

Adonai, Yahweh, Jehovah, The One True God, The God of Israel, The Lord of Hosts, The King of Israel, The One and Only True God, The Righteous Word of God Almighty, The Sacrificial Lamb, The Lion of the

Tr
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of
the beginning and the ending, The First and the Last,
The Only Real, Living and Breathing God, He Who Is,
He Who Was, and He Who Will Be Forever, Abba
Father, Our Creator, Our God, Our Soul's Beloved, God

The Life and Times of Jesus Christ

Part 10

Understanding the Differences in the Gospels

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Matthew 8:14-17

Mark 1:29-34

Luke 4:38-41

Matthew 8:14

When Jesus arrived at Peter's house, Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever.

Matthew 8:15

But when Jesus touched her hand,
the fever left her. Then she got up
and prepared a meal for him.

Matthew 8:16

That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick.

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through the prophet Isaiah, who
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Mark 1:29

After Jesus left the synagogue with James and John, they went to Simon and Andrew's home.

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Now Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. They told Jesus about her right away.

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So he went to her bedside, took her by the hand, and helped her sit up.

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Mark 1:32

That evening after sunset, many sick
and demon-possessed people were
brought to Jesus.

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The whole town gathered at the
door to watch.

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So Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases, and he cast out many demons. But because the demons knew who he was, he did not allow them to speak.

Luke 4:38

After leaving the synagogue that day, Jesus went to Simon's home, where he found Simon's mother-in-law very sick with a high fever. "Please heal her," everyone begged.

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Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them.

Luke 4:40

**As the sun went down that evening,
people throughout the village
brought sick family members to
Jesus. No matter what their
diseases were, the touch of his hand
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**Many were possessed by demons;
and the demons came out at his
command, shouting, “You are the
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Part 10

Understanding the Differences in the Gospels

Principle #1

The truth about the life, person, mission, miracles, and ministry of Jesus Christ all depend on the truth of the Gospels and the reliability of the Bible as a whole.

Manuscripts of Ancient Texts

Author	Date of Composition	Earliest Copy	Time Span	Number of Extant Copies
Caesar, <u>The Gaelic Wars</u>	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000 Years	10
Livy (Roman History)	59 B.C.	4 th Century	400 Years	20
Plato (Tetralogies)	427-327 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 Years	7
Tacitus (Annals)	A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1000 Years	20

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Pliny (History)	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750 Years	7
Suetonius (De Vita Gaesarum)	A.D. 75-160	A.D. 950	800 Years	8
Herodotus (History)	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 Years	8
Aristotle	382-324 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400 Years	5

Reliability of the Bible

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Reliability of the Bible

**There are more than 10,000
New Testament manuscripts
in other languages dating to the
mid-2nd century.**

Reliability of the Bible

There are over 40,000 patristic quotations from the New Testament, some of which date back to 100 AD. and most date from 100 to 200 AD.

Reliability of the Bible

This means copies of the N.T. were already in wide circulation in those years and the children of Christ's eyewitnesses and the second-generation disciples of those eyewitnesses were still alive.

Reliability of the Bible

**Secular sources on the historicity of
Jesus include:**

Jewish: Josephus

Roman: Tacitus, Phiny, and Suetonius.

Reliability of the Bible

There is no other ancient literature that has such a pervasive evidence of existing manuscripts, fragments, quotations, translations, etc. in such a short time span from the date of writing as does the New Testament.

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2 Timothy 3:16a

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.

2 Timothy 3:16b

**It corrects us when we are wrong
and teaches us to do what is right.**

2 Timothy 3:17

God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 Peter 1:20

**Above all, you must realize that
no prophecy in Scripture ever
came from the prophet's own
understanding, or from
human initiative.**

2 Peter 1:21

**No, those prophets were moved
by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke
from God.**

The Scriptures Are

- **True – John 17:17**
- **Authoritative – James 1:22**
- **Clear enough to teach to our children everyday – Deuteronomy 6:6-7**
- **Sufficient in teaching us everything we need to know to be saved, and to live a godly life – 2 Timothy 3:15**

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Principle #2

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, each gospel writer had specific approaches and intentions regarding what elements they wanted to highlight regarding the ministry, message, and miracles of Christ.

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Principle #2

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Principle #3

There are at least four main reasons as to why we can see differences or “contradictions” in the four Gospels.

It is a great mistake and a common error to expect from the Bible a level of scientific or historical accuracy that the Word of God, and the Gospels, do not pretend to provide.

**The fact is that it is completely normal
for ancient (and even modern)
historical accounts to summarize,
paraphrase, omit details, and explain
events in a way that highlights their
specific points and perspectives.**

4 Main Reasons

- **Interpreting and Paraphrasing**
- **Abbreviating and Omitting**
- **Reordering of Events and Sayings**
- **Reporting Similar Events and Sayings**

Interpreting

Several languages were spoken in the area of Palestine in the 1st century. In places like Galilee, it would not be unusual to hear Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, and even Latin all in the same place on the same day.

Interpreting

Jesus most likely spoke Hebrew and some Aramaic more than any other language. This means that most of Christ's words had to be translated into Greek at some point, making each quote an interpretation.

Paraphrasing

This is one of the reasons why scholars have long maintained that we have the “authentic voice” of Jesus rather than his “exact words.”

Abbreviation/Omission

If we were to ask a couple what they did last Saturday, even if they both told us the truth, odds are that we would most likely get different answers.

Abbreviation/Omission

- He might say: We worked in the garden, went to the store, and went out to eat.
- She might say: We planted rose bushes, talked with our friends Vadim and Ana, and got into a fight at lunch.

Abbreviation/Omission

The differences in their stories do not represent contradictions; but they do highlight the differences in their focuses and perspectives.

Abbreviation/Omission

This example represents the types of differences one might expect to find when different people describe the same event. Each of them focused on certain details and ignored others completely, just like the gospel writers.

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Principle #4

The differences in the Gospels are not contradictions. They are simply different expressions of various focuses from diverse perspectives, that together, paint a richer, deeper, and clearer reality of Christ.

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Principle #5

It is through the combination of context, culture, language, balancing the Bible as a whole, and knowing our Heavenly Father's heart, that will always determine the true meaning of God's holy Word.

Luke 14:26 - KJV

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26 - ESV

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26 - NLT

If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.

Principle #5

It is through the combination of context, culture, language, balancing the Bible as a whole, and knowing our Heavenly Father's heart, that will always determine the true meaning of God's holy Word.

Principle #6

God's spiritual truths are only for people who are ready to be spiritually awakened or who have already been spiritually awakened.

1 Corinthians 2:10

But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.

1 Corinthians 2:11

No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:12

And we have received God's Spirit
(not the world's spirit), so we can
know the wonderful things God has
freely given us.

1 Corinthians 2:13

When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

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God's spiritual truths are only for people who are ready to be spiritually awakened, or who have already been spiritually awakened.

Principle #7

Like all of our spiritual forefathers and spiritual foremothers who have come before us over the past few thousand years, we can fully trust in and rely on the infallibility of God's holy written Word and its effectiveness.

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