, Crispus, Stephanans and his family.***
8. He sacrificed his apostolic rights for the sake of the gospel ***e.g. he denounced the right to marry and to be given a salary for his work as an apostle***.
9. Paul defended the gospel of faith against being distorted by the Judaisers who had insisted on the law and circumcision as a means of salvation.
10. Paul financed his apostolic work using the money he got from his income generating project of tent making. Therefore, he did not become a burden to the church.
11. Paul defended his apostleship as having originated from Jesus Christ since the Judaisers had doubted his apostleship and claimed that he was preaching his own gospel.
12. He solved many social and ethical problems in Corinth and Galatia ***e.g. marriage, lawsuits and incest.***
13. Paul tried to foster unity among the Christians at Corinth who had divided themselves along personalities ***e.g. Paul, Peter, Appolos and Jesus.*** He advised them to follow Jesus who had died for them.
14. He successfully rebuked peter at Antioch who had discriminated against the uncircumcised Christians hence making the Gentiles free to join Christianity.
15. Paul’s Roman citizenship was an asset in the spread of the gospel since it allowed him to penetrate all areas of Roman Empire without any obstacle.
16. Paul fellowshipped with other apostles at Jerusalem who even approved his apostleship.

IMPACTS OF PAUL’S BACKGROUND ON THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Positive

1. Paul used the zeal of being a Pharisee and preached the gospel tirelessly to different parts of the Roman Empire.
2. Being an educated lawyer, Paul wrote many letters which contributed to the spread of the gospel in the early church ***e.g. 1 Corinthians, Galatians and Romans.***
3. Being a dual citizen, Paul carried out missionary journeys in the Roman Empire which contributed to the spread of the gospel.
4. When Paul persecuted the early believers, they scattered to different parts of the Roman Empire and ended up spreading the gospel.
5. After his conversion on Damascus road, Paul gave an inspiring testimony about his background which converted many people to Christianity.
6. Being a dual citizen, he was able to establish many ***churches e.g. at Corinth, Galatia and Ephesus.***
7. Being a tent maker, Paul was able to finance most of his Christian missionary activities.
8. With his vast knowledge of the law, Paul was able to defend the gospel against false teachers.
9. Paul used his background as a Pharisee to escape death and continued preaching the gospel hence spreading it in the early church.
10. Being educated helped him debate and convince his fellow educated members of society to convert to Christianity.
11. Using his experience of Judaism, Paul was instrumental in separating Judaism from Christianity.
12. His unmarried state of life helped him to spread the gospel and taught others to copy his example.

Negative

1. He persecuted the Christians and this hindered the preaching of Christianity in the early church.
2. Being a persecutor, people took long to accept what he was preaching hence they doubted his gospel.
3. Paul was not among the twelve disciples so this made the people doubt his apostleship.
4. Being a Pharisee, the Judaisers used his background to bring confusion in the church.
5. Being circumcised, when he taught against it, they called him a hypocrite.
6. Because of his background, it took long for Christians to accept him as a true Christian leader.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 13BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

PROBLEMS FACED IN THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL IN THE EARLY CHURCH

1. There was a problem of language barrier since the church had not agreed upon a common language to be used in the spreading of the gospel especially when the gospel extended to the Gentile areas.
2. There was also poverty among Christians whereby they were not able to buy the writing materials where the gospel was to be written.
3. Persecution and martyrdom in the Roman Empire led to the death of many Christians and this created fear in the spread of the gospel especially during the reign of Emperor Nero.
4. Division among Christians based on personality background ***e.g. the division in the church of Corinth where some Christians followed Paul, others Apollos, others Peter while others Jesus.***
5. Paul’s personal background of being a persecutor of the church affected the gospel which he preached especially among the Galatians who doubted his apostleship.
6. Tiresome missionary journeys which came as a result of walking long distances hence slowing the spread of the gospel.
7. Emergency of false preachers ***e.g. Greeks who looked at the gospel as a mere foolishness because Jesus was hanged on the cross and doubted his resurrection.***
8. The number of the apostles was still small yet the church was rapidly expanding so they could not personally attend to all the Christians.
9. Poor transport and communication network in the Roman Empire couldn’t enable the apostles to penetrate all the areas in the Roman Empire.
10. Lack of genuine faith among Christians which made some of them to always backslide during the moments of persecution.
11. There was misuse of spiritual gifts ***e.g. those who spoke in tongues boasted over those who had other spiritual gifts I the Corinthian church.***
12. Misuse of the Lord’s Supper during worship ***e.g. during the Lord’s Supper, there were divisions between the rich and the poor who were always despised.***
13. The delayed Parousia made Christians to lose hope in Jesus and Christianity.
14. Some Christians doubted the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of believers because of the Greek teaching that it was the soul to resurrect.
15. Disorder during the public worship where some women unveiled their heads which was a disgrace to their husbands.
16. The death of the apostles meant that they died with firsthand information about the gospel.
17. Illiteracy of the Roman people and some ap***o***stles couldn’t enable them to write and read the gospel.
18. There was discrimination practiced in the church based on outward appearance where the poor were discriminated by the rich.
19. There was sexual immorality in the church ***e.g. in the Corinthian church, a man had sexual intercourse with his stepmother.***
20. There was disagreements between and among the apostles ***e.g. the moment when Paul rebuked Pere at Antioch.***
21. Wide spread opposition from the Judaisers who were totally opposed to the spread of the gospel especially in Galatia.
22. There was a problem of trusting in human wisdom instead of trusting in divine wisdom particularly in the church of Corinth.
23. There was a problem of paganism in the Corinthian church where some Christians took part in idol feasts and ended up worshipping idols.
24. Some rich Christians of James’ time exploited the poor people who worked for them by failing to pay their wages.

**ATTEMPTS MADE BY THE EARLY CHURCH TO SOLVE THE ABOVE OBSTACLES TO THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL.**

1. The apostles encouraged alms giving and sharing of financial and material resources with the poor to solve the problem of poverty.
2. The rich people were encouraged to join Christianity and this facilitated the buying of writing materials on which the gospel was written.
3. Christians were encouraged to endure the persecution with joy and were also encouraged to pray during times of suffering.
4. The apostles always referred to the suffering of Jesus as an example to the Christians who were suffering.
5. Paul wrote to the Galatians to defend his right of being an apostle and the true gospel of faith that he had already preached.
6. They appointed the seven deacons to carryout special duties among the gentile Christians to solve the problem of few apostles.
7. Paul encouraged unity among Christians in Corinth instead of being divided on personality background.
8. **The apostles** taught Christians the need to forgive one another and to always share one another’s burdens.
9. **Ap**ostles called up on Christians to patiently wait for the Parousia because it was near.
10. Paul advised the Christians at Corinth to take the Lord’s Supper as a holy meal instead of dividing themselves on the basis of the poor and the rich.
11. Apostles called up on Christians to treat each other equally instead of discriminating one another basing on outward appearance.
12. They established churches in different places to solve the problem of tiresome missionary journeys.
13. They eventually wrote the gospel about Jesus to guard it against false preachers, misinterpretation and exaggeration.
14. They defended the true gospel against false preachers of the time ***e.g. the Greeks teaching against Jesus’ resurrection.***
15. Some Christians gave testimonies about the resurrection of Jesus ***e.g. Paul testified that he had met the risen Jesus on his way to Damascus.***
16. They carried out prayers to strengthen the faith of Christians in God during the times of suffering.
17. The Holy Spirit came upon the Christians and guided them in their daily life.
18. Some Christians started self-sustaining income generating projects ***e.g. Paul was a tent maker where the income earned enabled him to finance his own missionary journeys instead of depending on the church.***

PROBLEMS THAT CHRISTIANS FACE TODAY WHILE SPREADING THE GOSPEL

1. There is language barrier since there are very many local languages which no preacher can learn and use to preach the gospel.
2. There is poverty among Christians which limits fellowship and prayers especially where it involves transport costs.
3. There is persecution and martyrdom in the present church ***e.g. the Uganda Martyrs and Bishop Janan Luwum.***
4. There are divisions among Christians based on personality background especially in the Pentecostal church ***e.g. Pr. Jackson Ssenyonga of Christian Life Church Bwaise criticizes Pr. Samuel Kakande of Synagogue church that he is a false Pastor.***
5. There is the presence of false preachers in the church today ***e.g. the late pastor Yiga Augustine who used to preach the gospel of revenge.***
6. The number of preachers is still small yet the churc***h*** is rapidly expanding all over the world.
7. There is poor transport and communication network in the rural areas which hinder reaching out the gospel to people in such areas.
8. There is lack of genuine faith among Christians which makes some of them to always backslide during the moments of persecution and suffering.
9. There is misuse of spiritual gifts ***e.g. some people forge speaking and interpreting the tongues especially in the Pentecostal churches.***
10. The high belief in modern science and technology discourages people from accepting the gospel.
11. There is a problem of conservatism in some churches ***e.g. in the Catholic Church where women are not ordained as priests.***
12. The delayed Parousia has made Christians to lose hope in Jesus and Christianity.
13. There is opposition from other religions **e.g. Islam which undermines the resurrection of Jesus and his being a son of God.**
14. There is still relative illiteracy among people which hinders the reading of the scriptures and even writing of the gospel message.
15. There is discrimination practiced in the church based on outward ***appearance e.g. the poor are discriminated by the rich.***
16. Natural disasters ***e.g. landslides in Buduuda area hinder the spread of the gospel today.***
17. There is sexual immorality in the church ***e.g. it was alleged that Pastor Robert Kayanja practiced homosexuality.***
18. There are conflicts between and among religious leaders ***e.g. Bishop David Kiganda conflicts with Pr. Aloysius Bugingo.***
19. There is witchcraft among some Christians today who tend to seek for immediate solutions to their problems from witch doctors.
20. There is materialism in the modern church which hinders the spread of the ***gospel e.g. Pr. Imelda Namutebi who rejected coins to be offered in her church.***
21. Some church leaders today are involved in politics which limits their service in church activities ***e.g. Rev Peter Bakaluba Mukasa who is the chairperson LC 5 Mukono.***
22. The high belief in African traditional culture discourages people from accepting the gospel.
23. There is political insecurity in some parts of ***the*** country.
24. There is a problem of rise of many cults today ***e.g. Kibwetere cult.***
25. There is a problem of political interference in religious ***matters e.g. denying them permission to conduct night prayers especially during the Covid 19 pandemic***.
26. There is a problem of intellectualism where some people who are highly educated doubt religious matters.
27. There is a problem of diseases ***e.g. HIV/ AIDS, Corona Virus and Ebola which greatly hinder the spread of the gospel***.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 14BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

REASONS FOR THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN THE EARLY CHURCH

1. The early Christians were persecuted because they continuously preached the gospel yet the Sanhedrin had ordered them to stop hence being arrested and imprisoned.
2. The early Christians were persecuted because they continued to preach the news of Jesus’ resurrection which annoyed the Sadducees who did not believe this.
3. The early Christians were persecuted because they proclaimed that Jesus was the promised messiah which the Roman political leaders of that time did not like.
4. The Roman leaders and non-Christians developed hatred and jealousy towards Christianity hence persecution of Christians.
5. The Roman political leaders persecuted Christians because they thought that Christianity was a political movement which was organizing to overthrow them from power.
6. The opponents of Christianity claimed that the apostles were preaching a foreign religion yet many Jewish religions were already in existence.
7. The many miracles which the apostles performed made them to become more popular which angered the Roman leaders hence persecuting them.
8. Early believers were persecuted because they claimed that they were holy and therefore separated themselves from other people.
9. Apostles continuously preached that it was faith in Jesus instead of the law and circumcision that put a person right with God which the Judaisers did not believe.
10. Christianity was becoming popular and was seen as taking away people’s loyalty from the mainstream religions ***e.g. Judaism.***
11. The apostles were persecuted because they continuously told the high priest and other Roman leaders that they had crucified Jesus on a tree and were therefore guilty of Jesus’ blood.
12. The Roman leaders considered Christianity as a false religion with false teachings hence persecuting the apostles and the believers.
13. The apostles were persecuted because they showed no respect for the Jewish leaders apart from God.
14. The apostles considered non-Christians as sinners whom they always called upon to repent their sins. This annoyed the Roman leaders hence persecuting them.

THE ROLE/ IMPACT OF PERSECUTION ON THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Positive role/impacts

1. Persecution made the apostles to become bold enough to spread the gospel extensively within the Roman Empire and beyond.
2. Persecution and death made the early believers to identify with the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.
3. Due to persecution, some believers went into hiding and therefore had time to concentrate on strengthening one another in prayer, breaking of bread and fellowship.
4. Persecution strengthened the faith of the apostles and believers hence many people were willing to join Christianity.
5. Due to persecution, many believers fled and scattered in different parts of the Roman Empire and beyond thus taking the good news with them to those places.
6. When persecution increased, God intervened by sending the Holy Spirit which led to rapid spread of the gospel.
7. The believers who were arrested and tried in public courts used this opportunity to preach or testify for the Lord. Those who had the opportunity to hear the truth were converted.
8. The apostles and believers who were arrested and tried in public courts used this opportunity to preach the gospel to fellow inmates hence converting some to Christianity.
9. Due to persecution, some believers ended up becoming saints ***e.g. St. Paul, St. Peter and St. James.***
10. Due to persecution, believers were committed to their faith and when those who were persecuting them realized this even to the point of death, they were also converted.
11. Due to persecution, the eyewitnesses started dying which made the apostles to commit the gospel into writing hence facilitating the spread of the gospel to distant areas.
12. Persecution exposed the brutality of the Roman government and due to sympathy and patriotism some Jews and non-Jews were converted to Christianity.
13. Paul used his past experience of having been a persecutor of the church to win many people to Christianity.
14. Due to persecution, there was apologetic writing to the government to prove that Christianity was not anti-government.
15. Persecution meant that the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church.

Negative roles/ impacts

1. Due to persecution, many Christians were forced to go into exile against their will.
2. It hindered the expansion of the church during the apostolic age.
3. It led to the suffering of Christians as they were arrested, imprisoned and beaten up in prison.
4. It made many people to backslide because of fear of being persecuted.
5. It caused fear among believers and therefore couldn’t spread the gospel freely.
6. Persecution disrupted fellowship, worship and prayer among Christians since they had scattered in different areas.
7. It scared potential converts from joining Christianity due to fear of being persecuted.
8. Persecution led to death of some apostles and eyewitnesses of Jesus ***e.g. Stephen was stoned to death.***
9. Due to persecution, Christian books were burnt and churches were destroyed.
10. Due to persecution, some false preachers emerged to take advantage of this persecution to preach and circulate false teaching.
11. Due to persecution, Christianity became very unpopular as it was identified with suffering and persecution.
12. Due to persecution, it became hard for the apostles and the early Christians to carryout missionary journeys.
13. Some believers abandoned Christianity for fear of being persecuted.

MODERN FORMS OF PERSECUTION IN UGANDA TODAY

1. Some Christians are denied the right to preach the gospel in areas which are dominated by Muslims ***e.g. Pentecostals can hardly conduct a crusade in Muslim dominated Kyazanga in Lwengo district.***
2. Christians are sacked from their jobs for failure to receive bribes from the bosses.
3. Some Christians are denied travel documents ***e.g. Visas to move to other countries preventing them from spreading the gospel.***
4. Some Christians are being denied jobs because they belong to different Christian sect or religion ***e.g. a Pentecostal Christian cannot head Kawempe Muslim SS***.
5. Some Christians are stopped from discussing about political issues claiming that they should give Ceaser what belongs to Ceaser and to God what belongs to God.
6. Decampaigning of some church leaders as false prophets is a form of persecution.
7. Some Christians have been deported out of Islamic countries back to Uganda because of preaching the gospel.
8. Some Christians are denied permission to organize Christian seminars and crusades hence denying them their freedom of worship as they preach the gospel.
9. Some Christians are directly rebuked and harassed as they preach the gospel in public places e.g. along the streets of Kampala, preachers are always abused.
10. In some schools, born again students have been expelled or stopped from worshipping and praising their God.
11. Some parents have disowned their children and denied them basic requirements because of being born again.
12. Some Christians are forced to work against their faith ***e.g. Makerere University puts exams on Saturday against the will of Seventh Day Adventist students.***
13. Some Christians may be physically tortured, threatened and imprisoned because of the faith ***e.g. Archbishop Janan Luwum.***
14. Some Christians are transferred to rural areas as a punishment because of their faith in Jesus Christ.
15. Through burning Christian literature ***e.g. magazines and destroying churches.***
16. Some Christians are forced to observe cultural practices ***e.g. circumcision and traditional marriage against their will.***
17. Putting a ban on Christian films, songs on radio and TV stations.
18. Gender discrimination especially in some churches where women cannot be ordained as priests ***e.g. in the Catholic Church.***

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 15 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

**THE INFLUENCE/ IMPACTS OF THE PAROUSIA ON THE LIFE OF CHRISTIANS IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

Positive impacts

1. Due to the expected Parousia, the early Christians baptized new converts to Christianity.
2. The early believers carried out charitable works ***e.g. the rich sold their materials to raise money to share with the poor.***
3. The early Christians organized fellowships where they encouraged one another and learnt from one another.
4. Due to the expected Parousia, the early believers repented their sins and also confessed their sins to one another.
5. The belief in Parousia made the early believers to pray to God and also pray for one another.
6. The belief in Parousia made the apostles to worship and praise God through hymns and songs.
7. Due to the Parousia, the early believers celebrated the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Jesus’ death.
8. Due to the Parousia, the early Christians laid hands on believers so as to receive blessings.
9. Due to the Parousia, the early Christians visited the sick and prayed for them.
10. The early Christians endured suffering and persecution for the sake of the gospel ***e.g. Stephen was stoned to death.***
11. Parousia made the apostles to carry out missionary journeys to extend the gospel to distant places.
12. Due to the Parousia, the early believers gave testimonies about the good things the Lord had done for them.
13. Due to the Parousia, the apostles performed miracles in Jesus’ name which greatly contributed to the spread of the gospel.
14. Due to the expected Parousia, the early believers expressed love for one another.
15. Due to the belief in the Parousia, the Christians tried to live holy lives free from sin.
16. Due to the Parousia, the early believers established churches in various areas where they preached the gospel.
17. The apostles preached the gospel hurriedly to different parts of the Roman Empire thinking that Christ was coming back very soon.

Negative impacts

1. Due to the expected Parousia, the apostles delayed to write down the gospels which hindered the spread of the gospel.
2. Some Christians failed to work because they expected Jesus’ return to be soon.
3. Some Christians decided to live a celibate life because of the expected Parousia.
4. Some Christians sold their property and became poor thinking that Jesus’ return was soon.
5. Due to the delayed Parousia, some Christians started backsliding since they lost hope In Jesus Christ.
6. The delayed Parousia led to the emergence of false preachers and ***teachings e.g. the Greeks and Sadducees who undermined the idea of resurrection.***
7. Some believers started misinterpreting signs and happenings at that time thinking that it was about to come.
8. Some Christians accepted risks and death because they knew that life on earth was ending any time due to the expected Parousia.

THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT THE PAROUSIA

1. New Testament teaches that Jesus’ second coming is near.
2. It teaches that Jesus will come back to judge the living and the dead.
3. It teaches that no one knows the day not even Jesus but only God.
4. It teaches that there will be earthquakes and famine everywhere.
5. The New Testament teaches that countries and kingdoms will fight each other. That there will be wars nearby and faraway.
6. It teaches that family disobedience will occur where fathers and children will fight each other.
7. New Testament teaches that false messiahs and preachers will occur claiming to be Jesus.
8. It teaches that Jesus will appear coming in the clouds with great power and will send angels to the four corners of the world.
9. New Testament teaches that it will be terrible in those days for women who will be pregnant and those with little babies.
10. It teaches that Christians would be persecuted for the sake of Jesus but whoever would endure up to the end would receive a reward.
11. It teaches that no one knows when that time would come whether it would be in the midnight or evening or before dawn.
12. Advises Christians to continue waiting patiently until the day of the Lord comes.
13. Advises Christians to keep their hopes high because Jesus’ second coming is near.
14. New Testament teaches that salvation shall be revealed at the end of times.
15. Peter says that God’s people will be judged first.
16. The pagans will give an account of their lives before God.
17. New Testament teaches that the dead will rise to life again.
18. It teaches that the trumpet will be sounded and those who will be still alive will be transformed instantly.
19. On the day when Jesus returns, God’s grace will be revealed to those who share in his glory.
20. New Testament teaches that God’s power and glory will be revealed at the end of time.

THE CURRENT CHRISTIAN TEACHING ABOUT THE PAROUSIA

1. Some preachers teach as if the Parousia is tomorrow.
2. Some preachers point a gloomy picture about the day of Jesus’ return.
3. To some Christians the end is too remote so they claim that it is not there.
4. Some believers teach that it comes whenever an individual dies.
5. Some preach that it is the Day of Judgment for the living and the dead.
6. Religious leaders put emphasis on patience as they call upon believers to wait for the Parousia.
7. They teach that false prophets and messiahs will appear before Christ returns.
8. Some believers teach that strange things will ***appear e.g. earthquakes, floods and severe famine.***
9. Some teach that Christ has already returned as a spirit being.
10. Some teach that there will be wars in different parts of the world before the Lord returns.
11. Some teach that there will be family disobedience where relatives will turn against their people.
12. Some teach that there will be joy and happiness for the righteous.
13. Some teach that there will be great trials, tribulations and persecution to the believers.
14. Some teach that those who endure persecution will receive a crown of glory as a reward.
15. Preachers teach that there will be lightening and trumpets will be blown and heaven will open for Jesus to descend in glory.
16. Some teach that those who will still be living will be transformed instantly.
17. Religious leaders call upon people to repent their sins in preparation for the day of Parousia.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 16 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

**IMPACTS/ INFLUENCE OF THE TEACHING ON PAROUSIA ON THE LIFE OF CHRISTIANS TODAY**

**Positive impacts**

1. The teaching on Parousia has made Christians to repent their sins.
2. The teaching on Parousia has made Christians to preach the gospel seriously and tirelessly.
3. It has made Christians to carryout missionary journeys to spread the gospel to distant areas.
4. It has made believers to carryout fasting and prayer ***e.g. they pray to God and also pray for one another.***
5. The teaching on Parousia has made Christians to take part in the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Jesus’ death.
6. It has made Christians to praise and worship God using the composed songs and hymns.
7. It has influenced some Christians to live celibate ***life e.g. the Catholic nuns, brothers and priests.***
8. It has influenced Christians to guard themselves against false preachers and teachings circulating everywhere.
9. It has made Christians to make holy ***journeys e.g. to Namugongo to remember the death of the Uganda Martyrs.***
10. It has influenced Christians to endure any form of suffering and persecution with hope of receiving a reward.
11. The teaching on the Parousia has influenced Christians to baptize the new converts to Christianity.
12. The teaching on Parousia has also influenced Christians to have hope in life after death.
13. It has influenced Christians to have strong faith in Jesus Christ by being born again.

**Negative impacts**

1. Some preachers have misinterpreted the teaching on Parousia for their selfish interests ***e.g. Joseph Kibwetere.***
2. Some have preached a lot of disaster to come upon Christians before Jesus Christ returns.
3. Some church leaders have misguided their flock to sell all their property and bring the money to the church.
4. Some Christians have abandoned work and subjected their lives to total prayer which has affected their development.
5. It has led to rise of many Christian sects in the church, each with a different interpretation about the Parousia.
6. It has led to death of some people ***e.g. those who died in Kanungu district in 2001 under Joseph Kibwetere.***
7. Some Christians have abandoned their family responsibilities because of the expected Parousia.
8. The teaching has led to the rise of false preachers each preaching differently about it.
9. Some believers have lost hope in Jesus’ return because of the delayed Parousia.

CHARACTERISTICS/ FEATURES OF THE ORAL TRADITION (PERIOD)

1. The period was between 33 AD and 64 AD.
2. Oral tradition period was characterized with oral preaching of the gospel by word of mouth from person to person or from house to house.
3. Oral tradition period was characterized by high expectation of Parousia.
4. It was characterized by establishing new churches in areas where they preached ***e.g. Paul founded a church in Corinth.***
5. It was characterized by a lot of miracles in the name of Jesus Christ ***e.g. Paul healed a slave girl who had a demon.***
6. During this period, the believers praised and worshipped God in word and songs.
7. The early Christians answered many questions and solved difficult problems of the early church e.g. faith and the law.
8. They baptized new converts in the name of the father, the son and the Holy Spirit ***e.g. Peter baptized 3000 people.***
9. During this period, believers participated in the Lord’s Supper by breaking bread to symbolize the body of Jesus.
10. It was characterized by appointment of church officials and election of Bishops, deacons, teachers and apostles ***e.g. Mathias was chosen to replace Judas.***
11. It was characterized by reading of the Old Testament scriptures and relating them to Jesus’ life and ministry.
12. During this period, the early believers made holy journeys to Jerusalem.
13. It was characterized of laying hands on converts so as to receive the Holy Spirit and God’s blessing.
14. The early believers exercised spiritual gifts ***e.g. speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues and prophesying.***
15. The early believers depended on strong memories to preach the good news about Jesus Christ.
16. It was characterized by acceptance of martyrdom by some believers ***e.g. Stephen was stoned to death.***
17. The period was characterized by presence of eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ ***e.g. Peter, and James.***
18. It was characterized by holding of conferences or meetings ***e.g. the Jerusalem Council***.
19. It was characterized by sharing of material and financial possessions between the poor and the rich.
20. It was characterized with praying and fasting where Christians prayed to God and also prayed for one another.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 17 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

**ADVANTAGES OF ORAL TRANSMISSION OF THE GOSPEL DURING THE APOSTOLIC PERIOD**

1. Oral transmission of the gospel was a solution to expensive writing material therefore it was cheap.
2. Oral transmission enabled one person to preach to many people at ago.
3. The method had mobility advantage that is those who preached were free to move from one place to another.
4. Oral transmission of the gospel had no storage problems since it was in the head of the preacher.
5. It depended on sharp memories of preachers therefore there were no lost parts of the gospel.
6. Oral transmission had multiplication effects since one who receive the gospel from apostles could also preach it to others.
7. The method provided first-hand information from eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ as they were able to teach whatever they had seen.
8. Oral transmission allowed a variety of presentations about Jesus Christ thus avoiding monopoly and boredom.
9. The method had a charismatic advantage e.g. preachers would exercise spiritual gifts like speaking in tongues and performing miracles.
10. Oral transmission gave room for questions and answers on spot hence there was person to person contact between preachers and listeners.
11. Oral transmission was the commonest method of preaching by then since it was the one which Jesus used.
12. The method of preaching was flexible that is the preacher could use any occasion to preach the gospel.
13. The method catered for both illiterates and literates since it was done orally.
14. Oral transmission catered for the blind who could not read but could hear.
15. The preachers came into contact with the persecuted Christians and comforted them.
16. The method allowed person to person contact which gave no room for mob rejection.

DISADVANTAGES OF ORAL TRANSMISSION OF THE GOSPEL DURING THE APOSTOLIC PERIOD

1. Oral transmission was subject to distortion and misinterpretation since it created room for additions.
2. Poor memories could hinder the spread of the gospel since it could easily be forgotten.
3. The death of the apostles who preached the gospel meant the end of the gospel.
4. Those who were deaf could not get the gospel since it was spread orally.
5. Oral transmission did not create room for deeper criticism or scrutiny of the message proclaimed.
6. The method did not create permanent record for the future generation.
7. The preachers could easily be persecuted by the enemies of Christianity since it was preached orally.
8. It depended too much on the Holy Spirit therefore those who were not inspired could not preach.
9. Oral transmission depended on good communication lines e.g. roads which were always there.
10. The method was subject to heretical or false teaching since the gospel was spread orally.
11. There was lack of coordination among the preachers since it was preached by many yet it was not written down.
12. Oral transmission of the gospel was tiresome since it involved moving long distances from one place to another.
13. The method called for a lot of explanation from the preachers in order to convince the listeners.
14. The method was affected by language barrier since no common language had been agreed upon in which to transmit the gospel.
15. The apostles faced opposition from the non-believers while transmitting the good news orally.
16. It was a disadvantage to those who were not accessible so they could be left out.

