**Introduction to Matthew**

* Written between 55-65AD to a Jewish Audience
* The book shows that Jesus is the King of Israel. Written to a Jewish audience, this book is an evangelistic tool aimed at Matthew’s fellow Jews, persuading them to recognize Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah.

Matthew 1:1-17 – Genealogies connecting Jesus to David and Abraham

* Jews kept extensive genealogies to establish a person’s heritage, inheritance, legitimacy, and rights. Matthew likely draws on the genealogies of the OT where He demonstrates Jesus’ legal claim to the throne of David, emphasizing Jesus’ legal descent from David and Abraham.

Matthew 1:18-25 – The birth of Jesus

* Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**Introduction to Mark**

* Written between 53-55AD to a Roman Audience
* This book shows Christ as the servant. The ultimate purpose and theme of Mark is *to present and defend Jesus’ universal call to discipleship*. The book focuses much more on a personal relationship with Christ instead of following a long list of rules for salvation.
* There is no geneology, no reference to the virgin birth, and no reference to Jesus’ childhood.
* This book begins with John the Baptist preparing the way and immediately goes into Christ’s ministry.

Introduction to Luke

* Written around 62 AD to a Greek Audience
* Luke was greek and a physician. He used lots of medical language in hiw writtings. This book shows Jesus as the son of man. Luke wrote his Gospel so that his readers would understand that the gospel is for all, both Jews and Gentiles alike.
* Luke is MUCH more detail driven and gives the best account of Jesus Birth

Luke 1:26-38 – Jesus Birth fortold  
Luke 2:1-