

Saint Raphael Catholic Church
Bible Study 2025-2026
“The Synoptic Gospels”

SYLLABUS

OVERVIEW – THE BIBLE STUDY COMPONENT

The Gospels are the heart of the New Testament. But what is a “gospel”, and how do we view and relate to them (both as a Church in terms of teaching and scholarship, and as individuals)? This year we will study the Synoptic Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. This study is designed to enhance our understanding of the person, message, and mission of Jesus in his historical milieu. We will look at distinctive aspects of each evangelist’s portrayal of Jesus and spend a fair amount of time looking at gospel parallels.

CCC 125: “The Gospels are the heart of all the Scriptures ‘because they are our principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Savior.’” (quoting *Dei Verbum*)

You should, by the end of this year, be able to demonstrate familiarity with the contexts and contents of the SG. You should be able to explain key events in the life of Jesus (Baptism, Transfiguration, Last Supper) with relation to the Old Testament and the ancient Jewish context. You should be more familiar with commentaries and resources for further study as well.

OVERVIEW – THE HOLY READING COMPONENT

What we will be doing in class will be a study of the gospel texts and the Gospels as a whole. The syllabus also lists a “task for you” to be completed each week before the next session. This task is also usually “study” oriented. There is a dire need among most Catholics for increased Scriptural literacy, and our Bible Study is designed to give you intellectual formation in the texts and various aspects of the world of the Bible. But intellectual formation should never be an end in itself. The reason we need this intellectual formation is so that we can better hear and receive the Word in prayer and worship, so that this Word might transform us as we strive daily to respond to our Baptismal call.

You are highly encouraged to engage in “holy reading” of the Gospels each week during this year. Holy Reading is not about study; it’s about being in relationship with the living God. Whether you find *Lectio Divina*, Ignatian imagery, or some other form of holy reading most fruitful, engaging with the texts in a prayerful

way each day (or at least a few times each week) will keep us focused on the reality that our intellectual learning is a necessary but insufficient first step on our spiritual journey.

SCHEDULE

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| September 2 | Course Introduction – Syllabus Review
Road Map and Explanation of Our Goals This Year
Initial Thoughts about the Gospels
Pericopes: 1, 367
<i>Task for you: Read the Gospel of Mark in one sitting</i> |
| September 9 | Introductory Topics, Part 1
The Four Contexts: Mediterranean, Roman, Greek, Jewish
Three Backgrounds: Social, Economic, Political
Pericopes: 33, 34, 35
<i>Task for you: Read the Gospel of Matthew in one or two sittings</i> |
| September 16 | Introductory Topics, Part 2
Old Testament Background: History and Theology
Early Church Background: Oral, Written, Pauline
Pericopes: 254, 282
<i>Task for you: Read the Gospel of Luke in one or two sittings</i> |
| September 23 | NO BIBLE STUDY – ROSH HASHANAH |
| September 30 | Introductory Topics, Part 3
Exegesis: Principles of Interpretation: Historical and Literary
The Synoptic Problem
Pericopes: 92, 93
<i>Task for you: Familiarize yourself with the various comparison charts. Become more familiar with the “materials found only in...”</i> |
| October 7 | Gospel Overviews, Part 1
The Gospel of Mark
The Gospel of Matthew
Pericopes: 69, 73, 110, 116, 126, 147, 152, 156, 331
<i>Task for you: Read the six pericopes found only in Luke (from next week’s pericopes)</i> |

- October 14 Gospel Overviews, Part 2
 The Gospel of Luke
 The Gospel of John
 Pericopes: 1, 79, 86, 115, 265, 266
 Task for you: Revisit the Infancy Narratives in Matt and Luke (and also the genealogy in Luke, which is separate). Try to find the unique voice, emphasis, and message of each.
- October 21 The Infancy Narratives
 Pericopes 2-12, 19
 Task for you: Read the JBap pericopes, asking yourself if you have an understanding of the place of JBap in the Gospels and in the life and ministry of Jesus.
- October 28 John the Baptist
 Pericopes 13-17
 Task for you: If you don't already know it, find your baptismal date, certificate, candle, etc. Do the same for your family, and celebrate! What are the minute differences in the baptism parallels? Read the readings for the Baptism of the Lord from the end of the Christmas Season)
- November 4 The Baptism of Jesus
 Pericope 18
 The Testing
 Pericope 20
 Task for you: Read some of the articles that interest you
- November 11 The Galilean Ministry, Part 1
 Call to Discipleship and Early Preaching
 Pericopes 30-49 (minus miracles)
 Task for you: Do some SG work of your choosing
- November 18 The Galilean Ministry, Part 2
 Growing Opposition
 Pericopes 84-127 (minus parables and miracles)
 Task for you: Catch up on any of the tasks you need more time with
- November 25 NO BIBLE STUDY – THANKSGIVING WEEK

- December 2 The Galilean Ministry, Part 3
Feeding and Withdrawal
Pericopes 127-173 (minus parables, miracles, and 158-164)
Task for you: Spend time journaling or reflecting on the call of discipleship, the passion predictions, and the meaning in your life right now of “deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow”
- December 9 The Confession at Caesarea and Passion
Pericopes 158, 159, 160, 164
The Transfiguration
Pericope 161
Task for you: Over Christmas break, familiarize yourself with the Parables of Jesus
- December 16 Catch-up Day
- December 23 NO BIBLE STUDY – CHRISTMAS BREAK
- December 30 NO BIBLE STUDY – CHRISTMAS BREAK
- January 6 The Parables, Part 1
Significance and Purpose
Pericopes 122, 127, 128, 129, 132, 133, 173, 256, 277, 278, 279, 298, 299, 300 (sort of the “Matthean Parables”)
Task for you: Write a homily about one of the parables
- January 13 The Parables, Part 2
Kingdom, Gift, Newness, Inevitability, Nearness
Pericopes 122, 125, 126, 128, 278 (sort of the “Marcan Parables”)
Task for you: Write a paragraph about your relationship with the Gospels. How was it before? How is it now? How would you like it to be?
- January 20 The Parables, Part 3
Kingdom-Inclusiveness and Value
Pericopes 122, 183, 200, 207, 216, 219, 220, 221, 222, 228, 236, 237, 266, 278
Task for you: Compose your own parable

- January 27 The Parables, Part 4
Kingdom-Cost, Challenge
Pericopes (continue and review)
Task for you: Read the Sermon on the Mount
- February 3 The Sermon on the Mount, Part 1
The Eschatological Ethic
Pericopes 50-76
Task for you: Read the Sermon on the Plain
- February 10 The Sermon on the Mount, Part 2
The Application
Pericopes 77-83
Task for you: Write a paragraph about how you feel about miracle stories in the Bible, and about miracles generally.
- February 17 NO BIBLE STUDY
- February 24 The Miracles, Part 1
Nature, Cosmic
Pericopes 90, 146, 147, 153, 165, 275, 367
Task for you: Choose your favorite, exorcism, healing, and/or resuscitation miracle. Write a paragraph about what it means to you.
- March 3 The Miracles, Part 2
Exorcisms and Healings
Pericopes 47, 48, 84, 85, 91, 92, 96, 140-141, 151, 163, 264, 331
Resuscitations
Pericopes 86, 95, 208, 259
Task for you: Write a paragraph or two about the idea of "journeying" to Jerusalem. What did it mean for Jesus? For the Gospel writers? What does it mean to you?
- March 10 The Journey to Jerusalem
Pericopes 157-250
Task for you: Write about your current understanding of the relationship between the Old and New Testament.

- March 17 The Jerusalem Ministry, Part 1
Cursing, Cleansing, Conflict
Pericopes 251-268
Task for you: Begin reading the four Passion Narratives
- March 24 The Jerusalem Ministry, Part 2
Apocalypse and Judgment
Pericopes 269-304
Task for you: Continue reading the four Passion Narratives
- March 31 NO BIBLE STUDY – HOLY WEEK
- April 7 NO BIBLE STUDY – EASTER WEEK
- April 14 The Passion Narrative, Part 1
Conspiracy and Last Supper
Pericopes 305-329
Task for you: Journal about your experience of the Passion Narratives throughout your life.
- April 21 The Passion Narrative, Part 2
Arrest and Trial
Pericopes 330-341
Task for you: What is your current understanding of the “Roman” and “Jewish” contexts of the PN?
- April 28 The Passion Narrative, Part 3
Crucifixion
Pericopes 341-351
Task for you: Go to the foot of the Cross
- May 5 The Resurrection Narrative
Burial and Empty Tomb
Pericopes 352-354
Appearances
Pericopes 355-361
Task for you: Write a paragraph or two about the relationship and relative importance of the 40 days of Lent and the 50 days of Easter

May 12 The Historical Jesus and the Risen Christ
Task for you: Reflect (write, journal, etc) on your progress this year with SG, and with the Bible generally.

May 19 Christology: The Theology of Jesus

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLASS PARTICIPATION

The binders for this year's Bible Study contain (among other things) quite a few scholarly articles from the turn of the 20th century to today. They represent a view of scholarship through the last 125 years, not necessarily an authoritative position. If you would like to give a brief (no more than five minutes including Q&A time) presentation on one of the articles, you are welcome to do so.

There are also tasks that are basically "writing prompts". If you'd like to share any of those with me, feel free. If you're sharing them with me and I'm welcome to share them with the class, let me know!

