

Getting the Big Picture: Session 11

The Life of Christ

Structure of the Bible

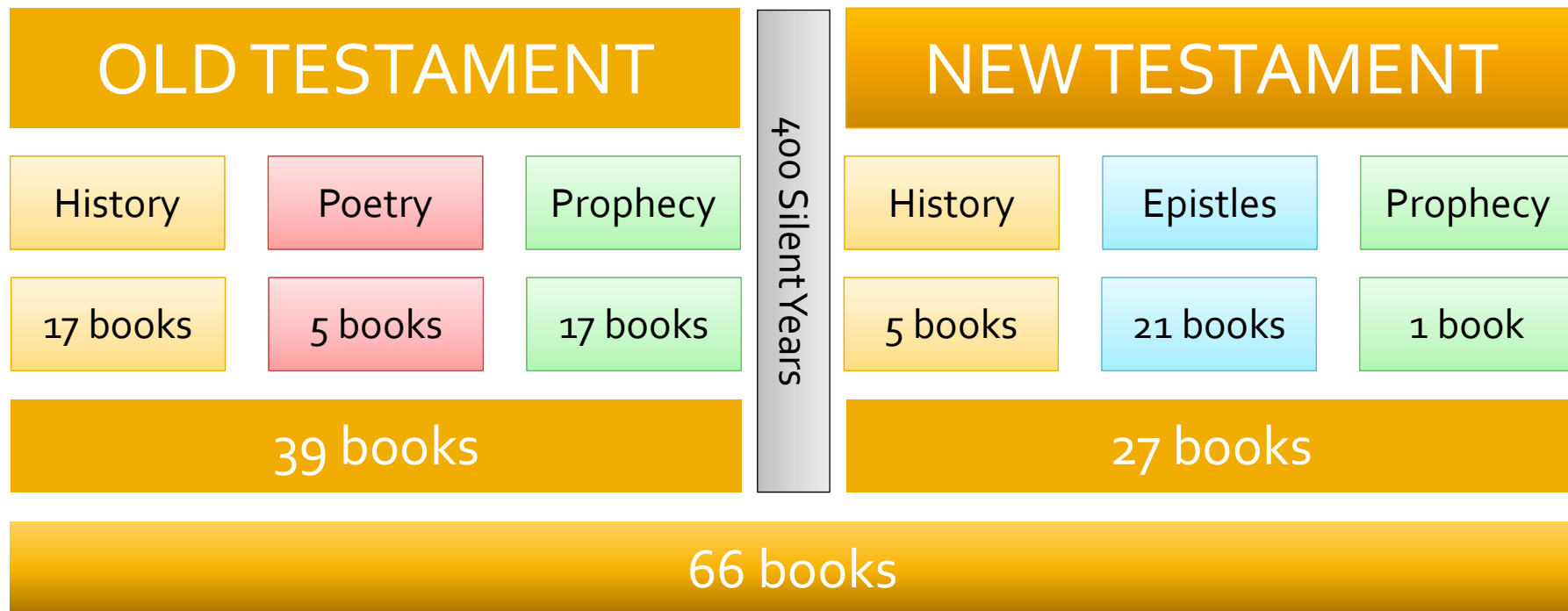
OLD TESTAMENT

- History of God's dealings with Israel
- Written in Hebrew and Aramaic
- Covers 4000 plus years

