

INTRODUCTION TO MATTHEW



- 4 Gospels tell the story of Yeshua of Nazareth
- First New Testament created early in the 3rd century A.D.
- The Old Testament was still in the Christian Bible as its foundation
- Prior to the NT creation, the same documents were circulating; they had authority but weren't thought to be "Holy Scripture"

MARCION

- 144 A.D., Marcion wants a gentiles-only Christian Bible
- Old Testament would be declared null and void
- He was denounced by most Church leadership, but some within the Church liked the idea
- First NT canon created in early 3rd century, with the Old Testament retained
- Writers of NT docs had not thought of their own works as “Holy Scripture”
- Modern order of the NT is generally universal among all Church branches



Reconciling The Synoptic Gospels with The Gospel of John

The Synoptic Gospels

Matthew



Mark

Luke

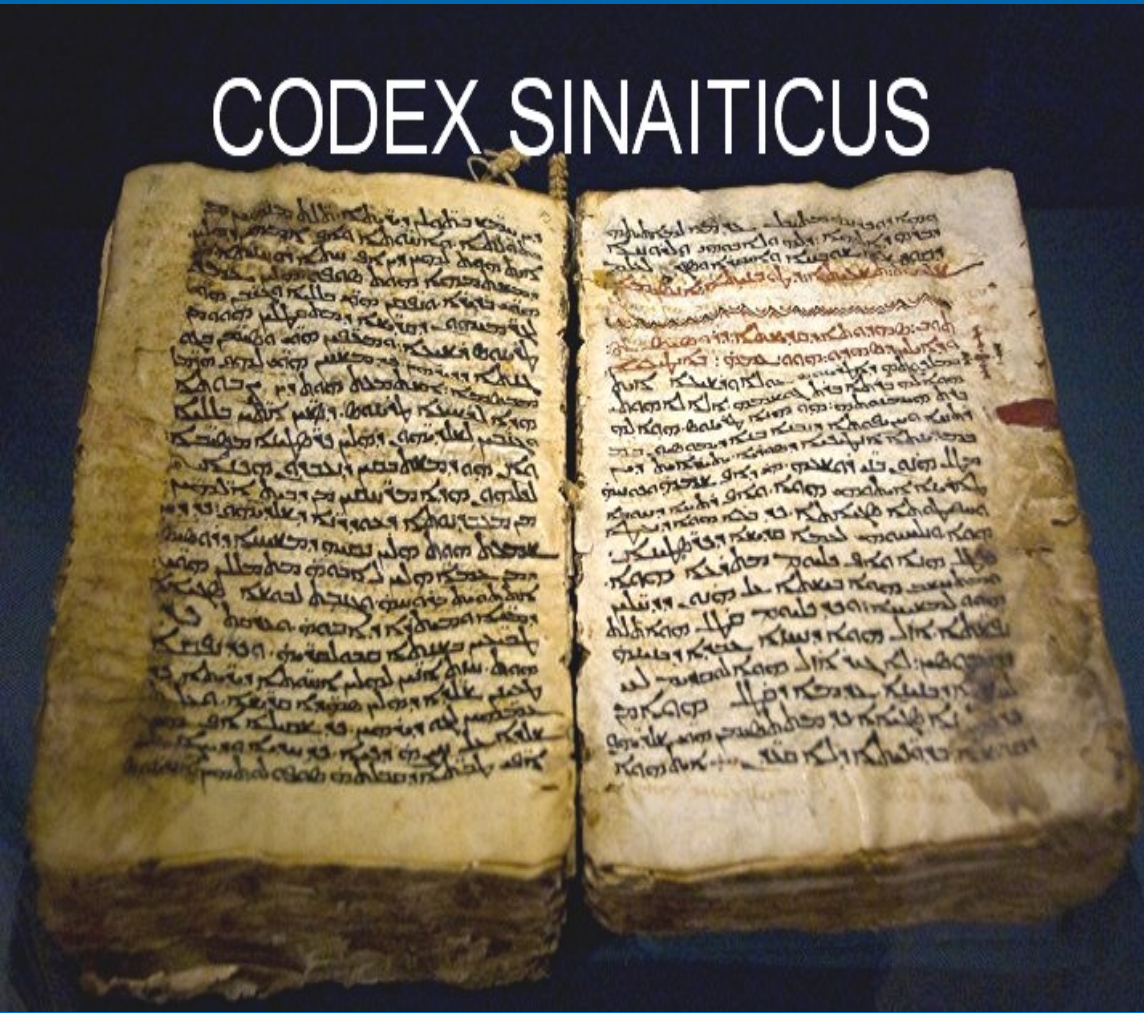
VS.