Alternate "Tasks": If you want to go even deeper, and write a paper or four, here are the suggestions:

1. Exegetical Analysis of a Parable. Select one parable contained in two or three of the Synoptics and analyze the passage making use of source, form, and redaction criticism. You may incorporate literary or sociological methods, but the main focus should be on tradition-historical questions.
2. Exegetical Analysis of a Miracle Narrative. Select one miracles narrative contained in two or three of the Synoptics, and proceed as above.
3. Exegetical Analysis of a Passage from the Synoptic Passion Narratives. Select one PN passage contained in two or three of the Synoptics, and proceed as above.

EXTRA OPPORTUNITY

On Monday evening, October 13 the Jewish people celebrate the feast of *Simchat Torah* (the "rejoicing of the Torah"). It is at this point that the Jewish liturgy reaches the end of Deuteronomy and begins again with Genesis 1:1. Our class is cordially invited to join with the community of Mishkan Or for a "Rock My Simchat Torah" on Monday, October 13 at 6:30 PM. You will have a chance to see a Torah scroll completely unrolled, to dance with the Torah, and even to hold the Torah in this alternative (meaning Cantor Sebo and I will be joined by a band) service. Congregation Mishkan Or is located at 26000 Shaker Blvd, Beachwood, OH 44122.

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Coming Soon!

TOPICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Political Background

Introductory

- Carter, Warren. *The Roman Empire and the New Testament: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006.
- Cassidy, Richard J. *Christians and Roman Rule in the New Testament: New Perspectives*. New York: Crossroad, 2001.
- Cate, Robert L. *A History of the Bible Lands in the Interbiblical Period*. Nashville: Broadman, 1989.
- Niswonger, Richard L. *New Testament History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.
- Roetzel, Calvin J. *The World That Shaped the New Testament*. Rev. ed. Louisville: WJKP, 2002.
- Rogers, Cleon L., Jr. *The Topical Josephus*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Intermediate

- Barnett, Paul. *Jesus and the Rise of Early Christianity: A History of New Testament Times*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1999.
- Hayes, John H. and Sara R. Mandell. *The Jewish People in Classical Antiquity: From Alexander to Bar Kochba*. Louisville: WJKP, 1998.
- Horsley, Richard A. *Scribes, Visionaries, and the Politics of Second Temple Judea*. Louisville and London: WJKP, 2007.
- Jagersma, Henk. *A History of Israel from Alexander the Great to Bar Kochba*. London: SCM, 1985; Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986.
- Murphy, Frederick J. *Early Judaism: The Exile to the Time of Jesus*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002.
- Tomasino, Anthony J. *Judaism before Jesus: The Ideas and Events That Shaped the New Testament World*. Downers Grove and Leicester: IVP, 2003.
- Witherington, Ben III. *New Testament History: A Narrative Account*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

Advanced

- Collins, John J. and Gregory E. Surling, eds. *Hellenism in the Land of Israel*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2001.
- Feldman, Louis H. *Judaism and Hellenism Reconsidered*. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2006.
- Grabbe, Lester L. *Judaism from Cyrus to Hadrian*. 2 vols. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.
- Hengel, Martin. *Judaism and Hellenism*. 2 vols. London: SCM; Philadelphia: Fortress, 1974.
- Horsley, Richard A. *Galilee: History, Politics, People*. Rev. ed. Valley Forge: Trinity,

1995.

Sacchi, Paolo. *The History of the Second Temple Period*. Sheffield: SAP, 2000.

Smallwood, E. Mary. *The Jews under Roman Rule*. Leiden: Brill, 1981.

Religious Background

Introductory

Anchor Bible Dictionary, s.v. "Cynics," "Epicureanism," "Gnosticism," "Mystery Religions," "Myth and Mythology (Greco-Roman)," "Pythagoreanism," "Roman Imperial Cult," and "Stoicism."

Cohn-Sherbock, Dan and John M. Court. *Religious Diversity in the Greco-Roman World: A Survey of Recent Scholarship*. Sheffield: SAP, 2001.

Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, s.v. "Apocalyptic," "Dead Sea Scrolls," "Judaism," "Pharisee," "Scribes," "Revolutionary Movements," and "Sanhedrin."

Nash, Ronald H. *The Gospel and the Greeks: Did the New Testament Borrow from Pagan Thought?* Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2003.

Tripolitis, Antonia. *Religions of the Hellenistic-Roman Age*. Grand Rapids and Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2002.

Intermediate

Cohen, Shaye J. D. *From the Maccabees to the Mishnah*. Rev. ed. Louisville: WJKP, 2006.

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

Finegan, Jack. *Myth and Mystery: An Introduction to the Pagan Religions of the Biblical World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989.

Klauck, Hans-Josef. *The Religious Context of Early Christianity: A Guide to Greco-Roman Religions*. London: T&T Clark, 2000; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.

Nickelsburg, G.W.E. *Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1981.

Price, Simon. *Religions of the Ancient Greeks*. Cambridge: CUP, 1999.

Advanced

Grabbe, Lester. *Judaic Religions in the Second Temple Period*. Lond and New York: Routledge, 2000.

