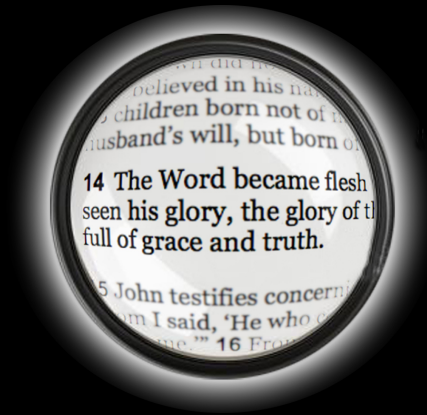


The Jesus Lens

Reading Scripture in the Light of His Revelation



Session 1

The Starting Point

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Tim. 3:16-17



"We believe that the Bible as originally written was verbally and plenary inspired, is the product of spirit-controlled men and therefore, is truth without any mixture of error. We believe the Bible to be the center of true Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried."

Often-used Creedal Statement



Internal Consistency

Psalm 23 — “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.”

Ezekiel 34 — God removes the worthless shepherds and declares, “I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD.... (and) I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.”

John 10 — “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I know my sheep and my sheep know me... and there shall be one flock and one shepherd... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.



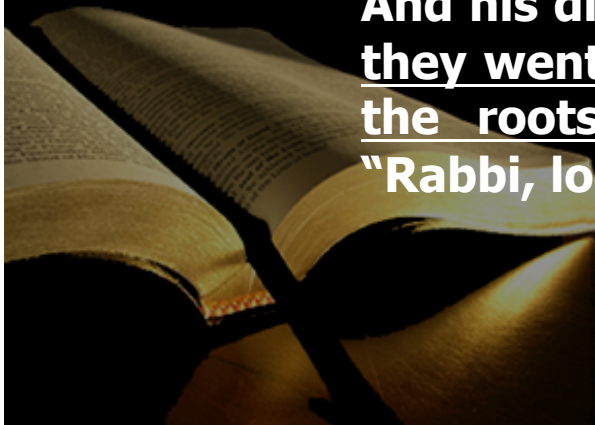
The Fig Tree

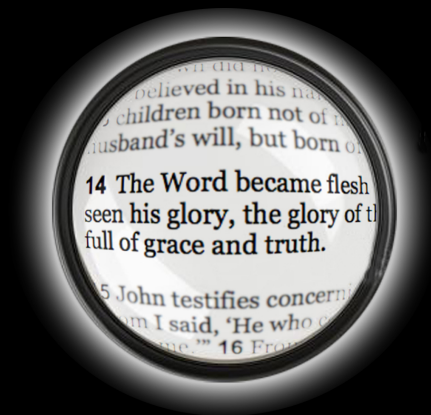
Matthew 21:18-20:

Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked.

Mark 11:13-14, 20-21

When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it. In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"





Session 2

Who Is God
Really?

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”

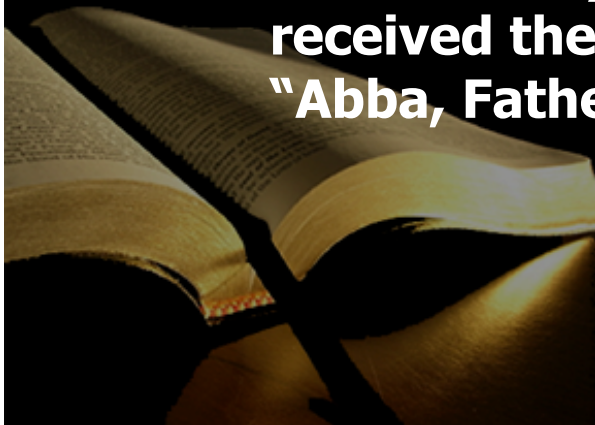
Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

To Fear or Not to Fear

Psalm 111:10 — The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom (23x as something desirable)

1 John 4:16-18 — And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love... There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Romans 8:15 — “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”



The New Testament Fear Factor

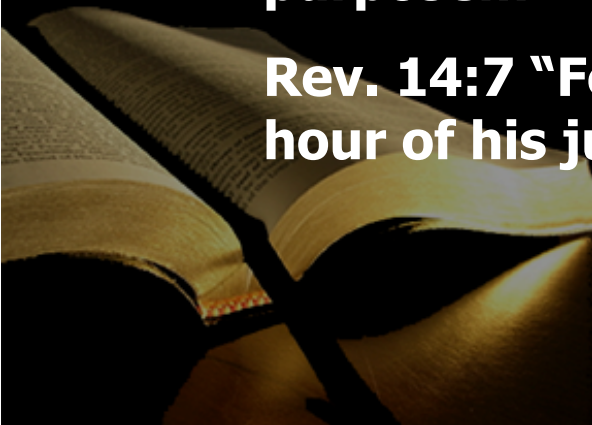
Luke 12:5 — “Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell.”

