



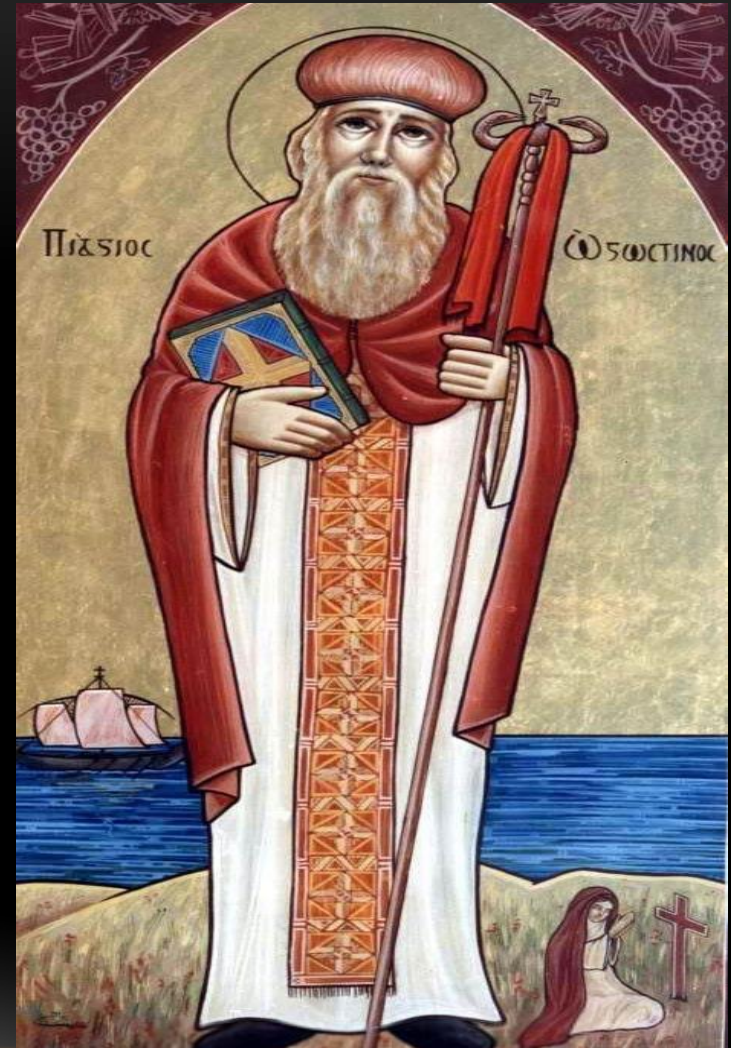
THE NEW TESTAMENT

Part 1

Produced for St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church, Holmdel NJ

ST. AUGUSTINE, BISHOP OF HIPPO (354-430 AD)

- All Scripture describes the coming of the Lord. **The New Testament is hidden in the Old; the Old Testament is brought to light in the New.** Those who are unspiritual have always failed to see this hidden meaning. Yet even before Christ those who were spiritual could find the Words of God hidden in the words of the prophets, and so through this understanding could be set free.



INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Consists of 27 books, 260 Chapters.
- Can be broken down to 3 parts
 - Historical books (The 4 gospels and book of Acts)
 - Educational Epistles (14 Pauline Epistles and 7 Catholic Epistles)
 - Prophetic Book (The book of Revelation)
- Written by 8 writers
 - St.(Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter and Jude).
- All the New Testament (with the exception of the books written by St. John) were written before the destruction of Jerusalem (70AD)

NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW



MARK



LUKE



JOHN



THE
GOSPELS

ACTS



HISTORY

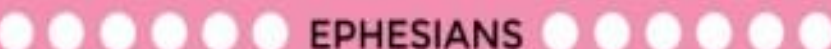
ROMANS



COR.