NEW TESTAMENT

- History of Christ and His Church
- Written in Greek
- Covers about 100 years

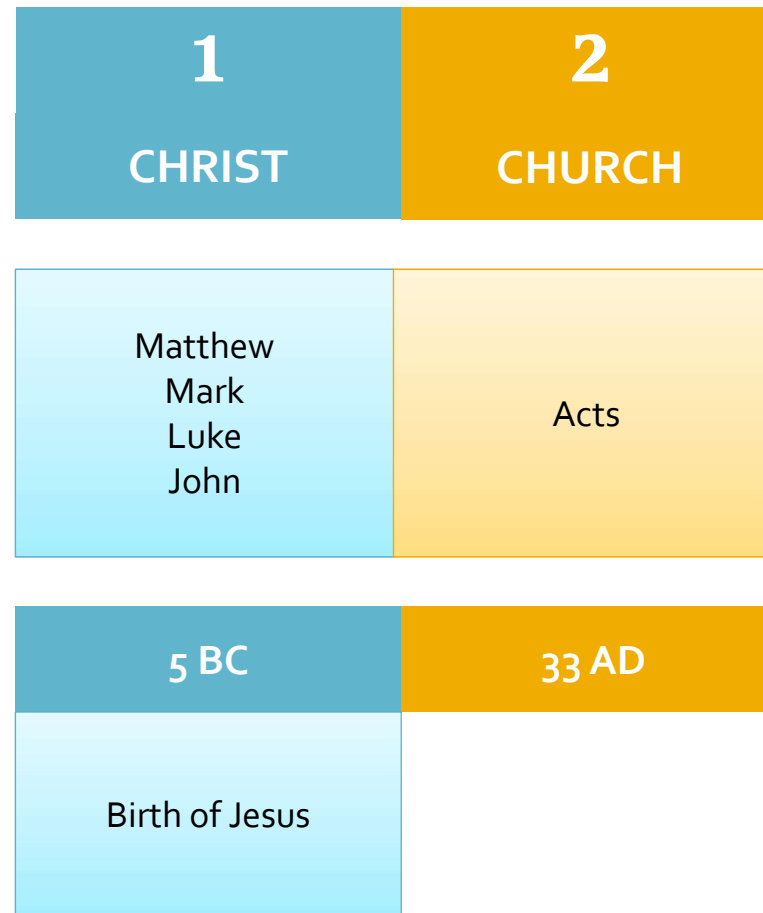
Structure of the Bible



2 Periods of New Testament History

1	2
CHRIST	CHURCH
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts
5 BC	33 AD
Birth of Jesus	Descent of the Spirit

2 Periods of New Testament History



1-Life of Christ

History

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Epistles

Prophecy

Why four gospels?

“Behold your King!”

Matthew

“Behold My Servant!”

Mark

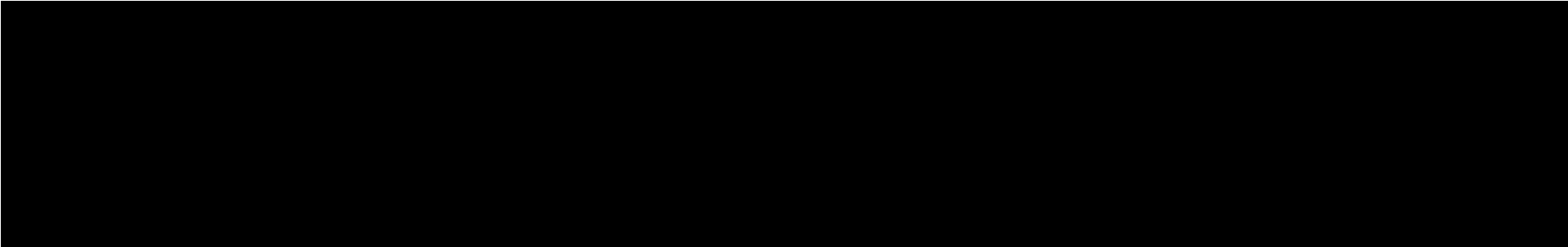
“But who do you
say I am?”
—Jesus Christ

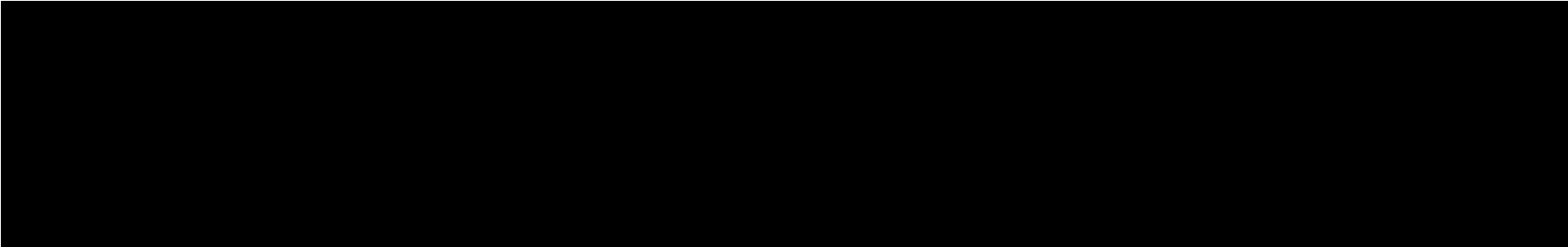
“Behold the Man!”