Acts 5 — Ananias and Sapphira

2 Cor 5:11 — “Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.”

Phil 2:12 — “...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling... for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose...”

Rev. 14:7 “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come.



The Old Testament Focus on Love

- **"The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." Psalms and others.**
- **"Do not be afraid" When God/angel appears**
- **Deut 6 – fulfillment of law: Love God and neighbor**
- **Lovingkindness (184 x in NAS)**
- **Use of love with God 100s of times**
- **"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23**

Why We're Not Emergent, by Kevin DeYoung

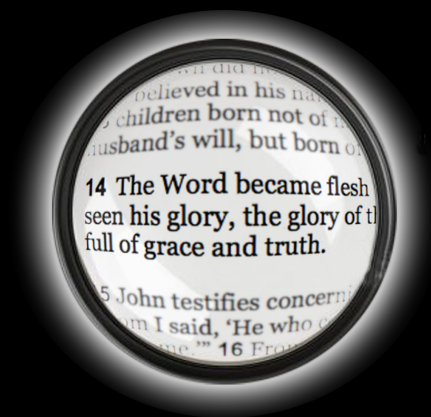
Why we need the doctrine of eternal punishment and the wrath of God:

- **First, we need God's wrath to keep us honest about evangelism. (Acts 24:25).**
- **Second, we need God's wrath in order to forgive our enemies. (Rom. 12:19).**
- **Third, we need God's wrath in order to risk our lives for Jesus. (Rev. 6:10).**
- **Fourth, we need God's wrath in order to live holy lives. (Gal. 6:6-7).**

- **Fifth, we need God's wrath in order to understand mercy. (Eph. 2:3, Rom 5:10).**
- **Sixth, we need God's wrath in order to grasp how wonderful heaven will be.**
- **Seventh, we need the wrath of God in order to be motivated to care for the poor. (Matt. 25:31-46)**
- **Eighth, we need God's wrath (to keep alert) for the Lord's return.**

Who can love a torturer? Even those who try hard to save themselves from the wrath of God cannot really love Him. They love only themselves, trying to escape God's vengeance and to achieve eternal bliss by managing to please this fearsome and extremely dangerous Creator."

Alexander Kalomiros, *The River of Fire* (c 1980)



Session 3

The Story of Redemption

What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Galatians 4:1-7



Revelational Flow of Scripture

Sacrifices, Offerings & Tithes

- None for Abraham (unilateral covenant)**
- Added through the law of Moses**
- David sees through them (Psalm 51:17)**
- Isaiah rejects them (1:11)**
- Malachi said to withhold the tithe is to cheat God**
- Jesus becomes the sacrifice we need (Hebrews)**
- Early believers gave to God out of generosity (2 Cor 7-9)**

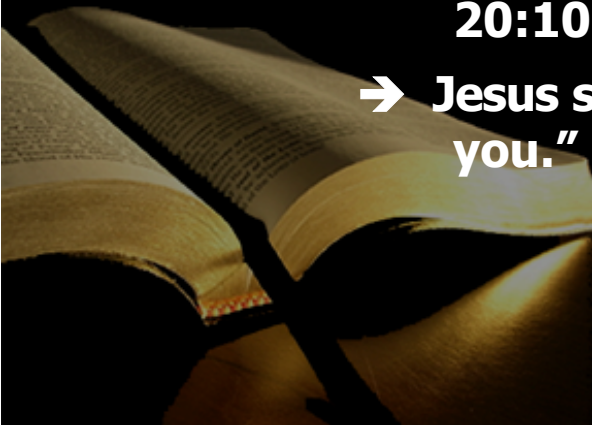


Generational Curses

- **God punishes children for the sin of the fathers (Exodus 20:5)**
- **David curses the children of a wicked man (Psalm 109:9-10)**
- **The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father the guilt of the son (Ezekiel 18:2-4)**
- **Jesus, "Whoever Believes... (John 3:16)**

Executing the Law

- **Put to death those who commit adultery (Leviticus 20:10)**
- **Jesus says to adulteress, "Then neither do I condemn you." (John 8:11)**



"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things."