GALATIANS

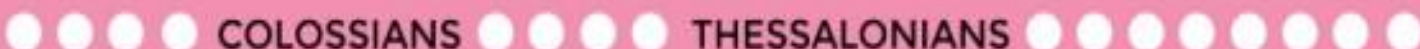


EPHESIANS



EPISTLES
OF PAUL

PHILIPPIANS



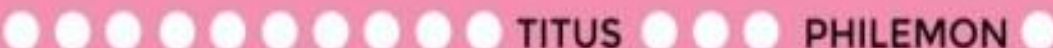
COLOSSIANS



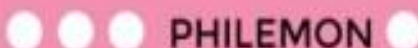
THESSALONIANS



TIMOTHY



TITUS



PHILEMON



HEBREWS



JAMES



PETER



JOHN



JUDE



GENERAL
EPISTLES

REVELATION



PROPHECY

CANONIZATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- None of the early church fathers or writers referred to a single, uniform set of scriptures as we currently imagine them. The lists were fluid and subject to Church synods and councils to standardize them.)
- In 367, St. Athanasius of Alexandria listed all of the current New Testament books in his Paschal Letter.
- The first official council that accepted the present New Testament canon was a local synod, the Council of Hippo in 393. The minutes of that council have been lost, but they were read into the record at the Council of Carthage in 397. Canon 24 from that Synod reads as follows:
 - Besides the canonical Scriptures, nothing shall be read in church under the name of divine Scriptures. Moreover, the canonical Scriptures are these: [then follows a list of Old Testament books, including all of the deuterocanonical books]. The New Testament: the Gospels, four books; the Acts of the Apostles, one book; the Epistles of Paul, thirteen; of the same to the Hebrews; one Epistle; of Peter, two; of John, apostle, three; of James, one; of Jude, one; the Revelation of John. Concerning the confirmation of this canon, the transmarine (ie, Rome, across the Mediterranean Sea) Church shall be consulted. On the anniversaries of martyrs, their acts shall also be read.

WHY DO WE HAVE 4 GOSPELS?

- The term Gospel in Greek is Evangelion
 - Good News
- We have just ONE Gospel not 4. The one Gospel is written by the 4 evangelists from different views inspired by the Holy Spirit!
- This is why when we read the Gospel we say “the Gospel *according* to St. Mark “
- Not an inclusive account of Everything that Our Lord did.
 - “And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen” (John 21:25)
- Each Gospel is written to different people to explain a different aspect of personality of Our Lord.

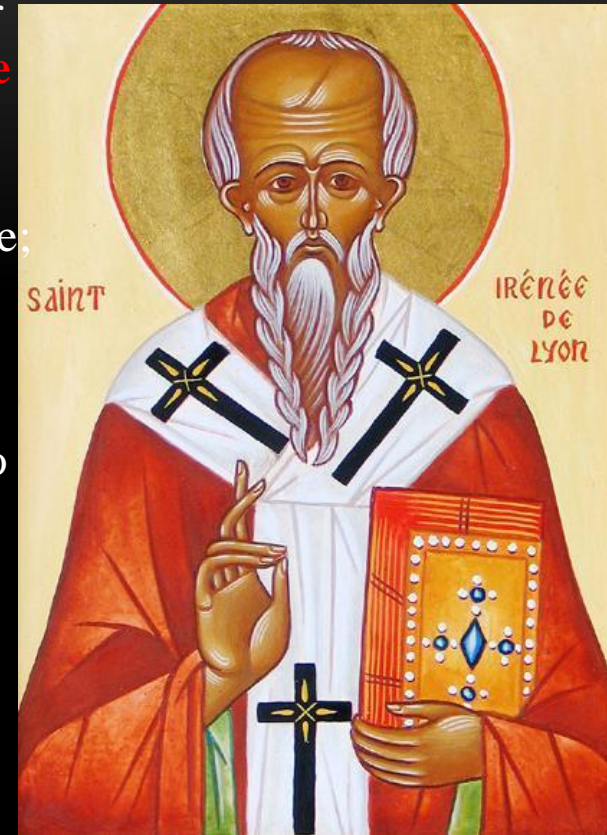
PROOF OF ONLY 4 GOSPELS

- The Church has known of only four Gospels: *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*. These are known as the true Gospels that have documented the words and life of our Lord Jesus Christ, not because the Church declared them to be, but rather because they were always known to be from the time that they were written by their respective authors as inspired by the Holy Spirit. The list of canonical books of the Bible was written by the Church afterwards only when, on the one hand, heretics like Marcion were eliminating certain books of the Bible, and on the other hand, other so-called gospels were appearing, e.g. *the Gospel of Peter, the Gospel of Judas, the Gospel of Thomas*, etc...
- We have two types of proofs :
 - External Evidence : Testimonies of the church fathers writings.
 - Internal Evidence : Evidence derived from the text itself.



