

## N.T. Overview Notes

Jesus poses the key question in **Matthew 16:13-16** ~ “Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

The “Synoptics” (together + view) and John answer His question from four different perspectives.

### Matthew

**Theme:** King of the Jews  
**Author:** **Mt.9:9; 10:3; Lk.5:27**  
**Purpose:** To prove that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

Orderly, concise, but not necessarily chronological  
 Quotes OT more than any other Gospel  
 Jesus’ genealogy through Joseph, but includes five women!

**Audience:** Jews  
**Key Verses:** **1:1-17, 20-23**  
**3:2; 4:17**  
**5:17**  
**16:15-19**  
**28:18-20**  
**Date:** Before A.D. 70

### Mark

**Theme:** Servant of God  
**Author:** Latin name for John, son of Mary (**Ac.12:12**), cousin of Barnabas (**Col.4:10; Ac.13:5,13; 15:37-39**). Restored by both Barnabas and Peter (**1Pe.5:13**) ... reconciled to Paul (**2Tim.4:11**).  
**Purpose:** Emphasizes the humanity of Jesus > His deity.

Mysterious “young man” of **14:51-52**?

**Audience:** Romans  
**Key Verses:** **8:34-37**  
**10:43-45**  
**Date:** Between A.D. 55-70

### Luke

**Theme:** Son of Man  
**Author:** **Col.4:14** (Greek – **4:10**); **Philemon 24; 2Tim.4:11**  
**Purpose:** **Lk.1:1-4**

Luke/Acts contain the largest number of pages in the NT.  
 Jesus’ genealogy through Mary?

**Audience:** Greeks  
**Key Verses:** **1:1-4**  
**19:10**  
**24:25-27, 32**  
**Date:** Before A.D. 62

## John

**Theme:** Son of God  
**Author:** *Jn.13:23; 20:2; 21:7, 20-24; Lk.5:10*  
**Purpose:** *Jn.20:30-31*

John selects seven miracles to demonstrate the deity of Jesus.  
 The Gospel of John covers only 22 days of Jesus' three-and-a-half years of public ministry. It devotes 6 of 21 chapters to just one week.  
 One-third of the verses (237 of 878) cover a single 24-hour period in Jesus' public ministry.  
 "Believe" is used 98x, always as a verb, never as a noun!

\*Use the "I am ..." Claims of Jesus handout.

**Audience:** Whole "world" (75x)

**Key Verses:** *1:1-3, 11-14*

*3:16-17*

*14:1-31*

*15:1-17*

*16:5-15*

*17:13-21*

*20:29-31*

*21:25*

**Date:** A.D. 90-100

## Acts (of the Apostles ... of the Holy Spirit)

**Theme:** "Be My witnesses!"  
**Author:** Luke – *Ac.1:1-3*  
**Purpose:** Serves as the bridge between the Gospel and the Epistles.

J. Vernon McGee suggests these last recorded facts about Jesus in the Gospels:

- Matthew – Resurrection
- Mark – Ascension
- Luke – Promise of the Holy Spirit
- John – