

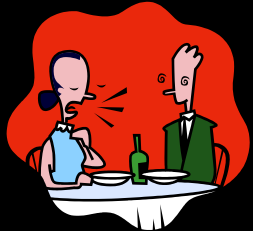
# Matthean Priority



**Matthew**

**Mark**

**Luke**



# Dating the Synoptic Gospels

Adapted from the *NIV Study Bible*, 1431

MARK

MATTHEW

LUKE

MARK

MATTHEW

LUKE

## ASSUMPTION A:

Matthew and Luke used Mark as a source



### View #1

Mark written in the 50s or early 60s

(1) Matthew written in late 50s or the 60s

(2) Luke written 59-63



### View #2

Mark written 65-70

(1) Matthew written in the 70s

(2) Luke written in the 70s

## ASSUMPTION B:

Matthew and Luke did not use Mark as a source



### View #1

Mark could have been written anytime between 50 and 70



### View #2

Mark written 65-70

(1) Matthew written early 50s (see Matthew notes)

(2) Luke written 59-63 (see Luke notes)

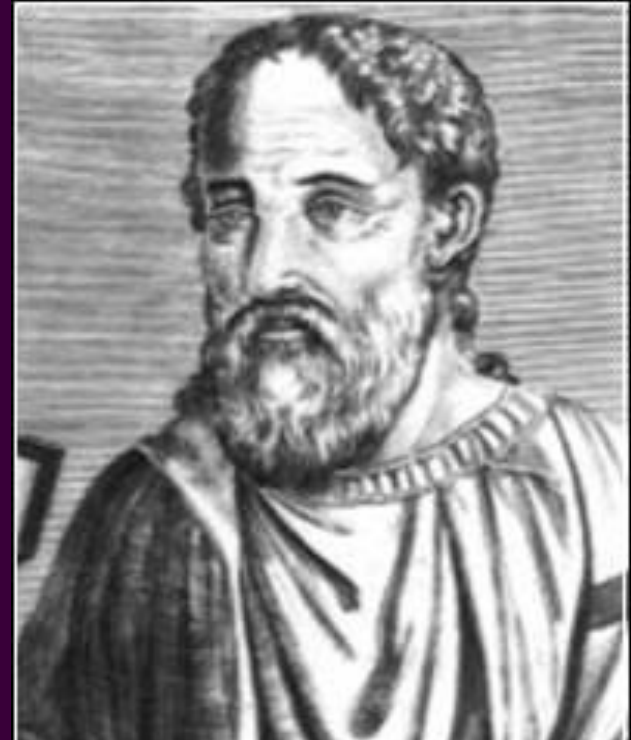
**Taught in this class**

# Indicators that Matthew wrote the First Gospel



# External Indicator #1: Testimony of Eusebius (4<sup>th</sup> cent.)

“Among the four Gospels, which are the only indisputable ones in the Church of God under heaven, I have learned by tradition [from 2<sup>nd</sup> cent. Origen] that **the first [Gospel] was written by Matthew**, who was once a publican, but afterwards an apostle of Jesus Christ, and it was prepared for the converts from Judaism, and published in the Hebrew language.”

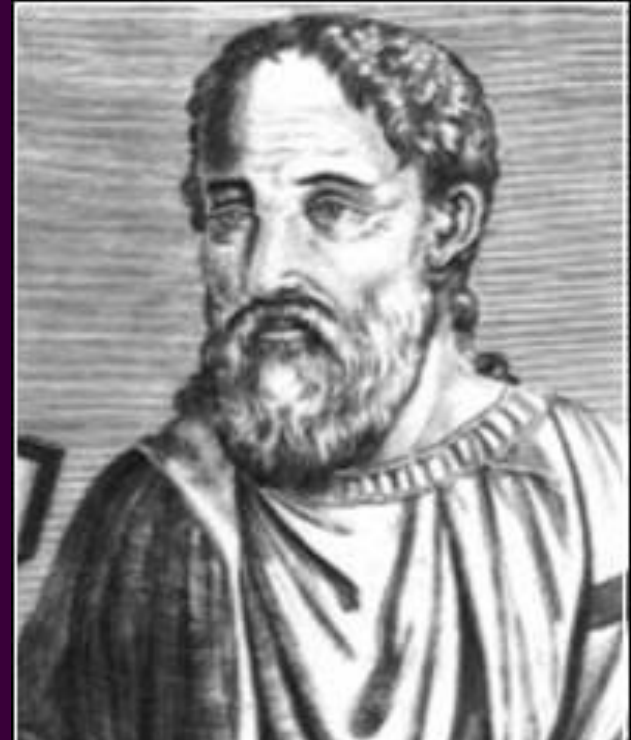


(Eusebius, *Eccl. Hist.* 6.25.4  
quoting Origen of  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> century)

# External Indicator #1:

## Testimony of Eusebius (4<sup>th</sup> cent.)

“The second is by **Mark**, who composed it according to the instructions of Peter, who in his Catholic [i.e., General] epistle acknowledges him as a son, saying, ‘The church that is at Babylon elected together with you, saluteth you, and so doth Marcus, my son.’ And the third by **Luke**, the Gospel commended by Paul, and composed for Gentile converts. Last of all that by **John**.”



(Eusebius, *Eccl. Hist.* 6.25.4  
quoting Origen of  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> century)

# Oxford papyrus 'is eyewitness record of the life of Christ'

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

A PAPYRUS believed to be the oldest extant fragment of the New Testament has been found in an Oxford library. It provides the first material evidence that the Gospel according to St Matthew is an eyewitness account written by contemporaries of Christ.

In a paper to be published next month, Carsten Thiede, a German papyrologist, will claim that three scraps of Matthew belonging to Magdalen College date from the mid-first century AD. The fragments, which have been kept at the college since 1901, were thought originally to have been written in the late second century.

Not since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 has there been such a potentially important breakthrough in biblical scholarship. The new date is important evidence that Matthew was written a generation after the Crucifixion, or even earlier.

Little work has been done on the Magdalen papyrus since it was edited in 1953. Dr Thiede, who works in Paderborn, consulted the papyrus out of curiosity when his family visited Oxford in February.

Examination of the writing style led him to conclude: "The Magdalen fragment now appears to belong to a style of handwriting that was current in the first century BC and slowly petered out around the mid-first century AD. Even a hesitant approach to questions of dating would therefore seem to justify a date in the first century, about a hundred years earlier than was previously thought."

The lines on the fragments are from the 26th chapter of the gospel and therefore in-

clude the oldest surviving written reference to the treachery of Judas and to Mary Magdalene.

The publication of Dr Thiede's paper in the specialist journal *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie* is expected to provoke a fierce argument among scholars. Early opposition is being led by Peter Parsons,



Thiede and one of the gospel fragments



Det.

Leading article, page 5

Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford. "We are not now inclined to date things late just because they have Christian content... On the other hand, that's no reason to push things too early," he said.

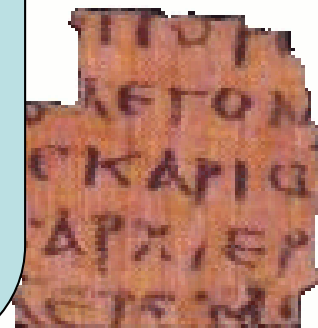
Professor Parsons, a papyrologist at Christ Church, said that Dr Thiede's argument was "sloppy" and based on the misassumption that all scribes of the Jewish diaspora wrote in the same script.

London: The Times 24 Dec 94

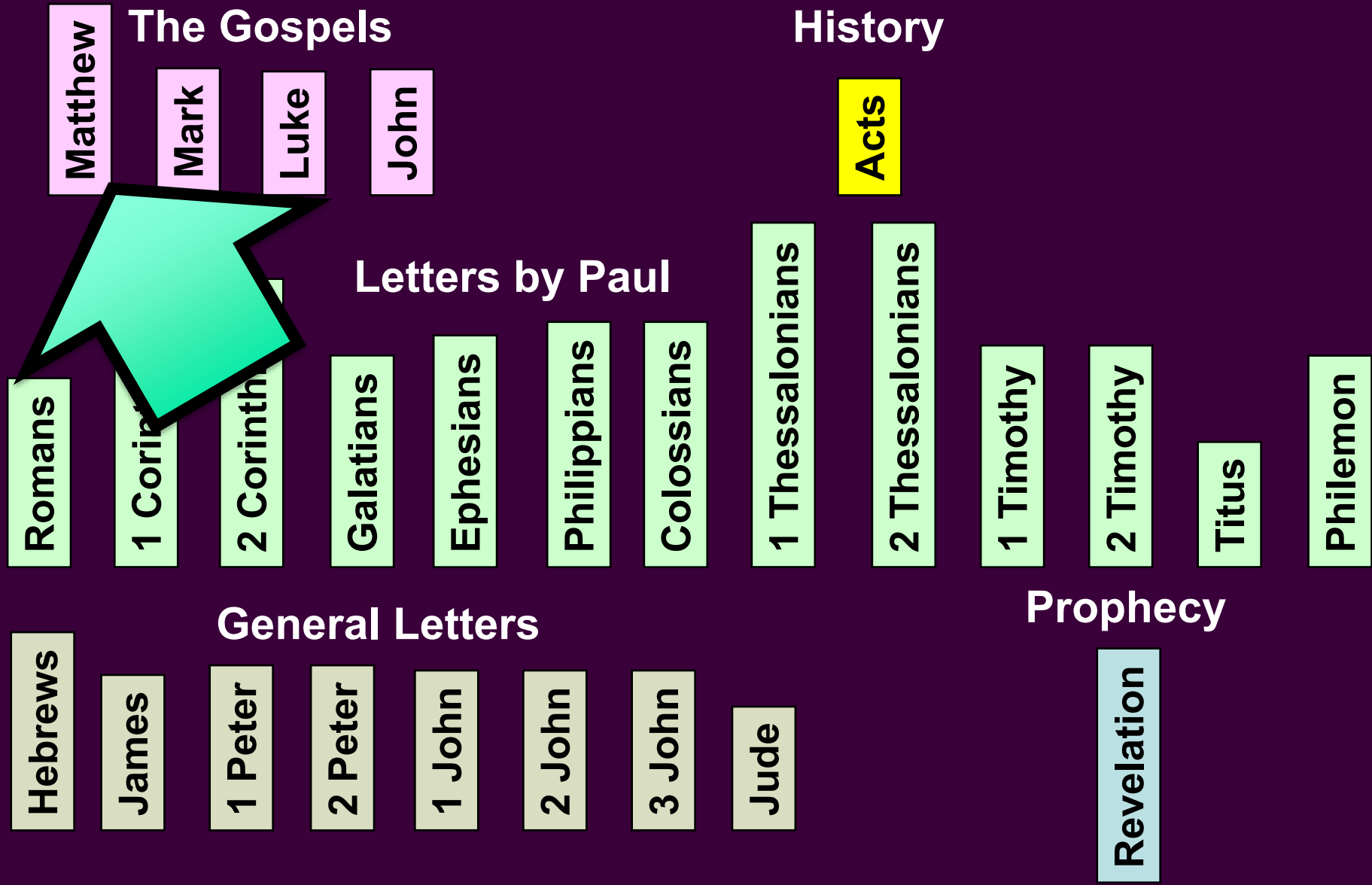
## External Indicator #2: Papyrus from about AD 50



"The Magdalen fragment now appears to belong to a style of handwriting that was current in the first century BC and slowly petered out around the mid-first century AD"  
(Dr. Carsten Thiede)



# External Indicator #3: Placement First in the NT





# Internal Indicator: Matthew Wrote to Jews



**Irenaeus**  
**AD 180**

*Against Heresies 3.1*

“**Matthew** also issued a written Gospel among the Hebrews in their own dialect, while Peter and Paul were preaching at Rome [**AD 60-68**], and laying the foundations of the Church. After their departure [**post AD 68**], **Mark**, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, did also hand down to us in writing what had been preached by Peter. **Luke** also, the companion of Paul, recorded in a book the Gospel preached by him [**no date given**]. Afterwards [**post 68**], **John**, the disciple of the Lord, who also had leaned upon His breast, did himself publish a Gospel during his residence at Ephesus in Asia.”





# Acceptance of the Four Gospels Before Nicaea

X= Citation  
or allusion  
  
O= Named  
as authentic

# Clearing History

- Individuals
- Canons
- Translations
- Pseudo-Barnabas (70-130)
  - Clement of Rome (95-97)
  - Polycarp (110-150)
  - Hermas (115-140)
  - Didache (120-150)
  - Papias (130-140)
  - Irenaeus (130-202)
  - Justin Martyr (150-155)
  - Origen (185-254)
  - Cyril of Jerusalem (315-386)
  - Marcion (140)
  - Muratorian (170)
  - Barococcio (206)
  - Apostolic (300)
  - Tatian Diatesseron (170)
  - Old Latin (150-170)
  - Old Syriac (200)

Matthew	x	x	x	x	x														
Mark	x			x	x														
Luke	x			x		x													
John																			

Gospel of  
Thomas  
AD 50-140

Gospel of  
Judas  
AD 170?

1st  
Cent.