Safrai, Shemuel and M. Stern, eds. *The Jewish People in the First Century*. 2 vols. Assen: can Gorcum; Philadelphia: Fortress, 1974-1976.

Saldarini, Anthony J. *Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees in Palestinian Society: A Sociological Approach*. Grand Rapids and Cambridge: Eerdmans; Livonia, MI: Dove Publishers, repr. 2001.

Sanders, E.P. *Judaism: Practice and Belief, 63 BCE-66 CE*. London: SCM; Philadelphia: Trinity, 1992.

Schurer, Emil. *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ*. 3 vols. Ed. And rev. Geza Vermes, Fergus Millar, Matthew Black. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1973-87.

Stemberger, Gunter. *Jewish Contemporaries of Jesus: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.

Socioeconomic Background

Introductory

- Bell, Albert A. Jr. *A Guide to the New Testament World*. Scottdale, PA and Waterloo, ON: Herald, 1994.
- Bouquet, A.C. *Everyday Life in New Testament Times*. London: Batsford, 1953; New York: Macmillan, 1977.
- Elliott, John H. *What Is Social-Scientific Criticism?* Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.
- Gower, Ralph. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. Rev. ed. Chicago: Moody, 2005.
- Jenkins, Ian. *Greek and Roman Life*. London: British Museum Trustees; Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1986.
- Osiek, Carolyn. *What Are They Saying about the Social Setting of the New Testament?* Rev. ed. New York: Paulist, 1992.
- Pilch, John J. *Introducing the Cultural Context of the New Testament*. New York: Paulist, 1991; Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2007.
- Porter, Stanley E., and Craig A. Evans, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove and Leicester: IVP, 2000.
- Thompson, J.A. *Handbook of Life in Bible Times*. Leicester and Downers Grove: IVP, 1986.
- Tidball, Derek. *An Introduction to the Sociology of the New Testament*. Exeter: Paternoster, 1984.

Intermediate

- DeSilva David A. *Honor, Patronage, Kinship, and Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Freyne, Sean. *Jesus – A Jewish Galilean: A New Reading of the Jesus Story*. London and New York: T&T Clark, 2004.
- Hanson, K.C. and Douglas L. Oakman. *Palestine in the Time of Jesus: Social Structures and Social Conflicts*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1998.
- Jeffers, James S. *The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament Era: Exploring the Background of Christianity*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1999.
- Malina, Bruce J. *The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology*. Rev. ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001.
- Malina, Bruce J. *Social-Science Commentary on the Gospel of John*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1998.
- Malina, Bruce J. and Richard L. Rohrbaugh. *Social Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. Rev. ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.
- Meeks, Wayne A. *The First Urban Christians*. Rev. ed. New Haven and London: Yale, 2003.
- Stambaugh, John E., and David L. Balch. *The New Testament in Its Social Environment*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1986.
- Stegemann, Wolfgang, Bruce J. Malina, and Gerg Theissen. *The Social Setting of Jesus and the Gospels*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002.

Advanced

- Freyne, Sean. *Galilee from Alexander the Great to Hadrian 323 BCE to 135 CE*. Rev. ed. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1998.
- Hamel, Gildas. *Poverty and Charity in Roman Palestine, First Three Centuries CE*. Berkeley and Oxford: University of California Press, 1989.
- Horsley, Richard A. *Archaeology, History, and Society in Galilee*. Valley Forge: Trinity, 1996.
- Horsley, Richard A. *Galilee: History, Politics, People*. Valley Forge: Trinity, 1995.
- Kee, Howard C. *Christian Origins in Sociological Perspective*. Philadelphia: Westminster; London: SCM, 1980.
- Lenski, Gerhard E. *Power and Privilege: A Theory of Social Stratification*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1966.
- Malina, Bruce J. *Christian Origins and Cultural Anthropology*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1986.
- Oakman, Douglas E. *Jesus and the Economic Questions of His Day*. Lewiston: Mellen, 1986.
- Reed, Jonathan L. *Archaeology and the Galilean Jesus*. Harrisburg: Trinity, 2000.
- Rohrbaugh, Richard L. ed. *The Social Sciences and New Testament Interpretation*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1996.

Historical Criticism of the Gospels

Introductory

- Black, David A., and David S. Dockery, eds. *Interpreting the New Testament: Essays on Methods and Issues*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001.
- Blomberg, Craig. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*. Rev. ed. Leicester and Downers Grove: IVP, 2007.
- Dockery, David S., Kenneth A. Mathews, and Robert B. Sloan, eds. *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- Dunn, James D.G. *A New Perspective on Jesus: What the Quest for the Historical Jesus Missed*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- McKnight, Scot. *Interpreting the Synoptic Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.

Intermediate

- Bock, Darrell L, and Buist M. Fanning, eds. *Interpreting the New Testament Text: Introduction to the Art and Science of Exegesis*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2006.
- Green, Joel B. ed. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; Carlisle: Paternoster, 1995.
- Marshall, I. Howard, ed. *New Testament Interpretation: Essays on Principles and Methods*. Exeter: Paternoster; Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1977. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2006.
- Porter, Stanley E., and David Tombs, eds. *Approaches to New Testament Study Sheffield: SAP, 1995*.
- Stein, Robert H. *Studying the Synoptic Gospels: Origin and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Advanced

- Bultmann, Rudolf. *The History of the Synoptic Tradition*. Oxford: Blackwell; New York: Harper & Row, 1964. [Germ. orig. 1921].
- France, R.T. and David Wenham, eds. *Gospel Perspective*. Vols 1-3. Sheffield: JSOT. 1980-1983.
- Gerhardsson, Birger. *Memory and Manuscript with Tradition and Transmission in Early Christianity*. 2 vols. bound in 1. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; Livonia, MI: Dove Booksellers, 1998.
- Mournet, Terence C. *Oral Tradition and Literary Dependency: Variability and Stability in the Synoptic Tradition and Q*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2005.
- Pinero, Antonio and Jesus Pelaez. *The Study of the New Testament: A Comprehensive Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.

Literary Criticism

Introductory

- Adam, A.K.M. *What Is Postmodern Biblical Criticism?* Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.
- Marguerat, Daniel, and Yvan Bourquin. *How to Read Bible Stories: An Introduction to Narrative Criticism*. London: SCM, 1999.
- Powell, Mark A. *What Is Narrative Criticism?* Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990.
- Resseguie, James L. *Narrative Criticism of the New Testament: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- Ryken, Leland. *Words of Life: A Literary Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.

Intermediate

- Alter, Robert, and Frank Mermode, eds. *The literary Guide to the Bible*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987.
- McKnight, Edgar V. *Post-modern Use of the Bible: The Emergence of Reader-Oriented Criticism*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1988; Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2005.
- Ryken, Leland, and Tremper Longman III, eds. *A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Ryken, Leland, James C. Wilhoit, and Tremper Longman III, eds. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove and Leicester: IVP, 1998.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There a Meaning in This Text?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

Advanced

- Frye, Northrop. *The Great Code: The Bible and Literature*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1982.
- Malbon, Elizabeth S., and Edgar V. McKnight, eds. *The New Literary Criticism and the New Testament*. Sheffield: JSOT, 1994.
- Moore, Stephen D. *Literary Criticism and the Gospels*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1989.
- Seeley, David. *Deconstructing the New Testament*. Leiden: Brill, 1994.
- Thiselton, Anthony C. *New Horizons in Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

The Quest for the Historical Jesus

Overviews

- Bock, Darrell L. *Studying the Historical Jesus: A Guide to Sources and Methods*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
- Bockmuehl, Markus, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Jesus*. Cambridge: CUP, 2001.
- Charlesworth, James H. *The Historical Jesus: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2008.
- Chilton, Bruce D., and Craig A. Evans, eds. *Studying the Historical Jesus: Evaluations of the State of Current Research*. Leiden: Brill, 1994.
- Evans, C. Stephen. *The Historical Christ and the Jesus of Faith: The Incarnational Narrative as History*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996.
- Gowler, David B. *What Are They Saying about the Historical Jesus?* New York: Paulist, 2007.
- Hagner, Donald A. *The Jewish Reclamation of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984; Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1997.
- Harrisville, Roy A., and Walter Sundberg. *The Bible in Modern Culture: Baruch Spinoza to Brevard Childs*. Grand Rapids and Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Marshall, I. Howard. *I Believe in the Historical Jesus*. London: Hodder & Stoughton; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977; Vancouver: Regent, 2001.
- Neill, Stephen C., and Tom Wright. *The Interpretation of the New Testament 1861-1986*. Oxford: OUP, 1988.
- Schweitzer, Albert. *The Quest for the Historical Jesus: First Complete Edition*. Ed. John Bowden. London: SCM, 2000; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001 (Germ. orig. 1906).
- Wilkins, Michael J., and J.P. Moreland, eds. *Jesus under Fire: Modern Scholarship Reinvents the Historical Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
- Witherington, Ben. III. *The Jesus Quest: The Third Search for the Jew of Nazareth*. Rev. ed. Downers Grove: IVP, 1997.

Anthologies

- Dunn, James D.G., and Scot McKnight, eds. *The Historical Jesus in Recent Research*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2005.
- Levine, Amy-Jill, Dale C. Allison, Jr., and J. Dominic Crossan, eds. *The Historical Jesus in Context*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006.

Chronology of the Life of Christ

Chronology

- Caird, G.B. "The Chronology of the New Testament." S.v. "Life of Jesus." In *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 1: 599-603.
- Donfried, Karl P. "Chronology: New Testament." S.v. "Chronology of the Life of Jesus." In *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 1: 1012-16.
- Downs, David J. "Chronology of the NT." S.v. "Chronology of the Life of Jesus." In *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 1: 633-34.
- Finegan, Jack. "Chronology of the New Testament." S.v. "Chronology of the Life of Jesus." In *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia Revised*. 1: 686-89.
- Hoehner, Harold W. *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977.
- Vardaman, Jerry, and Edwin M. Yamauchi, eds. *Chronos, Karos, Christos*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1989.

Life of Christ

- Bock, Darrell L. *Jesus According to Scripture: Restoring the Portrait from the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
- Drane, John. *Son of Man: A New Life of Christ*. Alresford: Hunt & Thorpe; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Guthrie, Donald. *Jesus the Messiah*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan; London: Pickering & Inglis, 1982.
- Moore, Mark E. *The Chronological Life of Christ*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2007.
- Stein, Robert J. *Jesus the Messiah: A Survey of the Life of Christ*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1996.

The Birth and Childhood of Jesus

Matt 1-2 and Luke 1-2

- Alexander, Loveday. *The Preface to Luke's Gospel: Literary Convention and Social Context in Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1*. CUP: 1993.
- Brooke, George J., ed. *The Birth of Jesus: Biblical and Theological Reflections*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2000.
- Brown, Raymond E. *The Birth of the Messiah*. Rev. ed. New York and London: Doubleday, 1993.
- Brown, Raymond E. *The Virginal Conception and Bodily Resurrection of Jesus*. New York: Paulist, 1973.
- Farris, Stephen C. *The Hymns of Luke's Infancy Narratives*. Sheffield: JSOT, 1985.
- Freed, Edwin D. *The Stories of Jesus' Birth: A Critical Introduction*. Sheffield: SAP, 2001.
- Horsley, Richard A. *The Liberation of Christmas: The Infancy Narratives in Social Context*. New York: Crossroad, 1989; Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2006.
- Jung, Chang-Wook. *The Original Language of the Lukan Infancy Narrative*. London and New York: T&T Clark, 2004.
- Machen, J. Gresham. *The Virgin Birth of Christ*. New York: Harper & Row, 1930; London: James Clarke, 1987.
- Vermes, Geza. *The Nativity: History and Legend*. London: Penguin; New York: Doubleday, 2006.

CRUCIAL WEBSITES WITH TONS OF INFORMATION

Felix Just, S.J. has a ton of Biblical and Catholic Resources. They can be found at:
catholic-resources.org – Catholic Resources for Bible, Liturgy, Art, and Theology
catholic-resources.org/Bible – Electronic New Testament Educational Resources
(E.N.T.E.R.)

Michael Marlowe also has a ton of things (including access to the parallel chart with hyperlinks from your binder) at bible-researcher.com (and bible-researcher.com/parallels.html will get you to the first of the three pages with links)

Materials only found in...

MARK (a mere 26 verses are not found in either Matt or Luke)

- 1:1 - Introductory Verse
- 3:20-21 - Jesus' Family Tries to Restrain Him (116)
- 4:26-29 - The Parable of the Seed Growing of Itself (126)
- 7:31-37 - Jesus Heals a Deaf Man in the Decapolis (152)
- 8:22-26 - Jesus Gives Sight to the Blind Man of Bethsaida (156)
- 14:51-52 - A Young Man Runs Away Naked after Jesus' Arrest (331)
- [16:14-18] - [The Commissioning of the Eleven]

MATTHEW (so-called "M material")

- 1:1 - Introductory Verse (1)
- 1:18-2:23 - The Infancy Narrative (incl. Dreams of Joseph, Birth of Jesus, Visit of the Magi, Flight into Egypt, Massacre of the Infants of Bethlehem, Return from Egypt) (1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11)
- 5:17-20, 21-24, 27-29, 31, 33-38, 43 - Jesus Teaches about the Law, Anger, Adultery, and Oaths (54-57, 59)
- 6:1-8, 16-19 - Teaching about Almsgiving and about Fasting (60-64)
- 7:6, 15-17 - Sayings about Pearls before Swine, and False Prophets (69, 73)
- 7:28-29 - Conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount (76)
- 9:27-31 - The Healing of the Two Blind Men (cf. 20:29-34) (96)
- 9:35-38 - A Summary of the Compassion of Jesus (98)
- 10:22-23 - Part of Jesus' Teaching about Upcoming Persecutions (100)
- 11:1 - Narrator's Conclusion to Jesus' Missionary Discourse (105)
- 11:28-30 - The Gentle Mastery of Christ (110)
- 13:24-30 - The Parable of the Weeds among the Wheat (127)
- 13:36-43 - The Explanation of the Parable of the Weeds (131)
- 13:44-52 - Three More Parables and a Concluding Dialogue (132-134)
- 14:28-31 - Peter Attempts to Walk on Water (147)
- 16:17-19 - Jesus' Response to Peter's Confession (158)
- 17:24-27 - Dialogue about Payment of the Temple Tax (165)
- 18:15-20, 21-35 - A Brother Who Sins, & The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (170-173)
- 19:10-12 - The Disciples React to Jesus' Teaching on Divorce (252)
- 20:1-16 - The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (256)
- 21:28-32 - The Parable of the Two Sons (277)
- Almost all of Ch. 23 - Prohibition of Titles, Woes to the Scribes and Pharisees (284)
- 25:1-13 - The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids (298)
- 25:31-46 - The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (300)
- 27:3-10 - The Death of Judas (335)
- 27:24-25 - Pilate Washes His Hands (341)
- 27:52-53 - Resuscitation of the Saints (347)
- 27:62-66 - The Guard Posted at the Tomb (351)