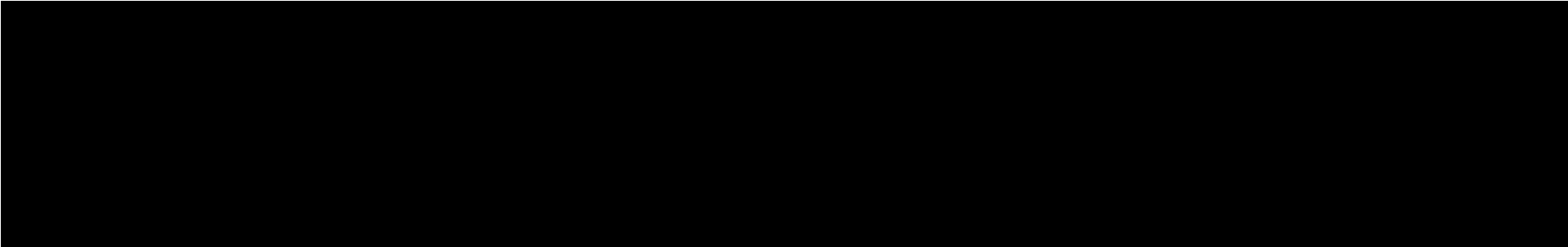
Luke

“Behold your God!”

John

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- These are differences in emphasis but none of them are exclusive to just one gospel.
 - For instance, although John's emphasis is on Christ as Son of God, Mark begins his gospel by saying, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1).
 - And in chapters 3-4 of Luke's gospel, he mentions 4 times that Jesus is the Son of God.

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- Matthew and Mark share the most material in common, but Matthew has much more sermon material.
 - That is, the gospel is structured around five major discourses in chapters 5-7, 10, 13, 18, and 24-25.
 - While Mark is much shorter, he usually gives more detailed accounts of events than Matthew, but leaves out the long discourses/sermons.
 - Yet Mark still tells us that Jesus came to preach (Mark 1:38).

- 
- Luke is the longest of the 4 gospels and has large sections of unique material.
 - Matthew and Luke emphasise the birth of the Lord Jesus.
 - Luke also emphasises the historical reliability of the records of the life of Jesus.
 - John takes us all the way back to before the world was created, and tells us that all things were made by the Lord Jesus.

- And John, the last gospel written, is composed of 92% unique material.
- He records just 8 miracles but 6 of these are unique to his gospel.
- Virtually all of chapters 14-17, the Farewell Ministry of Christ, is unique to John, as is much of the early ministry of Christ in ch. 1-5.
- John also reminds us that all the books in the world would not have been able to contain all that could be said about Jesus (21:5).

Identity of Jesus: His Names

Jesus

Identity of Jesus: His Names

Saviour Son of God Son of Man

Redeemer The Word Immanuel

Good Shepherd King of Kings

Lord Jesus Christ

Lamb of God

Light of
the world

Bread of life

Messiah

Lion of Judah

The way

The truth

The life

The resurrection and the life

Wonderful Counsellor

Mighty God

Everlasting Father

Prince of Peace

Identity of Jesus: His miracles

35 distinct miracles are recorded	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
	20	18	20	8
	3	2	6	6
Unique				

These miracles demonstrate Jesus's

POWER

AUTHORITY

COMPASSION

Over:

NATURE

9

SICKNESS

16

DEMONS

7

DEATH

3

And together they confirm His claims of deity!

Identity of Jesus: His teaching

- Demonstrates:
 - His authority as King
 - His knowledge as a Prophet
 - His wisdom as a Judge
 - His ethics as a Teacher
- His teaching also prepares His disciples for the ministry they will have as His representatives during His absence.

The Mission of Jesus

- In John's gospel we read nearly forty times that Jesus was "sent" by His Father. He understood that He was sent for a purpose. Some of these reasons include:
 - To reveal the Father, John 1:18
 - To reveal His kingdom agenda, Matthew 4:17
 - To teach, Mark 1:38
 - To save His people from their sins, Matthew 1:21

The Life of Christ: Key verse

- “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

■ Mark 10:45

The Life of Christ

The Son of
Man came ...

1

His Birth &
Early Childhood

2

Preparation &
Early Ministry

...not
to be served
but to
serve...

3

Ministry
in Galilee

4

Ministry
around
Galilee

5

Ministry
in Judea

6

Ministry
in Perea

...and to
give His life
a ransom
for many.
Mark 10:45

7

His Final Week &
Crucifixion

8

His Resurrection &
Ascension

Some Bibles include a harmony of the Gospels. We have based these charts on Robert L. Thomas, *Charts of the Gospels and the Life of Christ* (Zondervan, 2000). Calculations of percentages are based on our own count of verses.