REASONS FOR THE DELAY OF WRITING DOWN THE GOSPEL DURING THE APOSTOLIC PERIOD

1. For almost three decades, the gospel wasn’t written because there was scarcity of writing materials and the few available were very expensive ***e.g. papyrus reeds and scrolls.***
2. The church was small both geographically and numerically since it was majorly confined in the Jewish land.
3. The church was poor and the apostles were ordinary men who were also poor hence unable to finance the expensive writing process.
4. The apostles were busy preaching the gospel thus didn’t have leisure time to settle down to write the gospel.
5. The apostles were following Jesus’ command who commissioned them to preach the gospel orally all over the world.
6. The apostles were following Jesus’ example who preached orally without writing any gospel document.
7. The apostles believed in imminent Parousia which made them reluctant to write the gospel as they thought the end of the world was too soon.
8. The presence of the eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ delayed the writing of the gospel since they could easily preach and answer questions about the gospel.
9. The apostles were still having strong memories and therefore they could easily remember everything that took place during Jesus’ public ministry which they preached.
10. The existence of the Old Testament scriptures which the apostles could refer to in case they needed written documents delayed the writing of the gospel.
11. The high levels of illiteracy of the masses in the Roman Empire partly delayed the writing process.
12. The illiteracy of some apostles also delayed the writing of the gospel ***e.g. Peter who was a mere fisherman.***
13. The scribes who were the authentic writers at the time were against Christianity and therefore could not write the gospel.
14. The oral tradition was the commonest method of preaching and spreading any kind of message by then hence delaying the writing of the gospel.
15. The Holy Spirit had not yet inspired them to write down the gospel but has inspired them to preach orally.
16. The Jewish culture of rabbanism encouraged people to store information in their memories.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 18 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

FACTORS FOR THE WRITING DOWN OF THE GOSPEL

1. The gospel was finally written around 64 AD due to the availability of cheap writing materials ***e.g. scrolls, manuscripts and papyrus reeds.***
2. The Holy Spirit had by then inspired the apostles to write down the gospel.
3. The gospel was written down because of the need to preserve the good news in its original form.
4. Oral transmission of the gospel had become outdated and unpopular hence the need to write down the gospel.
5. The expansion of the church both geographically and numerically necessitated the writing of the gospel because the apostles were few to reach out to all believers.
6. The improved financial status of the church by then made it possible to finance the writing process.
7. Besides some rich people ***e.g. Paul and Barnabas had joined Christianity and these financed the buying of writing materials on which the gospel was eventually written.***
8. The delayed Parousia made the apostles write down the gospel to safeguard it from getting lost completely since they were not the last generation on earth.
9. The death of some eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ’s ministry ***e.g. James scared others leading to the writing of the gospel.***
10. The fading memories of the apostles since some of them had become old and were forgetting the gospel led to the writing of the gospel message.
11. There was need to preserve the gospel for future generation of believers who could refer to it when reading and preaching it.
12. The gospel was written because of improved literacy ***e.g. many people in the Roman Empire had learnt how to read and write.***
13. Besides, literate people also joined the church ***e.g. Paul***.
14. The gospel was written to safeguard it from false preachers who could mislead the poor with their false messages.
15. The persecution and martyrdom of Christians made them to scatter to different parts of the world. So there was need to write the gospel and send to them to encourage them to endure the persecution.
16. It was written for evangelical purpose i.e. to be used while spreading the gospel especially by the new preachers.
17. It was written for liturgical purposes i.e. to be used in both private and public worship of God.
18. It was written for catechetical purpose i.e. to be used in giving oral instructions to new Christian converts.
19. It was also written for apologetic reasons i.e. to defend Christianity that it was not against the Roman Empire.
20. The gospel was written down for uniformity in preaching by the apostles and the believers.

**THE PROCESS OF WRITING DOWN THE GOSPELS**

1. Originally the gospel was spread orally by the apostles from door to door in the early church between 33Ad and 64AD.
2. But later it got a permanent format of proclamation that came to be called Kerygma.
3. The gospel writers of Mark, Mathew, Luke and John used the Kerygma as a source of information while writing down their books.
4. The first gospel to be written was Mark around 64AD written by John Mark the only one who possesses that name in the New Testament canon.
5. Mark got his information that he used to write down the gospel from Kerygma.
6. He also used Peter the head of the apostles as his source of information since he was his personal interpreter.
7. The second gospel to be written was Mathew around 70AD written by Mathew who was formerly called Levi the chief taxi collector.
8. Mathew used Mark as one of his source of information to write down his gospel since there are several events in Mathew similar to those of Mark.
9. He also got information from Q source (Quelle source) that helped him write his gospel.
10. He had an independent source special to him alone called the ‘M’ source (proto Mathian source)
11. The third gospel to be written was Luke around 80AD written by Luke the theologian.
12. Just like Mathew, Luke used Mark as his source of information to write down the gospel.
13. Still just like Mathew, Luke got information from ‘Q’ source that helped him to write his gospel.
14. Luke had an independent source special to him called ‘L’ source that he also used to write down his gospel.
15. The three gospels of Mark, Mathew and Luke are collectively called the synoptic gospels because of similarities and differences they have.
16. The fourth gospel to be written was John around 90AD written by John the beloved disciple of Jesus.
17. He got his information to write his gospel from the oral tradition source (Kerygma).
18. He also had an independent source of information special to him alone called the ‘J’ source (proto Johnan source)

CANONISATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

CRITERIA OR PRINCIPLES OR STANDARDS USED IN CHOOSING THE 27 BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON.

1. For a book to be accepted, it had to be written by an apostle or eyewitness of Jesus Christ ***e.g. John’s gospel was written by John the disciple.***
2. For a book to be accepted it had to be written by a close associate of the apostles ***e.g. Mark’s gospel was accepted because he was a close associate of Peter.***
3. For a book to be accepted, it had to be inspired by the Holy Spirit hence it had to emphasise the importance of the Holy Spirit in Christian life.
4. For a book to be accepted it was supposed to have clear destination that is it had to be addressed to a specific community ***e.g. Paul’s letter to the Romans, Ephesians and the Corinthians.***
5. The church fathers accepted a book that was in circulation for considerably a long period of time and was being used in public worship.
6. They accepted a book that was in agreement with the Old Testament scriptures hence the book had to show that the Old Testament scriptures had been fulfilled in the New Testament.
7. They accepted a book that was in agreement with other books of the New Testament that were already approved and were in circulation.
8. The church fathers accepted a book that contained some of the contents of Kerygma because it was original gospel that was spread orally by the apostles.
9. They accepted a book that had a universal message for both Jews and Gentiles hence cutting across all people irrespective of their race.
10. The church fathers accepted a book that was written within the apostolic period between 33AD and 100AD.
11. They accepted a book that presented Jesus Christ as the central figure thus stressing Jesus’ messiah ship and son ship.
12. The message in the book had to be morally edifying for it to be accepted ***e.g. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians that condemned sexual immorality.***
13. The message in the book had to be spiritually edifying in a way that when one reads it, his spiritual life grows.
14. The author’s morality was considered before his book was accepted. Therefore the author had to be a good moral character.
15. They accepted a book that addressed specific problems of the church ***e.g. 1 Corinthians***.
16. They accepted a book that was in line with the orthodox teachings of the church ***e.g. love, patience and repentance.***
17. They accepted a book that emphasized faith in Jesus Christ as a means of salvation than the Mosaic Law and circumcision.
18. They accepted a book that was written in Greek language which was a common language for both Jews and Gentiles by then.
19. They accepted a book that had apostolic doctrines ***e.g. baptism, Lord’s Supper e.t.c.***

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 19 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

REASONS WHY SOME BOOKS WERE REJECTED DURING THE COMPILING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON

1. If the message in the book was not inspired by the Holy Spirit the book was rejected.
2. If the message in the book contradicted with the Old Testament scriptures, it was rejected.
3. If the message in the book did not show Jesus as the central figure it was rejected.
4. If the author of the book was not an apostle or eyewitness of Jesus the book was rejected.
5. If the author of the book was not a close associate of the apostles, it was rejected.
6. If the message in the book was contradicting with the true gospel of Jesus Christ, it was rejected.
7. If the message in the book was not morally edifying the book was rejected.
8. If the book was not addressed to any particular community, it was rejected.
9. If the message in the book was not universal in nature it was rejected.
10. If the author of the book lacked a sound moral character, the book was rejected.
11. If the book had not been regularly used in public worship it was rejected.
12. If the message in the book contradicted with other New Testament books that were already in circulation, it was rejected.
13. If the book was in circulation for a short period of time, it was rejected.
14. If the book was not written during the apostolic period, it was rejected. Such rejected books could have been written before or after the apostolic period.
15. If the books lacked the apostolic doctrines ***e.g. baptism and Lord’s Supper, it was rejected.***
16. If the book lacked the message of the Kerygma then it was rejected.
17. If the message in the book was not spiritually edifying to the readers, it was rejected.
18. If the book was not written in Greek language, it was rejected.
19. If the book did not emphasise the importance of faith in Jesus as a means of salvation, it was rejected.

REASONS FOR THE FORMATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON

1. The canon was formed due to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that guided the early church fathers.
2. The death of some eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ which led to loss of firsthand information about Jesus led to the formation of the canon.
3. The fading memories of the apostles since some of them had become old and were forgetting the gospel led to the formation of the canon.
4. The canon was formed for the future generation of believers who could refer to it when reading and preaching the gospel.
5. The canon was formed to safeguard the gospel against false teachings, exaggerations and distortions of the true gospel.
6. It was formed for evangelical purposes i.e. to be used while spreading the gospel especially by new preachers so as to win more converts to Christianity.
7. It was formed for catechetical purposes i.e. to be used while giving oral instructions to the new Christian converts.
8. It was formed for liturgical purposes i.e. to be used in both private and public worship of God.
9. The canon was formed in order to preserve the good news about Jesus in its original form.
10. The canon was formed because people needed authentic New Testament scriptures to read.
11. The canon was formed because there were many other false writings or canons that had been written.

IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

1. The canon is used for evangelical purposes.
2. It is used to instill faith among Christians.
3. It is used for study purposes e.g. teaching CRE in schools.
4. It is used for liturgical purposes i.e. during private and public worship of God.
5. It guides Christians on how to live morally upright according to Christian values.
6. It is used for catechetical purposes to the young converts.
7. It is used to guard the gospel against false teachings.
8. It unites Christians of different religious denominations.
9. It promotes uniformity in public worship by Christians of different religious denominations.
10. It encourages Christians to endure suffering and persecution for the sake of the gospel.
11. It preserves the gospel for the future generations.
12. It is used for swearing in by Christians who assume positions of leadership and even when making an oath.
13. It is used by some Christians to compose gospel songs.
14. It is used in preaching the gospel by religious leaders and Christians.
15. It gives Christians hope for eternal life as a reward for those who endure suffering and persecution.
16. It is used by some Christians to write Christian books and magazines.
17. It is used for theological debates between Christians and Muslims.
18. It is used for conducting guidance and counseling sessions among Christians.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 20 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

PROCESS FOR THE FORMATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON

1. After Jesus’ ascension to heaven, the gospel was spread orally by the apostles from door to door in the early church between 33Ad and 64AD.
2. But later it got a permanent format of proclamation that came to be called Kerygma.
3. The gospel writers of Mark, Mathew, Luke and John used the Kerygma as a source of information while writing down their books.
4. The first gospel to be written was Mark around 64AD written by John Mark.
5. Mark got his information that he used to write down the gospel from Kerygma.
6. He also used Peter the head of the apostles as his source of information since he was his personal interpreter.
7. The second gospel to be written was Mathew around 70AD written by Mathew who was formerly called Levi the chief taxi collector.
8. Mathew used Mark as one of his source of information to write down his gospel since there are several events in Mathew similar to those of Mark.
9. He also got information from Q source (Quelle source) that helped him write his gospel.
10. He had an independent source special to him alone called the ‘M’ source (proto Mathian source)
11. The third gospel to be written was Luke around 80AD written by Luke the theologian.
12. Just like Mathew, Luke used Mark as his source of information to write down the gospel.
13. Still just like Mathew, Luke got information from ‘Q’ source that helped him to write his gospel.
14. Luke had an independent source special to him called ‘L’ source that he also used to write down his gospel.
15. The three gospels of Mark, Mathew and Luke are collectively called the synoptic gospels because of similarities and differences they have.
16. The fourth gospel to be written was John around 90AD written by John the beloved disciple of Jesus.
17. He got his information to write his gospel from the oral tradition source (Kerygma).
18. He also had an independent source of information special to him alone called the ‘J’ source (proto Johnan source)
19. The last book of the New Testament is Revelations which was written by John the beloved disciple.
20. Some of the outstanding scholars of the original manuscript were Ignatius, Justin, Cyprian and Augustine.
21. The letters were written and circulated separately in different churches.
22. By 200 AD, the final manuscript had been formed and was known as the Codex.
23. The New Testament liturgy was written in Koine Greek and was known as the Codex.
24. Generally, the Codex was the first translated from Greek to Syraic to Latin and finally English.
25. The famous centres for the New Testament formation were Cathage and Rome.
26. During the compiling of the canon, some books were left ***out e.g. the book of Tobias, Polycarp, the gospel of Thomas, the gospel of Peter among others.***
27. A certain criteria was followed during the selecting of the 27 books of the New Testament.
28. They accepted books which were written by apostles or eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ.
29. They accepted books which were written by close associates of the eyewitnesses of Jesus.
30. They accepted books which were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
31. They accepted books which were I line with the Old Testament scriptures.
32. They accepted books whose message was morally edifying.
33. They accepted books whose message showed Jesus as a central figure.
34. They accepted books whose message was universal in nature.
35. They accepted books which were written in Greek as a common language.

THE IMPORTANCE /SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM IN THE EARLY CHURCH

1. Baptism was a sign of initiating new converts into Christianity and as believers of Jesus Christ.
2. The sacrament meant that the converts were acquiring the Holy Spirit from God.
3. Baptism meant being born again as children of God.
4. Being immersed into the water meant accepting to die with Jesus Christ.
5. Baptism was an indication of one’s repentance of sins.
6. It also signified one’s forgiveness of sins by God the merciful father.
7. Baptism signified one’s expression of faith in Jesus Christ as a son of God as well as a promised messiah.
8. It was a sign of unity and togetherness among believers in the early church.
9. Baptism meant an assurance for the future resurrection of Christians since Jesus had also resurrected from the dead.
10. It meant following the example of Jesus Christ who was also baptized by John the Baptist in river Jordan yet he was sinless.
11. It meant being obedient to Jesus’ command ***e.g. he had instructed the apostles to go and baptize the new Christian converts.***
12. Baptism meant the believer’s acceptance of the love and grace of God.
13. It meant that believers were free to partake other sacraments ***e.g. the Lord’s Supper.***
14. Baptism meant a change in one’s morals so as to maintain righteousness.
15. It gave the early Christians courage to endure and accept all forms of persecution and martyrdom.
16. It meant the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures when people were symbolically baptized during Noah’s time by the floods.