- 28:11-15 - The Report of the Guard (354)
- 28:16-20 - The Commissioning of the Disciples (364)

Material in other gospels but significantly different in Matthew:

- 1:2-17 - The Genealogy of Jesus (6)
- Most of Ch. 5-7 - The Sermon on the Mount (esp. 5:3-12; 6:9-15; 7:15-20)
- Most of Ch. 10 - The Missionary Discourse (99-104)
- 12:33-37 - The Tree and Its Fruit (118)
- 16:13-23 - Peter's Confession about Jesus (158, 159)
- Much of Ch. 18 - The Community Discourse
- 22:1-14 - The Parable of the Wedding Feast (279)
- 25:14-30 - The Parable of the Talents (299)

LUKE (so-called "L Material")

- 1:1-4 - The Literary Prologue (Dedication to Theophilus) (1)
- 1:5 - 2:52 - The Infancy Narrative (incl. Announcement of John's Birth, Announcement of Jesus' Birth, Mary Visits Elizabeth, Canticle of Mary, Birth of John, Canticle of Zechariah, Birth of Jesus, Visit of the Shepherds, Circumcision and Naming of Jesus, Presentation at the Temple, Return to Nazareth, and Boy Jesus in the Temple) (2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12)
- 3:10-14 - John the Baptist Replies to Questioners (15)
- 4:14-30 - Jesus Preaches and is Rejected at Nazareth (30, 32, 33)
- 5:1-11 - The Call of Simon the Fisherman (41)
- 6:24-26 - Four "Woes" added after the Beatitudes (79)
- 7:11-17 - The Raising of the Widow's Son at Nain (86)
- 8:1-3 - Galilean Women Follow Jesus (115)
- Much of 9:51 - 18:14 - Jesus and His Disciples Journey to Jerusalem (incl. Rejection by Samaritan Villagers, Mission of the Seventy, Parable of the Good Samaritan, Martha and Mary, Parable of a Friend at Midnight, Warning against Avarice, Parable of the Rich Fool, Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, Healing a Crippled Woman, Healing a Man with Dropsy, Teachings for Guests and Hosts, Cost of Discipleship, Parable of the Lost Coin, Parable of the Lost/Prodigal Son, Parable of the Unjust Steward, Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, Unprofitable Servants, Cleansing of Ten Lepers, Parable of the Widow and Judge; Prayers of the Pharisee and Publican)
- 19:1-11 - Zacchaeus the Tax Collector (265, 266)
- 19:39-44 - Jesus Laments over Jerusalem (269, 270)
- 22:15-17, 31-32, 35-38 - Some of Jesus' Words at the Last Supper (311, 315, 316)
- 23:2-16 - Jesus Appearances before Pilate and before Herod (336, 337, 338)
- 23:27-31 - On the Way to the Cross, Jesus Speaks to some Weeping Women (343)
- 23:34, 39-43, 46 - The Repentant Thief, and some Details of the Crucifixion (344, 346, 347)
- 24:13-35, 36-49 - Jesus Appears to Disciples on the Road to Emmaus, and in Jerusalem (355, 356, 365)
- 24:50-53 - The Ascension of Jesus (365)

Material in other gospels but significantly different in Luke:

- 3:1-2 - The Preaching of John the Baptist (13)
- 3:23-38 - The Genealogy of Jesus (19)
- 6:20-26 - The Beatitudes (at the beginning of the Sermon on the Plain) (78, 79)
- 7:36-50 - The Pardon of the Sinful Woman (114)
- 9:18-22 - Peter's Confession about Jesus (158, 159)
- 11:1-8 - The Lord's Prayer and Further Teachings on Prayer (185, 186)
- 14:16-24 - The Parable of the Great Feast (216)
- 19:12-27 - The Parable of the Ten Gold Coins (266)
- 21:34-38 - The Exhortation to be Vigilant (295, 301)
- 22:15-38 - Jesus' Discourses at the Last Supper (incl. The Betrayal Foretold, The Role of the Disciples, Peter's Denial Foretold, and Instructions for the Time of Crisis) (311, 312, 313, 315, 316)
- 24:1-12 - The Empty Tomb Story (352)

Luke's use of material from Mark's Gospel:

Mark 1:3-4, 7-8, 9-11	Luke 3:2b-4, 16, 21-22
Mark 1:12-13, 14, 21-39	Luke 4:1-2, 14-15, 31-44
Mark 1:40—3:19a	Luke 5:12—6:19
Mark 4:1-25, 35—5:43	Luke 8:4-18, 22-56
Mark 6:7-16, 30-44	Luke 9:1-9, 10-17
Mark 6:45—8:26	[omitted]
Mark 8:27—9:10, 14-40	Luke 9:18-36, 37-50
Mark 10:13-34, 46-52	Luke 18:15-34, 35-43
Mark 11:1-10, 15-19, 27-33	Luke 19:28-38, 45-48; 20:1-8
Mark 12:1-27, 35-40, 41-44	Luke 20:9-40, 41-47; 21:1-4
Mark 13:1-20, 24-32	Luke 21:5-24, 25-33
Mark 14:1-72 [mostly]	Luke 22:1-71 [mostly]
Mark 15:1-47 [mostly]	Luke 23:1-56 [mostly]
Mark 16:1-8	Luke 24:1-11

The “Q” Source or “Q” Document

Preaching of John the Baptist	Luke 3:7-9, 16-17	Matt 3:7b-12
Temptations of Jesus	Luke 4:1-13a	Matt 4:1-11a
Beatitudes	Luke 6:20b-23	Matt 5:3, 6, 4, 11-12
Love of Enemies	Luke 6:27-33, 35b-36	Matt 5:44, 39b-40, 42; 7:12; 5:46-47, 45, 48
On Judging Others	Luke 6:37a, 38c, 39-42	Matt 7:1-2; 15:14; 10:24-25a; 7:3-5
On Bearing Fruit	Luke 6:43-45	Matt 7:16-20 & 12:33-35
House Built on Rock	Luke 6:46-49	Matt 7:21, 24-27
Healing a Centurion's Servant	Luke 7:1-2, 6b-10	Matt 8:5-10, 13
John the Baptist's Questions	Luke 7:18-23	Matt 11:2-6
Jesus Speaks about John	Luke 7:24-28, 31-35	Matt 11:7-11, 16-19
On Following Jesus	Luke 9:57-60	Matt 8:19-22
Missionary Instructions	Luke 10:2-12	Matt 9:37-38; 10:7-16
Woes against Galilean Cities	Luke 10:13-16	Matt 11:21-23; 10:40
Thanksgiving to the Father	Luke 10:21-24	Matt 11:25-27; 13:16-17
Lord's Prayer	Luke 11:2-4	Matt 6:9-13
Asking and Receiving	Luke 11:9-13	Matt 7:7-11
Beelzebul Controversy	Luke 11:14-15, 17-23	Matt 12:22-30
Return of the Evil Spirit	Luke 11:24-26	Matt 12:43-45
Sign of Jonah	Luke 11:29-32	Matt 12:38-42
On Light and Seeing	Luke 11:33-35	Matt 5:15; 6:22-23
Woes against Pharisees	Luke 11:39-44, 46-52	Matt 23:25-26, 23, 6-7a, 27, 4, 29-31, 34-36, 13
Fearing Humans and God	Luke 12:2-9	Matt 10:26-33; 12:32
Role of the Holy Spirit	Luke 12:10-12	Matt 12:32; 10:19
Anxiety; Treasure in Heaven	Luke 12:22-31, 33-34	Matt 6:25-33, 19-21
Watch and Be Ready	Luke 12:39-40, 42-46	Matt 24:43-51
Divisions in Families	Luke 12:51-53	Matt 10:34-36
Signs of the Times	Luke 12:54-56	Matt 16:2-3
Settling out of Court	Luke 12:58-59	Matt 5:25-26

Mustard Seed and Leaven	Luke 13:18-21	Matt 13:31-33
Exclusion from the Kingdom	Luke 12:23-30	Matt 7:13-14, 22-23; 8:11-12; 20:16
Lament over Jerusalem	Luke 13:34-35	Matt 23:37-39
Parable of the Banquet	Luke 14:16-24	Matt 22:1-10
Carrying the Cross	Luke 14:26-27	Matt 10:37-38
Parable of Salt	Luke 14:34-35	Matt 5:13
Parable of the Lost Sheep	Luke 15:4-7	Matt 18:12-14
On Serving Two Masters	Luke 16:13	Matt 6:24
On the Law and Divorce	Luke 16:16-18	Matt 11:12-13; 5:18, 32
On Sin and Forgiveness	Luke 17:1, 3b-4	Matt 18:7, 15, 21-22
Faith Like a Mustard Seed	Luke 17:6	Matt 17:20
Coming of the Son of Man	Luke 17:23-24, 26-27, 30, 33-35, 37	Matt 24:26-27, 37-39; 10:39; 24:40-41, 28
Parable of the Talents	Luke 19:12-27	Matt 25:14-30
Disciples Will Judge Israel	Luke 22:30	Matt 19:28

Political Background

