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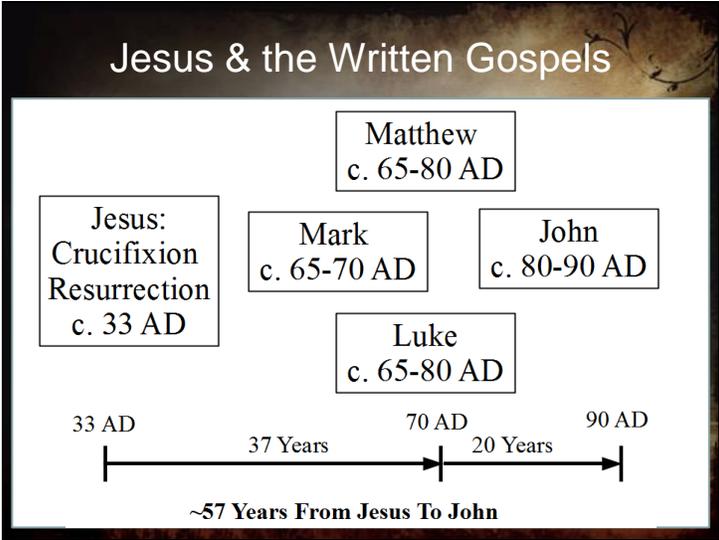
Tumblr: [www.tumblr.com/blog/dirkscorner](http://www.tumblr.com/blog/dirkscorner)

Dirk's Web Site: [www.dirkscorner.com](http://www.dirkscorner.com)

Bethany Church Web Site: [www.bethanychurch.com](http://www.bethanychurch.com)

## Gospel Origins

“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.” (Luke 1:1-4)



## An Ancient Quest for Integrity

“And also if any follower of the Presbyters happened to come, I would inquire for the sayings of the Presbyters, what Andrew said, or what Peter said, or what Philip or what Thomas or James or what John or Matthew or any other of the Lord's disciples, and for the things which Aristion and the Presbyter John, the disciples of the Lord, were saying. For I considered that I should not get so much advantage from matter in books as from the voice which yet lives and remains.”

Papias, Bishop of Hierapolis, c. 125 AD, in  
Eusebius, Church History, III:xxix

## Oldest Known NT Fragment?

P52



c. 125-150 AD

Fragments of  
John 18:31-33 (Front);  
John 18: 37-38 (Reverse)

Found in Egypt in 1920

Currently located in John  
Rylands Library,  
Manchester, England

## Oldest Known NT Fragment?

P64



c. 200 AD

Fragments from  
Matthew 3, 5, 26

Purchased in Egypt in 1901

Currently located in Barcelona,  
by the Fundació Sant Lluç  
Evangelista;  
Originally gifted to the  
Magdalen College, Oxford,  
England

## Earliest Manuscript Containing All Four Gospels

P45



c. 250 AD

Fragments from  
Matthew, Mark, Luke,  
John, Acts

Part of the Chester  
Beatty collection, most  
of which is currently  
Located in Dublin,  
Ireland

## Earliest Manuscripts Containing Most of the NT

- **Codex Vaticanus (B)**, c. 300 AD, located in the Vatican, missing 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and Revelation.
- **Codex Sinaiticus**, c. 330-360 AD, located mainly in British Library, London, England
- **Codex Alexandrinus (A)**, c.400 – 440 AD, located mainly in the British Library, London, England

NT vs. Other Ancient Manuscripts				
	Date Written	Earliest Manuscript Date	Approx. Date Difference (Years)	No. of Copies
Homer <i>Illiad</i>	c. 800 BC	c. 400 BC	c. 400	643
Plato	c. 400 BC	c. 900 AD	c. 1300	7
NT	c. 50 AD - 90 AD	c. 125 fragment c. 200 books c. 250 most of NT c. 325 complete NT	c. 35 c. 100 c. 150 c. 225	>5300

## Ancient Witnesses outside the NT

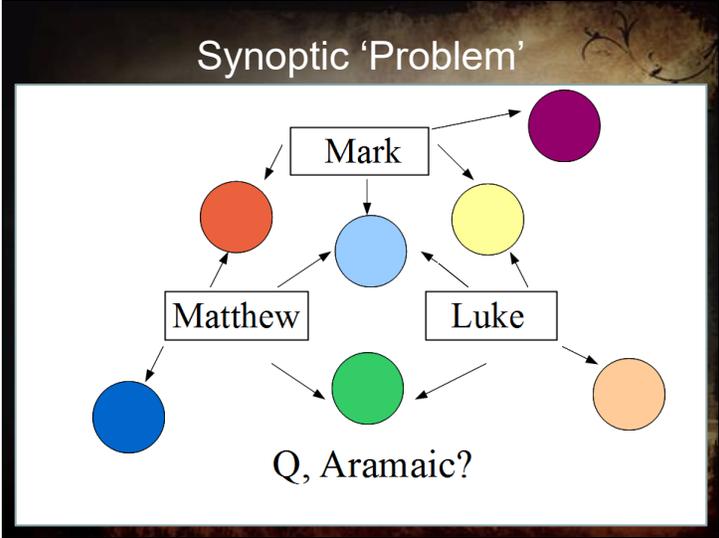
- Josephus c. 90 AD
- Pliny the Younger, Roman Governor, c. 112 AD
- Tacitus, Roman Historian, c. 115 AD
- Suetonius c. 120 AD
- Lucian c. 170 AD
- Talmud? c.70-200 AD

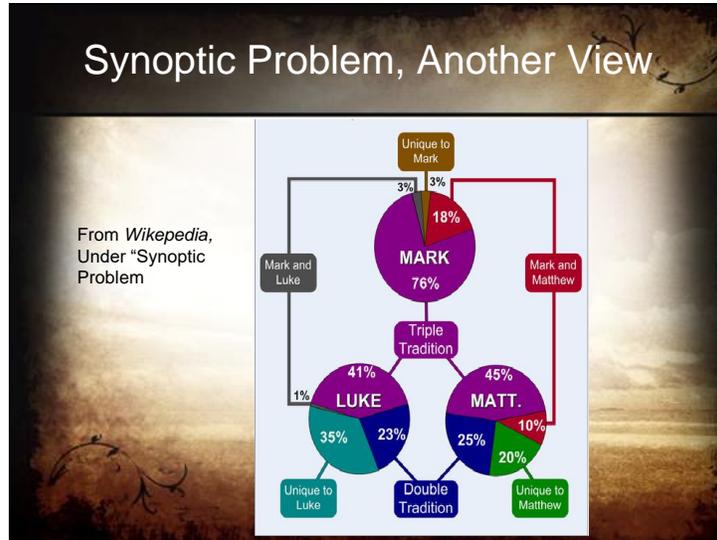
## Josephus, c. 90 AD

“Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so [Ananus] assembled the sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others, [or, some of his companions]; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned....” (*Antiquities*, 20.9)

## Josephus, c. 90 AD

*“Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.” (Antiquities, 18.63, italicized portions questioned by many scholars)*





## Gospels: The Main Point

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:30-31)