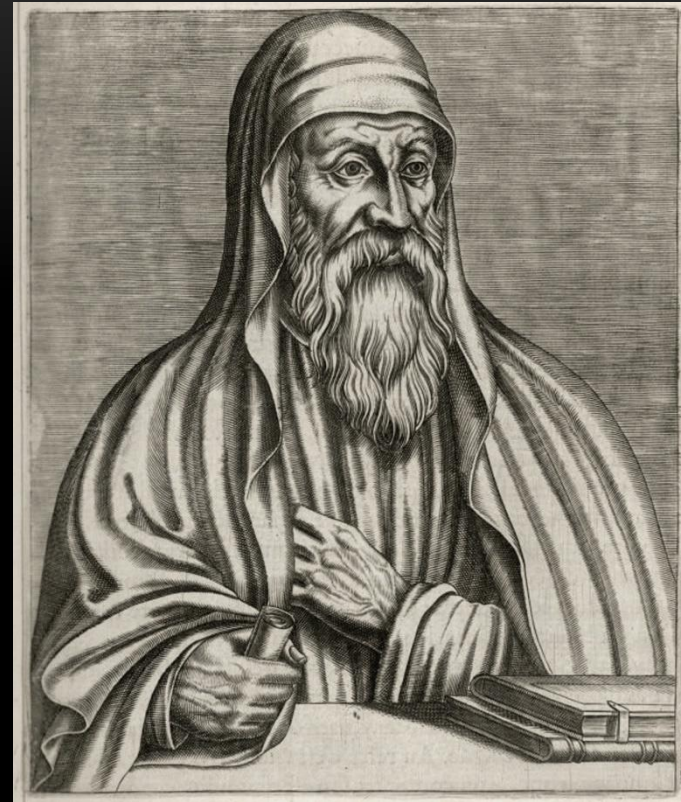
ST. IRENAEUS OF LYONS (120-202 A.D.)

- "It is not possible that the Gospels can be either more or fewer in number than they are. For, since there **are four zones of the world** in which we live, and four principal winds, while the Church is scattered throughout all the world, and **the 'pillar and ground' of the Church is the Gospel** and the spirit of life; it is fitting that **she should have four pillars**, breathing out immortality on every side, and vivifying men afresh. From which fact, it is evident that **the Word**, the Artificer of all, He that sitteth upon the cherubim, and contains all things, He who was manifested to men, **has given us the Gospel under four aspects**, but bound together by one Spirit. As also David says, when entreating His manifestation, 'Thou that sittest between the cherubim, shine forth.' **For the cherubim, too, were four faced**, and their faces were images of the dispensation of the Son of God... For the living creatures are quadriform, and the Gospel is quadriform, as is also the course followed by the Lord. For this reason were **four principal covenants** given to the human race: one, prior to the deluge, under Adam; the second, that after the deluge, under Noah; the third, the giving of the law, under Moses; the fourth, that which renovates man, and sums up all things in itself by means of the Gospel, raising and bearing men upon its wings into the heavenly kingdom" (*Adv. Haer. III, XI, 8; in Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol. 1*).A



ORIGEN THE SCHOLAR (C. 185-254 A.D.)

- "Concerning **the four Gospels** which alone are uncontroverted in the Church of God under heaven, I have learned by tradition that the *Gospel according to Matthew*, who was at one time a publican and afterwards an Apostle of Jesus Christ, was written first; and that he composed it in the Hebrew tongue and published it for the converts from Judaism. The second written was that according to **Mark**, who wrote it according to the instruction of Peter, who, in his General Epistle, acknowledged him as a son, saying, 'The church that is in Babylon, elect together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Mark my son.' And third, was that according to **Luke**, the Gospel commended by Paul, which he composed for the converts from the Gentiles. Last of all, that according to **John**."



ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM (C. 350 A.D.)

- "Then of the New Testament there **are the four Gospels only**, for the rest have false titles and are mischievous. The Manichaeans also wrote a *Gospel according to Thomas*, which being tinctured with the fragrance of the evangelic title corrupts the souls of the simple sort."



