

The formation of the gospels

Gosp

gospel

What is

it?

The word “Gospel” is from Old English term *gōdspel*, from *gōd*, *good* + *spell*, *tale* derived from the Greek term *'eu* (*good*) - *angelion* (*message*).

In Latin it became *'evangelium'* means “Good News”.

gospel

What is

It is not a very common word in ancient Greek. It originally referred to *“news of a victory in a battle”*.

The GOSPELS are good news for they provide accounts of the victory of Jesus, through His Death and Resurrection, over all powers of opposed to God.

3 Stages in the Formation of the Gospels

1. The Historical Jesus
2. The Oral Tradition
3. The Writing of the Gospel by the 4 Evangelists

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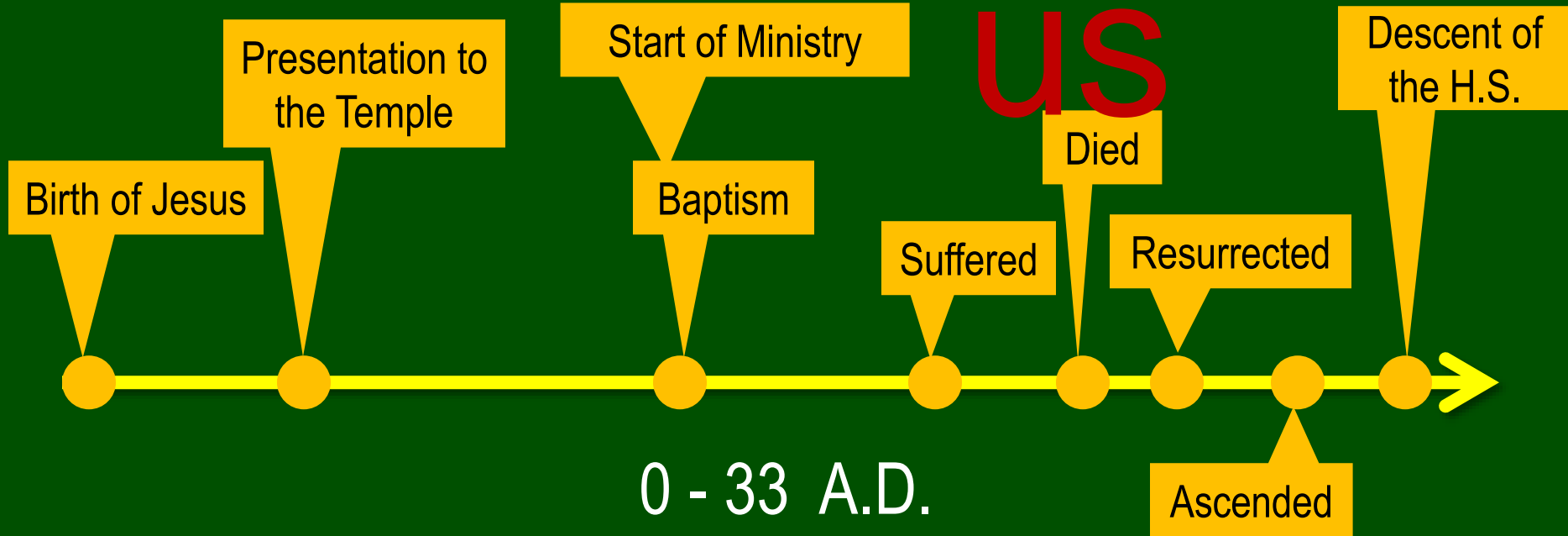
the historical

Jes

Jesus taught, healed, and worked miracles from one place to another. He died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended to Heaven and His followers witnessed and remembered these things.

the historical Jesus

TIMELINE of JESUS' LIFE



the oral

Tradition

After the ascension of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended upon His Apostles and they handed on the deeds and words of Jesus through preaching and teaching.

the oral

Tradition

They now had a better understanding of what He did and said. They could look back on the whole story of Jesus' life, from the beginning of his ministry to his ascension.

The writing of the gospel by the

Four

The Gospels were written by the Four Evangelists in 65-70 A.D. From all the stories and memories about Jesus, passed down by word of mouth or already written down, each evangelist selected what was suitable for his purpose.

The writing of the gospel by the

Four

Evangelists

At times the evangelist would combine, summarize, or explain these traditions. The end result of this work was a written Gospel. Each evangelist composed his Gospel with skill and creativity, but always in such a way as to tell us the honest truth about Jesus.

Some points

About the Gospels

The four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, were not the only gospels that have been written.

Many others tried to compose lives of Christ. None of these were inspired, as they were the work of individuals and not of the whole Church. We call such gospels which have not been inspired, the '*Apocryphal Gospels*'.

The apocryphal Gospels

1. The gospel according to the Hebrews
2. The gospel of St. Peter
3. The gospel according to the Egyptians
4. The gospel of the twelve apostles
5. The gospel according to St. Philip
6. The proto-gospel of St. James
7. The gospel of Pseudo-Matthew
8. The gospel of St. Thomas
9. The Arabic gospel of the Infancy
10. The gospel of Nicodemus
11. The story of Joseph, the carpenter
12. The transition of the Blessed Virgin Mary