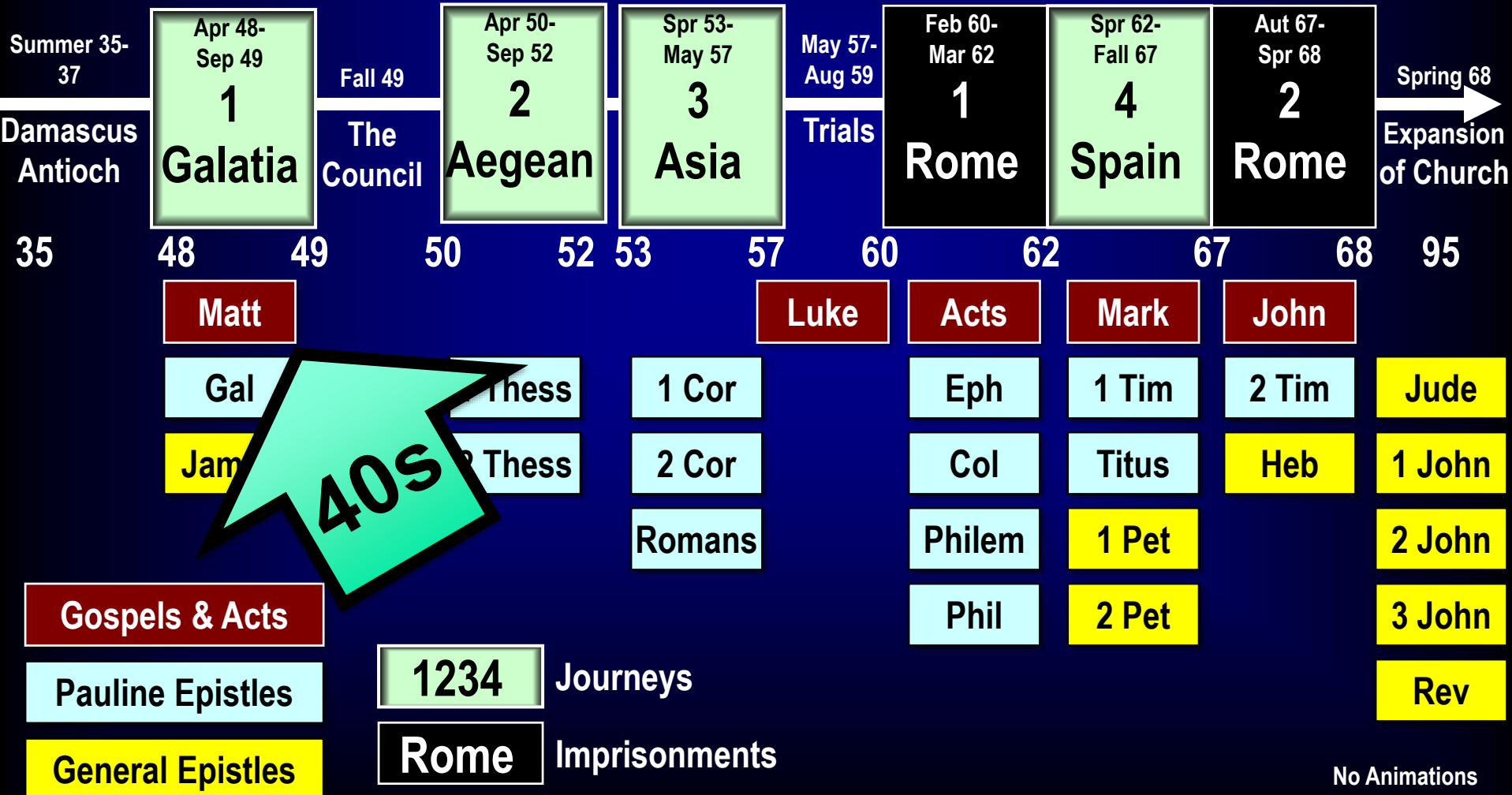
AD 325  
Council of Nicaea

# NT Overview: I Put Matt First!

38  
124  
39-41

"To the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



# When I Think They Were Written...

## 1 MATTHEW

TO: JEWS

The

AS: KING

A.D. 40s

HE: SAID

## 2 MARK

TO: ROMANS

A.D.

AS: SERVANT

64-68

HE: DID

## 3 LUKE

TO: GREEKS

A.D.

AS: GOD/MAN

57-59

HE: FELT

## 4 JOHN

TO: CHURCH

A.D. 69

AFTER THE  
SYNOPTICS

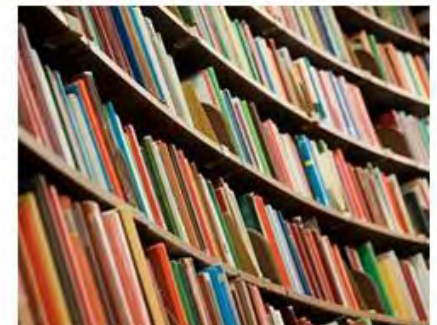
HE: MEANT



# Get this presentation for free!



BIBLE STUDY  
DOWNLOADS

[Home](#)[Downloads](#)[FAQ](#)[Links](#)[Contribute](#)[Contact](#)

Bible Study Downloads has thousands of PowerPoint® and Word files in 42 languages for free download [here](#).

## Gospels link at BibleStudyDownloads.org