ST. ATHANASIUS (367 A.D.)

- "Again it is not tedious to speak of the [books] of the New Testament. **These are, the four Gospels, according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John...**" and continues after listing the entire list of New Testament books:
"These are fountains of salvation, that they who thirst may be satisfied with the living words they contain. In these alone is proclaimed the doctrine of godliness. **Let no man add to these, neither let him take ought from these.** For concerning these the Lord put to shame the Sadducees, and said, 'Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures.' And He reproved the Jews, saying, 'Search the Scriptures, for these are they that testify of Me'" (*Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers*, series 2, vol. 4).



APOSTOLIC CANONS (380 A.D.)

- "...But our sacred books, that is, those of the New Covenant, are these: **the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John...**" (from Canon 85, *Apostolic Constitutions*, *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 7 Canon II:55 according to the Apostolic Canons' numbering in the Coptic Church).



INTERNAL EVIDENCE

- The Holy Spirit worked through the Evangelists by directing, guiding, preventing them from making errors in writing, and showing them the facts that God wants to convey to man. (2 Tim. 3:16-17 / 2 Peter 1:20-21 / John 14:26)
- The Other Sources that the Evangelist utilized maybe verified with absolute certainty as follows:
 - Matthew and John were two of the twelve Apostles of Christ. They had first hand knowledge of the events they recorded.
 - Mark, according to tradition was one of the seventy, relative of Peter and Barnabas, he accompanied Paul and Peter in their evangelizing trips. In his house was the upper room of Zion.
 - St. Luke asserts that he obtained his information from eye witnesses. He obtained some of his information from the Virgin St. Mary.
- The Lord Himself remained with the disciples forty days and was explaining to them the secrets of the kingdom of Heaven.

The 4 Gospels



THE GOSPEL OF ST. MATTHEW

- Written by St. Matthew (Gift of Jehova)
- Written around 60-67
- Living Creature : Man
- Written to the Jews who converted to Christianity
- Focus on the prophecies about the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Highest priest and King of Israel.
- He started his Holy Gospel by the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ in flesh.
- His main focus is that the Lord Jesus Christ came to make the Law perfect.
- Kingdom of Heaven reported 32 times in his Holy Gospel.



THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK

- Written by St. Mark (Latin: Marcus means Hammer)
- Written around 60-61
- Living Creature : Lion
- Written to the Roman Gentiles
- Focus on miraculous personality of the Lord
- He started his Holy Gospel by “Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”
- He declared that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Lion of Judas and the Son of God who overcame the death by His death.



THE GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE

- Written by St. Luke (Greek: The carrier of the glaring light)
- Written around 58-63
- Living Creature : OX
- Written to the Greek
- Focus on the Lord as the Savior and servant of humans
- genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ dates back to Adam the father of humans
- He presented the Lord Jesus Christ as a man without any sin, forgave sinners, healed sicknesses, comforted sorrows and cared for His followers.



THE GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN

- Written by St. John (God is Gracious)
- Written around 80-90
- Living Creature : Eagle
- Written to everyone
- Focus mainly on the Divine nature of the Lord. He was the Son of God.
- The Gospel of the incarnation
- The Holy Gospel of Christian Love (John 3:16)



Gospel	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
<i>Author's Profession</i>	Publican (Tax Collector)		Physician	Fisherman
<i>Possible Date Written</i>	Approx 60-67	Approx 60-61	Approx 58-63s	Approx 80-90s
<i>Target Audience</i>	The Jews	The Romans	The Greeks	Cross Cultural
<i>Portrait of Jesus</i>	Prophesied King, King of Israel, Son of Abraham	Obedient Servant, Servant of the Lord.	Perfect Man, Son of Man, Son of Adam (of God)	Divine Son of God.
<i>Style of Writer</i>	Teacher, organized discourse, fulfilled Prophecies	Preacher, Miracles, evangelistic	Descriptive with details, Parables, discipleship	Theologian, Doctrines,
<i>The Living Creatures</i>	Man	Lion	Ox	Eagle
<i>ONE GOSPEL</i>	“To present Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of the World”			

QUESTIONS ?