THE IMPORTANCE/SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

1. Baptism identifies one as a believer and follower of Jesus Christ.
2. Baptism is a proof of one’s faith in Jesus Christ as the Lord and savior.
3. Baptism enables one to attain the gifts of the Holy Spirit that serves to guide one’s life to success.
4. Baptism means that one has been born again as a child of God.
5. Baptism means one’s acceptance to die with Jesus Christ.
6. Baptism provides guidance and protection for all forms of evil in Jesus’ name.
7. Baptism means ones repentance of sins before God so as to be holy.
8. Baptism enables one’s sins to be forgiven by God the merciful father.
9. The sacrament of baptism unites Christians of different background as members of one church community.
10. Baptism provides for individual belonging to a particular church where one is baptized e.g. catholic, Anglican or Born again.
11. Baptism is a way of following Jesus’ example by Christians since he was also baptized.
12. Baptism provides hope in life after death.
13. It enables one to receive other sacraments e.g. Holy Communion, confirmation and holy matrimony.
14. Baptism qualifies one to attain responsibility and leadership in church e.g. head of laity.
15. Baptism enables one to acquire a Christian name e.g. Luke, Sarah, Joseph and Daniel.
16. Baptism assures one of a decent burial by leaders and members of a particular church.
17. Baptism means accepting the love and grace of God.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 21 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

THE DIFFERENT WAYS OF CONDUCTING BAPTISM TODAY

Baptism is conducted differently in various Christian sects or denominations as given below:

1. Among the Pentecostals and Seventh Day Adventists, baptism is for only the adults who have decided for themselves to follow Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and savior.
2. Among the Pentecostals and SDAs the candidate is completely immersed into water e.g. in rivers, swamps, lakes and swimming pools.
3. Among the Catholics and Anglicans, infants are baptized by sprinkling water on the forehead.
4. In the Catholic Church, the candidates should have God parents to guide them and make them grow in Christian principles.
5. A religious leader presides over the baptism ceremony e.g. a pastor, reverend, priest or a bishop.
6. During baptism, Christians invoke the Holy Spirit to come upon believers and those being baptized by singing songs of praise and worship.
7. In the Catholic Church, the candidate is given a white cloth to show that he/she has become purified.
8. In the Catholic Church, the candidate is given a candle to show that he/she has become the light to the world.
9. In the Catholic Church, the candidate is rubbed with olive oil on the forehead.
10. In the Anglican Church, the candidate is baptized on the entrance of the Church and then after he/ she enters the church to show that he has now become a member of the church.
11. In the Catholic Church, the parents of the child and the god parents undergo training of how best they can bring up the child in a religious life.
12. In many Churches, the baptism card or certificate is given to the baptized person afterwards.
13. The members of the Church celebrate through singing, clapping hands to welcome the baptized into the Christian community.
14. Some people in the Catholic Church after baptizing their children, they give offertories as thanksgiving to God.
15. In the Catholic Church, the baptized person is given a rosary or a Catholic medal.
16. Prayers are normally conducted where religious leaders lead other Christians in praying for the candidate.
17. In the Catholic Church, the parents of the child and the God parent publicly rejects Satan before baptism takes place.
18. In the Catholic Church, the baptized person is given a name in line with the Catholic saints e.g. Peter, Paul.

IMPORTANCE/ SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER IN THE EARLY CHURCH

1. The celebration of the Lord’s Supper implied a new covenant which Jesus made with mankind and sealed with his blood.
2. It was a reminder of the last supper which Jesus had with the disciples.
3. The celebration of the Lord’s Supper fostered unity and togetherness among the early believers.
4. The sacrament was the central aspect of the way of worship in the early Church.
5. It was an expression of love for one another especially through sharing the blood and body of Jesus.
6. It was carried out by Christians in memory of Jesus’ death.
7. It implied that Christ is alive especially through his resurrection.
8. The celebration meant that Christians will resurrect at one time.
9. The Lord’s Supper acted as spiritual food aimed at maintaining spiritual life of the early believers.
10. The celebration pointed towards the heavenly banquet or feast which would be enjoyed by all believers.
11. It was a sign of repentance of sins or self-examination among the early believers.
12. It confirmed Jesus’ messianic nature to the early believers.
13. The celebration symbolized the coming joy and perfection in the kingdom of God.
14. It was a way of encouraging believers in the early Church to accept martyrdom as a way of salvation.
15. It was aimed at looking forward to the second coming of Jesus Christ to judge the living and the dead.
16. The bread symbolized Jesus’ body that was crucified.
17. The wine symbolized the blood of Jesus that was shed for the sins of mankind.
18. The celebration of the Lord’s Supper signified the early believers’ inner belief in the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
19. It proved Jesus Christ as a suffering servant of God fulfilling the Old Testament scriptures of Isaiah 53:1-13.
20. It was a way of fulfilling Jesus’ command to his disciples when he said “do this in memory of me”
21. It pointed to the heavenly banquet that the followers of Jesus Christ will enjoy forever after resurrection.

IMPORTANCE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

1. The celebration of the Lord’s Supper implies a new covenant which Jesus made with mankind and sealed with his blood.
2. It is a reminder of the last supper which Jesus has with the disciples.
3. The celebration of the Lord’s Supper promotes unity and togetherness among Christians today.
4. The sacrament is the central aspect of the way of worship in the present Church.
5. It is an expression of love for one another especially through sharing the blood and body of Jesus.
6. It is carried out by Christians in memory of Jesus’ death.
7. It implies that Christ is alive especially through his resurrection.
8. The celebration means that Christians will resurrect at one time.
9. The Lord’s Supper acts as spiritual food aimed at maintaining spiritual life of Christians today.
10. The celebration points towards the heavenly banquet or feast which would be enjoyed by all believers.
11. It is a sign of repentance of sins or self-examination among the Christians today.
12. It confirms Jesus’ messianic nature to the Christians today.
13. The celebration symbolizes the coming joy and perfection in the kingdom of God.
14. It is a way of encouraging believers in the Church today to accept martyrdom as a way of salvation.
15. It is aimed at looking forward to the second coming of Jesus Christ to judge the living and the dead.
16. The bread symbolizes Jesus’ body that was crucified.
17. The wine symbolizes the blood of Jesus that was shed for the sins of mankind.
18. The celebration of the Lord’s Supper shows the Christians’ inner belief in the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
19. It proves Jesus Christ as a suffering servant of God fulfilling the Old Testament scriptures of Isaiah 53:1-13.
20. It is a way of fulfilling Jesus’ command to his disciples when he said “do this in memory of me”
21. It points to the heavenly banquet that the followers of Jesus Christ will enjoy forever after resurrection.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 22 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

**PROBLEMS CHRISTIANS MEET IN PROCLAIMING THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS TODAY**

1. Jesus has not appeared physically to modern Christians hence making it a problem to proclaim Jesus’ resurrection.
2. Christians are not eyewitnesses of the risen Christ hence no concrete evidence of their own.
3. Those who die in Christ today do not come back to tell the story hence a problem.
4. Today, few believers can access the tomb where Jesus was buried as claimed by the early believers.
5. Today, Jesus has not physically revealed himself to Christians like he did with the early believers.
6. Modern preachers are confronted with science and technology which is opposed to Christian teachings.
7. The story of Jesus’ resurrection seems to be too ancient and far from modern Christians.
8. Some people reject the idea that Jesus was a son of God and claim it is impossible to resurrect e.g. Muslims.
9. The influence of paganism, belief in African Traditional Religion and Hinduism also becomes a challenge to Christians to proclaim Jesus’ resurrection.
10. The influence of modernity or western beliefs opposed to Christianity has become a challenge.
11. There is a problem of lack of genuine faith among some Christians who also tend to doubt Jesus’ resurrection.
12. Some people today just doubt resurrection as they think that after death the body is destroyed.
13. Unanswered prayers by some Christians today make them doubt the resurrection of Jesus.
14. Christians today face a challenge of false teachings or doctrines which are against resurrection of the dead.
15. Some people keep wondering why the resurrected Christ appeared to his followers only.
16. The delayed Parousia has become a challenge to Christians when proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus.