Peter 1:10-12



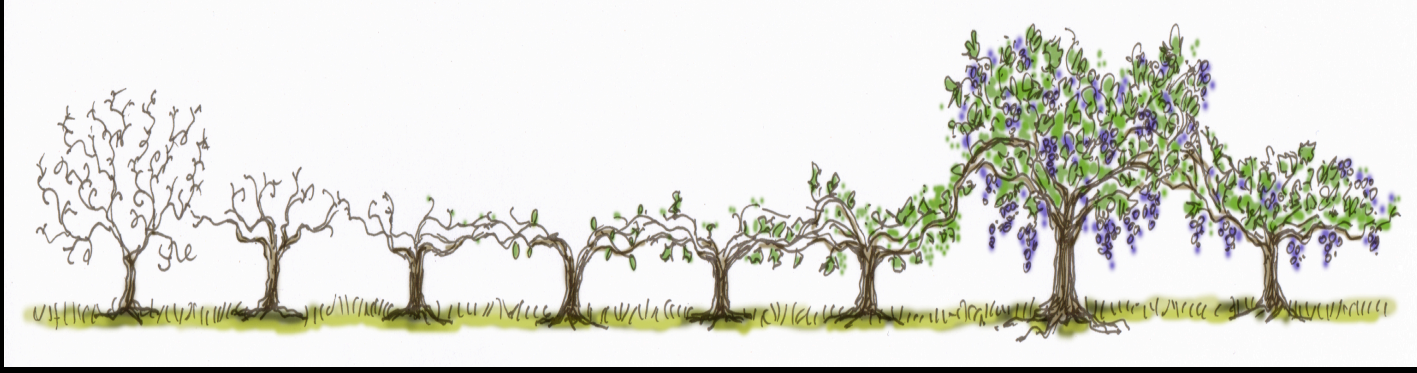
The Story of Redemption

- 1. God created a world for us to enjoy him**
- 2. We chose a life apart from him and plunged the creation into darkness**
- 3. God set himself to win us back to himself from our own sin and shame.**
 - Reveals himself as loving.**
 - Invites us to follow his ways.**
 - Faithful even in our faithlessness.**
 - Holds sin in check until Redeemer comes**



- 4. Incarnation – God appears in the creation to show us what he's like and to redeem the broken world.**
- 5. Believers explore that relationship and its resulting transformation**
- 6. Hints of the end where the created order is restored in a new heaven and new earth, a pure, undefiled eternity.**





Adam

Abraham

Moses

David

Isaiah

Nehemiah

Jesus

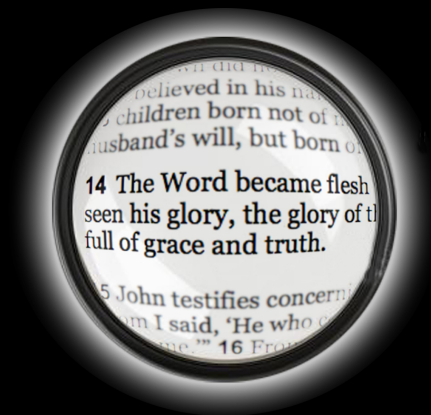
Paul

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- **Seventh, we need the wrath of God in order to be motivated to care for the poor. (Matt. 25:31-46)**
- **Eighth, we need God's wrath (to keep alert) for the Lord's return.**



Session 4

The Jesus Lens

"He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself..."

"Then (after supper) their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Luke 24:25-27, 31-32



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.... From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:1, 4-5, 14, 16-18



"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."

John 5:39-40



Reading Scripture As A Story

**Begin with the Gospels – Mark, Matthew, John,
Luke-Acts**

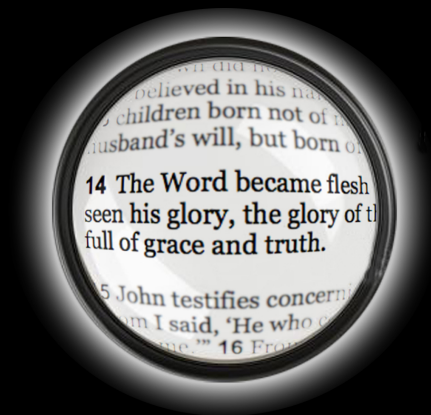
- Read the Early Epistles (Thessalonians, Galatians, Corinthians, Romans, and James)**
- Read the Middle Letters (Ephesians Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, Hebrews)**
- Read the Late Letters & Revelation (Timothy, Titus, Peter, Jude, John)**
- Then look for how the Old Testament ushered us into that reality.**