The Gospel of John

John

- All NTs start with the 4 Gospels in the order of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Is John's the "Spiritual Gospel" but the others aren't??
- The invention of the "Synoptic" group only occurred just before the start of the 19th century
- All 4 are telling the story of Christ, so there is a natural overlap and repetition, but also some differences

CODEX SINAITICUS



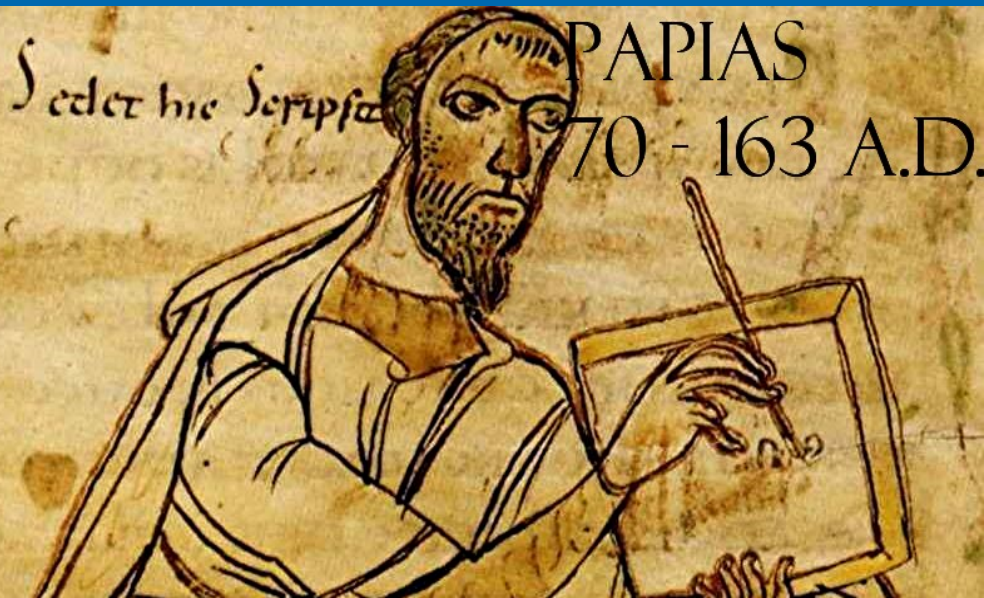
- Oldest complete NT is from the 4th century
- The 3 Synoptic Gospels were written by men who were not eyewitnesses
- John claims that he was an eyewitness
- John 21:20–25
- Modern Bible scholars say that all the Gospels were written anonymously

EARLY EVIDENCE



IRENÆUS OF LYONS

(120-202 AD) Bishop of Lyons

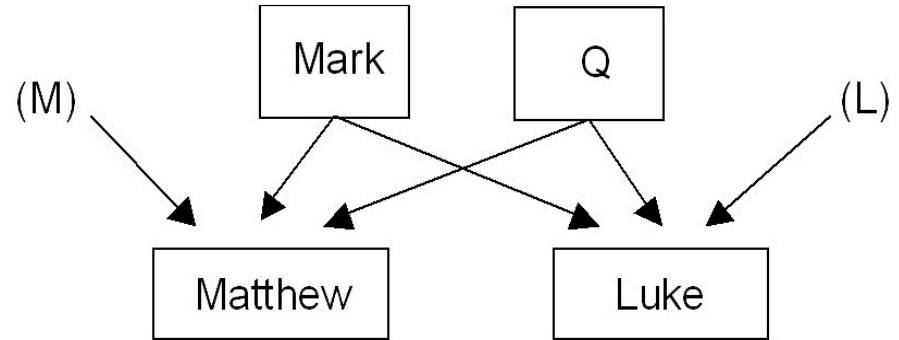


- Matthew & Mark named by 110 A.D.
- Margaret Davis and other mainstream Bible scholars say that up through 150 A.D., Gospels were still anonymous
- Papias listed the Gospels by name
- No Early Church Father regarded the Gospels as “anonymous”

GOSPEL WRITERS' SOURCES

- Newest belief is that Mark was first; no actual evidence for this
- No doubt the Gospel writers' sources HAD to be from other people and earlier records
- From mid-2nd century, Church has tried to remove Jewishness from the New Testament