Gospels comprise 3788 verses

198 vss. (5.2%)

1-Birth & early childhood

Matthew

1:1-2:23

48 vss. (4.5%)

Luke

1:1-2:52

132 vss. (11.5%)

John

1:1-18

18 vss. (2.0%)

250 vss. (6.6%)

2-Preparation & early ministry

Matthew

3:1-4:12

29 vss. (2.7%)

Mark

1:1-13

13 vss. (1.9%)

Luke

3:1-4:13

51 vss. (4.5%)

John

1:19-4:45

157 vss. (17.5%)

883 vss. (23.3%)

3-Galilean ministry

Matthew

4:13-14:12

Mark

1:14-6:30

Luke

4:14-9:9

John

4:46-5:47

387 vss. (36.1%)

208 vss. (30.8%)

233 vss. (20.3%)

55 vss. (6.1%)



438 vss. (11.6%)

4-Ministry around Galilee

Matthew

8:19-22
14:13-18:35

155 vss. (14.5%)

Mark

6:31-9:50

150 vss. (22.2%)

Luke

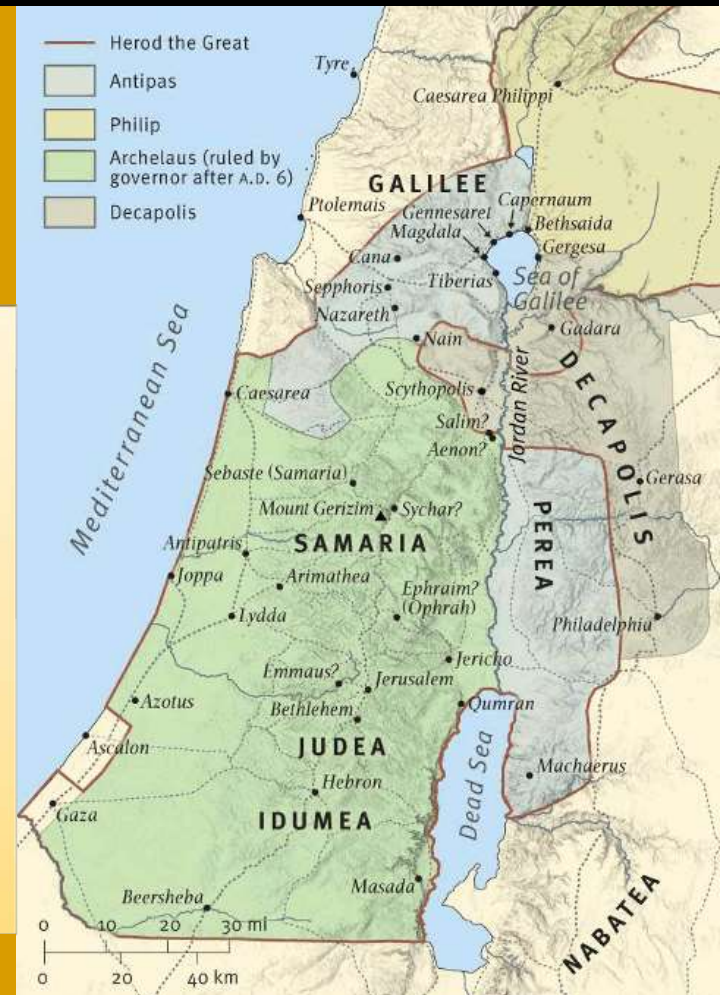
9:10-62

52 vss. (4.5%)

John

6:1-7:10

81 vss. (9.1%)



5-Later Judean Ministry

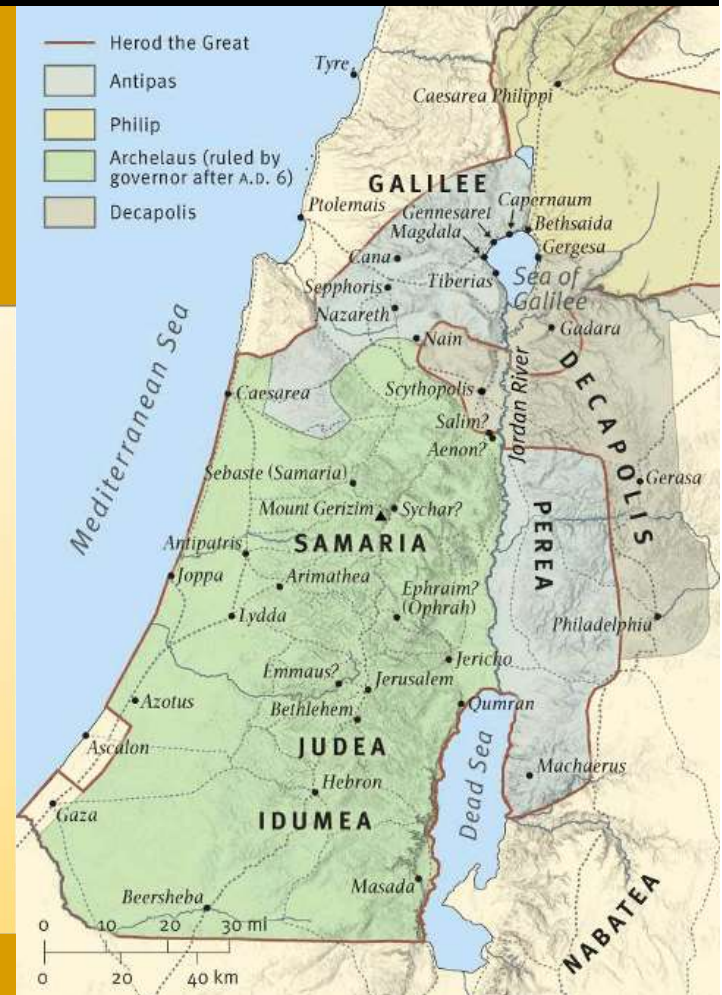
358 vss. (9.5%)

Luke
10:1-13:21

John
7:11-10:39

176 vss. (15.3%)

182 vss. (20.4%)



390 vss. (10.3%)

6-Perean Ministry

Matthew

19:1-20:34

64 vss. (5.9%)

Mark

10:1-52

52 vss. (7.7%)

Luke

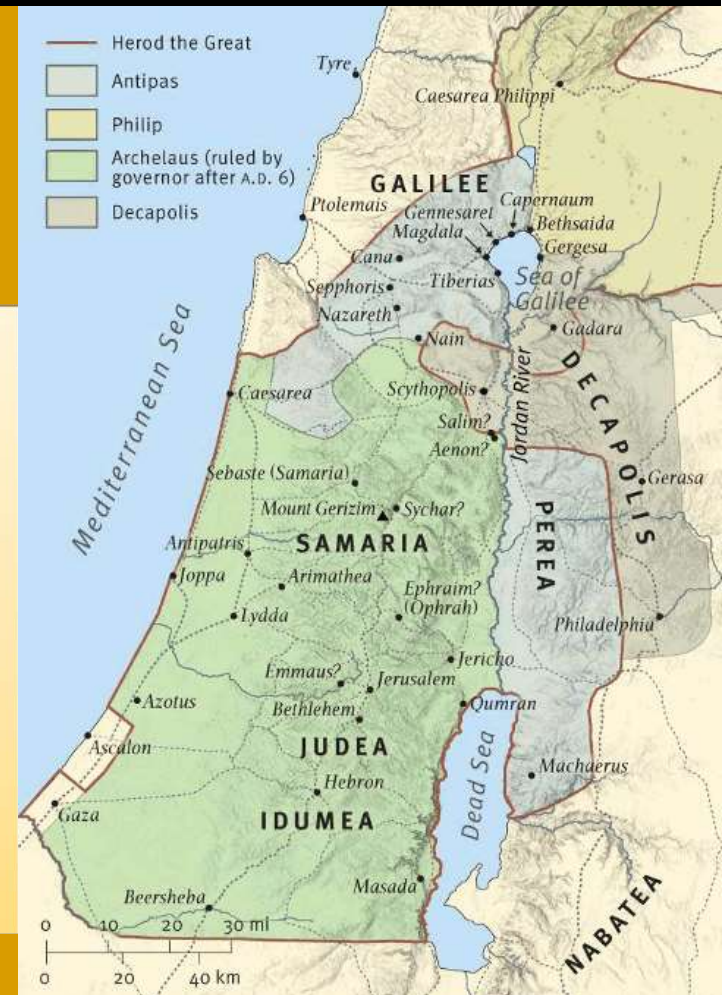
13:22-19:27

218 vss. (19.0%)

John

10:40-11:54

56 vss. (6.3%)



1117 vss. (29.5%)

7-The Final Week

Matthew

21:1-27:66

Mark

11:1-15:41

Luke

19:28-23:56

John

11:55-19:42

Note: Nearly 30% of the gospels focus on the final week of Jesus's life!

369 vss. (34.4%)

227 vss. (33.7%)

232 vss. (20.3%)

289 vss. (32.3%)

154 vss. (4.0%)

8-Resurrection & Ascension

Matthew

28:1-20

20 vss. (1.9%)

Mark

16:1-20

25 vss. (3.7%)

Luke

24:1-53

53 vss. (4.6%)

John

20:1-21:25

56 vss. (6.3%)

Significance of this era

- The two most important aspects of the Gospels are understanding who Jesus is and understanding why He came.
- Understanding His identity is vital to understanding His death.
- And we can't fully understand His death unless we understand His resurrection.

Significance of this era

- That is why Paul would later summarise the essence of the Gospel message that must be believed for salvation in these words:
 - *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.*
 - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4