The Three Voices I Live By

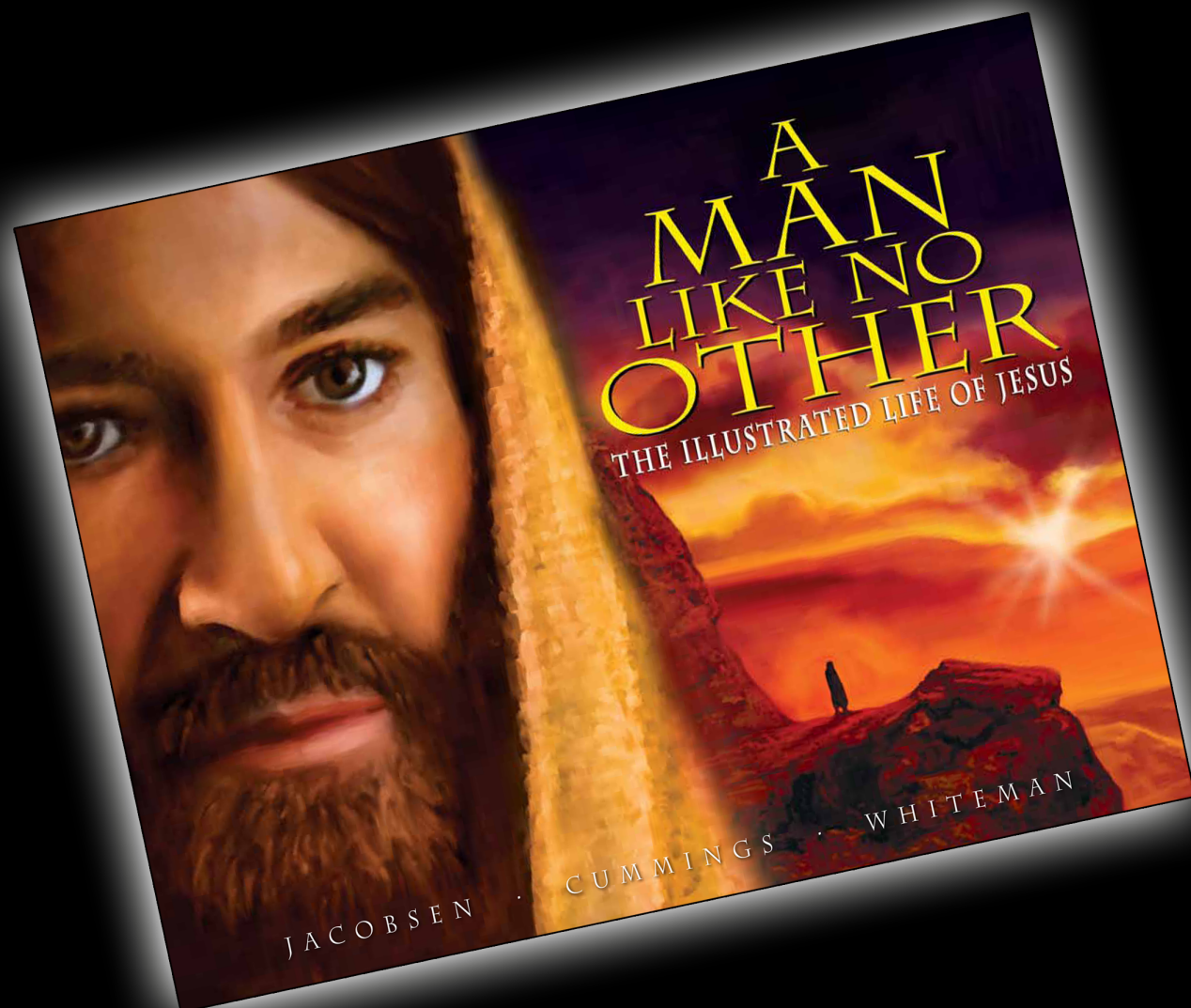
- 1. The Jesus I'm growing to know, both in the Gospels and in my heart**
- 2. My best interpretation of Scripture**
- 3. My conversations with other followers, including reading books past and present**





