

GOSPEL COMPARISONS

	MARK	MATTHEW	LUKE	JOHN
Writer	Mark: A second generation Christian, possibly a follower of Peter; traditionally the John Mark of Acts	Matthew: An unknown Jewish Christian, traditionally the Apostle Matthew	Luke: A Gentile Christian, traditionally Luke the physician and Paul's traveling companion	John: The beloved disciple, the Apostle John, or his disciple
Date Written	AD 65-70	AD 75-80	AD 80-85	AD 90-110
Images of Christ	The suffering servant of God, Son of Man, Son of God, Messiah, and Lord	Teacher and prophet like Moses, Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah, and Lord	Great healer, merciful, compassion for the poor, Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah, and Lord	logos, word of God, Son of God, Son of Man, lamb of God, Redeemer, Messiah, and Lord
The Author's Community	A Gentile Christian community in Rome undergoing persecution	A Jewish Christian community in Antioch, Syria	Written to Theophilus (meaning "lover of God"), who possibly represents any Christian (Greece)	Community of Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans of Ephesus in Turkey
Theological Themes	Jesus shows that the suffering in our lives can be a source of grace when united to the sufferings of Christ	Jesus teaches what it means to be a member of the Kingdom of heaven. He prepares his followers to continue his teaching and ministry.	Jesus heals long-standing divisions among people. He calls his followers to have a special compassion for those excluded from wealth and power.	Jesus is the divine Son of God, the image of God in flesh. Salvation is available for those who believe in Jesus and commit their lives to him.
Historical Situation	The Romans subdue armed Jewish rebellions. Christians experience persecution in Rome.	Written after Romans had destroyed all of Jerusalem, including the Temple of Herod	Written when the persecution of Jews and Christians was intensifying	Emperor Domitian deified himself and mandated that all people worship him. Jewish leaders banned Christians from the synagogues.
Caesars	Nero (AD 54-68)	Vespasian and Titus (AD 70-81)	Domitian (AD 81-96)	Domitian (AD 81-96), Nerva (AD 96-98), Trajan (AD 98-117)

This chart is from *Saint Mary's Press® College Study Bible* (2006), page c26.