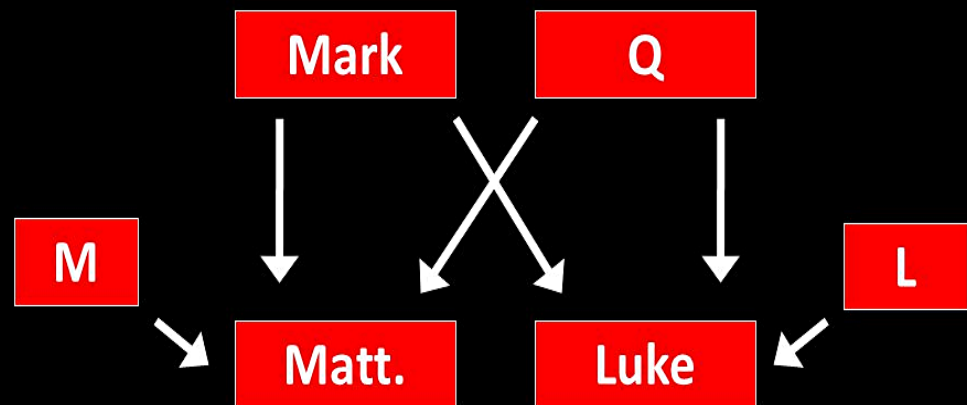
The Two-Source Theory



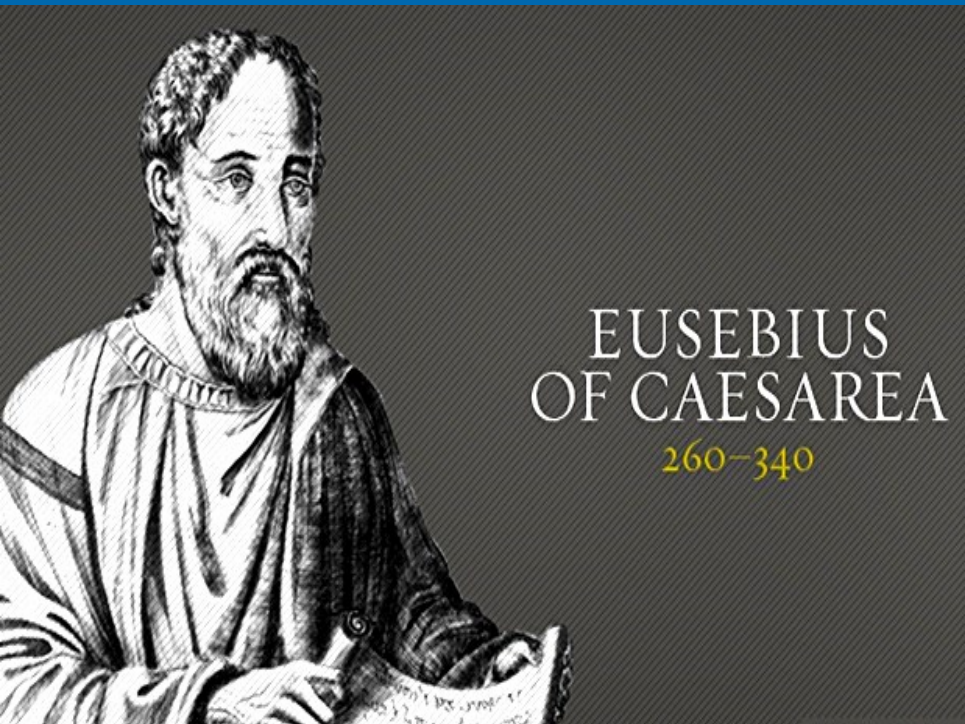
This theory, first put forward in 1863, is held by a broad majority of NT scholars today.

John

The Four-Source Hypothesis



MATTHEW FIRST WRITTEN IN HEBREW?



- Ancient records state that Paul and Peter were still alive in the 60's A.D. when Matthew wrote his Gospel
- Eusebius and Irenaeus agree with Papias that a) Matthew was a Hebrew and b) he wrote his Gospel in Hebrew
- This means that it is most likely that Matthew was the first Gospel written
- This helps explain that in the first NT canon the Gospel order was based on the order they were written
- From the 19th century onward, Bible scholars claim that the Early Church Fathers were wrong!