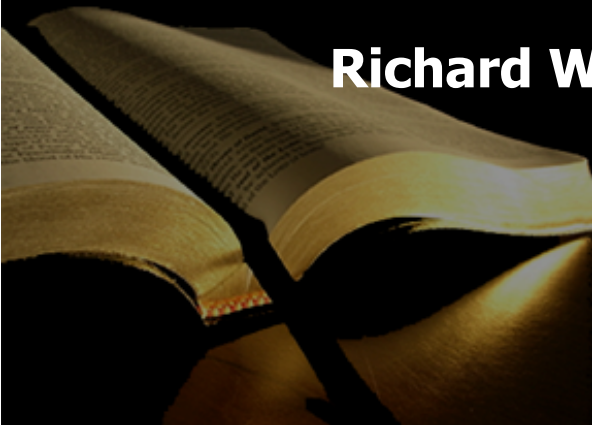
Session 5

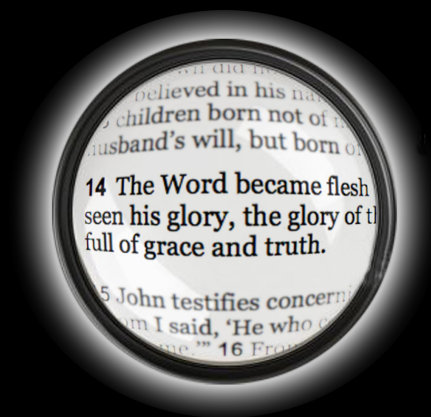
The Word of God



"The Bible is a wonderful book. It is the truth about the Truth. It is not the Truth. A sermon taken from the Bible can be a wonderful thing to hear. It is the truth about the truth about the truth. But it is not the truth. There have been many books written about the things contained in the Bible. I have written some myself. They can be quite wonderful to read. They are the truth about the truth about truth about the Truth. But they are NOT the Truth. Only Jesus Christ is the Truth. Sometimes the Truth can be drowned in a multitude of words."

Richard Wurmbrand, author of *Tortured for Christ*





Session 6

Beginning at the End – The Gospels



Adam

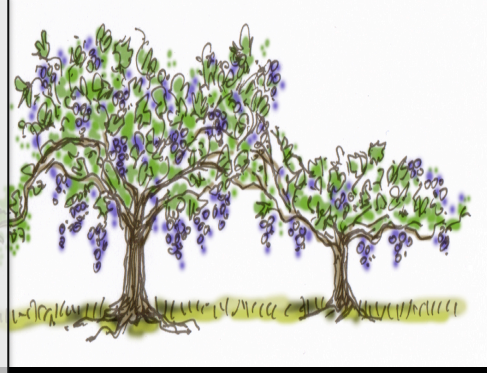
Abraham

Moses

David

Isaiah

Nehemiah



Jesus

Paul

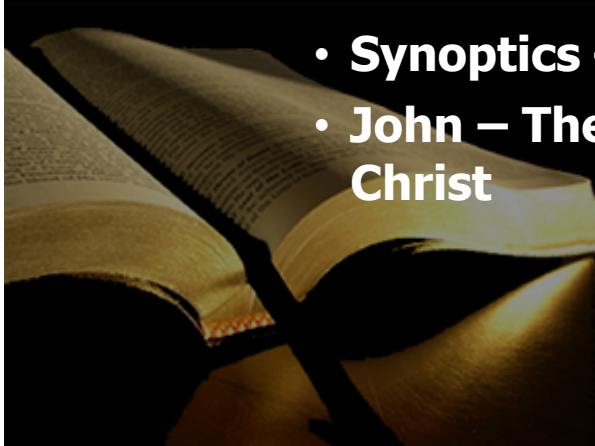
The Synoptic Gospels and John

Compare and Contrast:

Gospel	Similarities	Uniqueness
Mark	93%	7%
Matthew	58%	42%
Luke	41%	59%
John	8%	92%

Content:

- **Synoptics – Mostly chronological accounts**
- **John – Thematic with signs to convince he was the Christ**



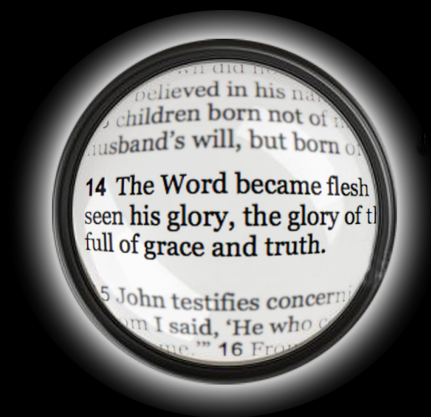
Focus:

- **Synoptics – The kingdom of heaven/kingdom of God**
- **John – Eternal life**

Structure:

- **Birth, Announcement, Baptism, and Temptations**
- **His Ministry**
 - 1. Major Sermons**
 - 2. Miracles**
 - 3. Time with disciples**
 - 4. Personal encounters with others**
 - 5. Conflict with religious leaders**
- **Passion and Resurrection**





Session 7

The Gospels, Part II



Adam

Abraham

Moses

David

Isaiah

Nehemiah

Jesus

Paul

**6/5 BC
– 27 AD**

**Matthew
Mark
Luke
John**

35-68 AD

**Acts
Letters
James'
Paul's
Hebrews
Peter's
Jude's
John's
Revelation**