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE MESSAGE PREACHED BY JESUS AND THAT PREACHED BY THE APOSTLES AFTER JESUS’ RESURRECTION.

Similarities

1. In both, the message preached was universal in nature e.g. it was for both the Jews and Gentiles.
2. In both, the gospel was preached orally by word of mouth.
3. In both, emphasis was put on repentance of one’s sins and having a changed character.
4. In both, the importance of prayer was stressed.
5. In both, the gospel emphasized Jesus as the son of God.
6. In both messages, faith in Jesus Christ was demanded from the followers.
7. In both, the preachers were subjected to suffering and persecution by their opponents.
8. In both, the idea of the second coming of Jesus was emphasized.
9. In both, the idea of suffering and persecution was a virtue which was to be accepted by the followers.
10. In both, the message involved the idea of crucifixion of Jesus as being central.
11. In both, the message was accompanied with the performance of miracles before the followers.
12. In both, the idea of unity and togetherness was emphasized.
13. In both, the message emphasized the need for humility before others.
14. In both, the message emphasized that Jesus was the promised Messiah.
15. In both, the message emphasized the need to serve one another.
16. In both, the idea of life after death was taught.
17. In both, the message included the idea of God the Father and the Holy Spirit.
18. In both, the message emphasized that the law should not enslave mankind.

Differences

1. Jesus’ message emphasized the idea of the kingdom of God while the message of the Apostles emphasized Jesus as the son of God.
2. Jesus’ message emphasized faith in him in order to become a believer while the apostolic message emphasized baptism for one to be a believer.
3. In Jesus’ message the title son of man is common while in the message of the Apostles, the title Lord is used.
4. In Jesus’ message, miracles were performed by Jesus himself while in the message of the Apostles the Holy Spirit manifested itself in the miracles which the apostles performed.
5. Jesus’ message was preached by Jesus himself while the apostolic message was preached by many Apostles.
6. Jesus’ message was more confined to the Jews while the message of the Apostles was among the Jews and Gentiles.
7. Jesus’ message was purely oral while the message of the Apostles was both oral and written.
8. Jesus’ message majorly emphasized the idea of God’s kingdom while that of the Apostles majorly emphasized the idea of the Parousia.
9. Jesus’ message emphasized faith in Him while the message of the Apostles emphasized more about Jesus’ death and resurrection.
10. The Apostolic message emphasized partaking of the Lord’s Supper regularly in form of agape meals while in Jesus’ message the Lord’s Supper was celebrated once.
11. Jesus’ message was much more confined to Palestine while the apostolic message went beyond Palestine to other gentile places.

**S5 YAAKA DIV 2 LESSON 23 BY: ISIKO DANIEL 0752930371**

THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

1. The synoptic gospels include the gospels according to St. Mark, St. Mathew and St. Luke.
2. These gospels appear to be the same because of their way of presentation and content despite the fact that they are a production of different times, different places and different audiences.
3. The gospel of mark was written around 64 AD in Rome.
4. The gospel of Mathew was written around 70 AD in Jerusalem.
5. The gospel of Luke was written around 80 AD in Caesarea.
6. When such differences emerge, the result is a problem which theologians attempt to find out the causes of these similarities and differences.
7. The synoptic gospels have been proved to report the same information about Jesus Christ in a similar way as seen below:
8. The gospels present the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry.
9. They all present Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist in River Jordan.
10. They all present the temptation of Jesus in the desert.
11. They all present the miracles performed by Jesus.
12. The death of John the Baptist is presented by all authors.
13. The parables of the sower and the mustard seed as used by Jesus are all presented by the three authors.
14. The synoptic gospels all report the sending out of the twelve disciples by Jesus.
15. The rejection of Jesus’ ministry at the beginning of his ministry is reported by all.
16. The three gospels present Jesus’ calming of the storm.
17. The question about fasting towards Jesus and his response to the Jewish religious leaders is presented in all the three gospels.
18. The wordings and expressions used in the synoptic gospels look alike.
19. However, the synoptic gospels tend to have some differences due to the order of presentation of events and the message contained.
20. There are some miracles which are recorded by only one author e.g. Jesus healing of a woman with constant blood flow is only recorded in Mark.
21. The gospel of Mathew presents ten parables many of which are not recoded by other authors.
22. Mark’s gospel presents five parables.
23. Luke’s gospel presents only two parables.
24. Therefore the question as to why the three gospels are similar yet different is what causes the synoptic problem.

SOLUTIONS TO THE SYNOPTIC PROBLEM

Many scholars have come up with various theories in an effort to solve the synoptic problem which include the following:

1. The eyewitness report shows that during Jesus’ ministry, there were many people especially the apostles who witnessed Jesus’ teachings and deeds.
2. The documentary hypothesis theory. Some scholars believe that before the writing of the synoptic gospels, the deeds of Jesus were written in fragments. It is believed that Mark, Mathew and Luke used these fragments to compile their gospels. This theory does not solve the synoptic problem.
3. The Quelle source theory. It should be noted that the gospels of Mathew and Luke have some common information which is not in Mark because of the fact that they used a shared source which they named Quelle.
4. The oral tradition theory. The scholars argue that the gospel writers must have received verbal information from various people who witnessed Jesus’ ministry which they based on to compile their gospel. This theory is however insufficient in solving the synoptic problem since the authors wrote to different audiences.
5. The Mathew source theory. Some scholars believe that Mathew used his own independent source that was unknown to Mark and Luke. This is why some information ***e.g. the story of the beatitudes is only in Mathew.***
6. The Luke source theory. Some scholars believe that Luke had information which was only known to him ***e.g. Jesus’ presentation in the temple, the story of the prodigal son and Jesus’ encounter with Zacchaeus the tax collector.***
7. The Mark source theory. Some scholars realized that the gospel of Mark was the first to be written. They therefore argued that since Mathew and Luke wrote after Mark, they used his source to write more detailed information than Mark.
8. The fact that Mathew and Luke used Mark’s work as a source of their information explains why the synoptic gospels are similar and yet different.

REASONS FOR THE VIEW THAT MARK’S GOSPEL WAS THE FIRST TO BE WRITTEN

1. Mark’s gospel was written much earlier and was in circulation around 64 AD.
2. Mark’s gospel was written first and that is why it was used by other synoptic gospels of Mathew and Luke.
3. Originally, there was a suggestion that Mathew was written first and then Mark summarized Mathew.
4. But later, this assumption was disapproved and discarded.
5. Mark was written first because it is very short and brief with only 16 chapters which means that Mathew and Luke expanded on it.
6. Bishop Papius of Hierapolis during the second century claimed that Mark got information from Simon Peter the apostle.
7. Mark was the first to be written because when Mathew and Luke were writing, they followed Mark’s actual order of events.
8. When Mathew and Luke diverge from Mark’s order of events, they do not agree in their divergence until they come back to Mark’s order of events.
9. Mark is divided into 105 sections and out of these 93 occurs in Mathew and 81 sections occur in Luke.
10. Luke’s gospel presents 320 verses of Mark’s actual 661 verses.
11. Mathew reproduces 606 verses of Mark’s actual 661 verses.
12. Out of the 55 verses of Mark left out of Mathew’s gospel, 31 of these verses are found in Luke.
13. In terms of language, Mathew reproduces 51% of Mark’s actual words and Luke reproduces 53% of Mark’s actual words.
14. Mark’s gospel is much more original, it had ragged language, embarrassing statements and ambiguity which is either omitted or modified by Luke and Mathew.

END OF SECTION A