

Some Helpful Things about the Bible

The scriptures contain a wonderful variety of many writing styles from many writers who have written about the history, prophecy and promise of God active in our lives. Most Lutherans talk about the Bible as being the inspired Word of God (from God) instead of in-errant, meaning without errors.

Old Testament

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

New Testament

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

			HISTORY
	HISTORY		
			PAULINE EPISTLES (LETTERS)
	POETIC		
			GENERAL EPISTLES (LETTERS)
	PROPHETIC		

The Four Pictures of Jesus Found in the Gospels

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW is interested in Jesus primarily as the one who abides with us always until the end of time. Jesus founded the Church in which sins are forgiven, prayers are answered and the power of hell is overcome (Matthew 16:18-19; 18:18-20).

THE GOSPEL OF MARK is interested in Jesus primarily as the one who died on the cross for our sins. Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE is interested in Jesus primarily as the one whose words and deeds liberate those who are oppressed in any way. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost and to bring release to all those He described as "captives" (Luke 4:18; 19:10).

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN is interested in Jesus primarily as the one who reveals what God is truly like. Jesus was the Word of God in human form among us. He revealed through his own words and deeds all that we know of God (John 1:14; 14:18).

The Center of Salvation

Matthew----- The Church ----- Salvation comes by being a member of the church. This is the only gospel to use the word "church" which is out of place because at Jesus' time there was no "church".

Mark ----- The Cross ----- Salvation only comes by Jesus death for us on the cross.

Luke----- The Word ----- Salvation is gained by our individual response to the words of Jesus.

John----- The Truth ----- Salvation comes from recognizing the truth that Jesus is God incarnate.

The Christological Moment

(The moment when Jesus is recognized as the Christ, the Son of God.)

Matthew----- At the Birth of Jesus ----- The Christmas stories make it clear from the beginning who Jesus is.

Mark ----- At the Baptism of Jesus ----- An argument could also be made that it was only at the time of Jesus' death upon the cross.

Luke----- At the Birth of Jesus ----- Matthew and Luke agree on this.

John----- At Beginning ----- From the very beginning of time and creation, Jesus was the Christ and co-created the world with God.