SERMON ON THE MOUNT IS ONLY IN MATTHEW'S GOSPEL



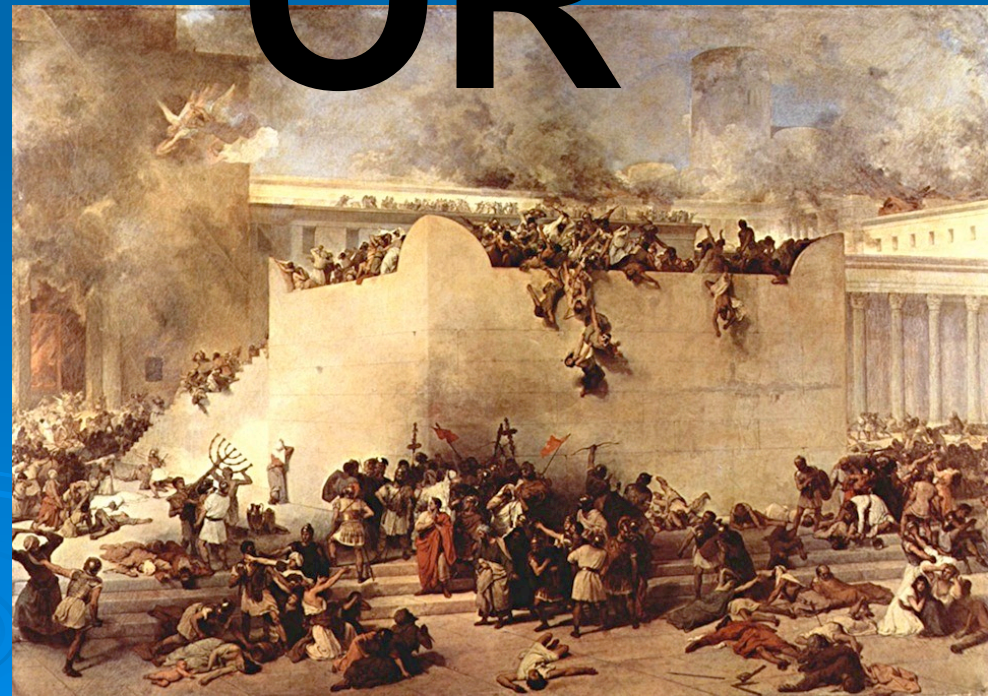
- Matthew was a Jew and aimed his Gospel towards Jewish Believers
- He paid close attention to Oral and Written Torah
- Matthew used Jewish rhetoric and themes that only Jews would have inherently understood

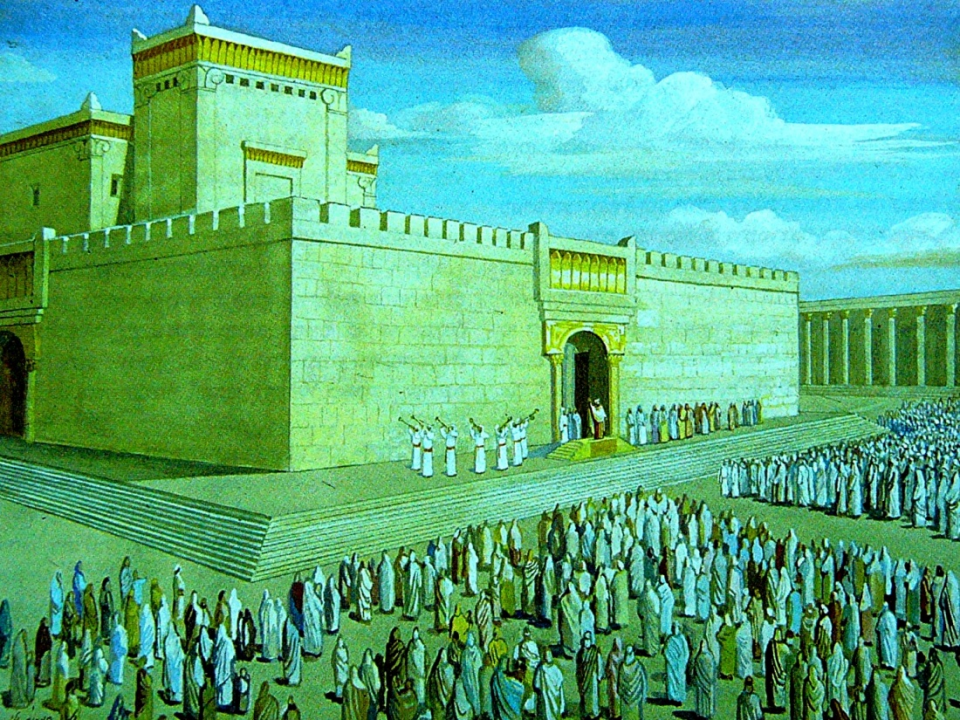
DATING MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

- Two viewpoints: 1) before Temple destroyed or 2) after Temple destroyed
- Ancient written evidence says it was in the 60's A.D.
- Some Bible scholars use Matt.24:1-2 to say it had to be after the destruction



OR





A DUAL SYSTEM: TEMPLE AND SYNAGOGUE



- From after Babylon exile to 70 A.D., Jewish people had a dual system of Temple and Synagogue
- Temple: Sadducees, aristocrats
- Synagogue: Pharisees, common folk
- Synagogue especially served the Diaspora where 95% of all Jews lived
- Synagogue didn't take hold in Jerusalem until 70 B.C.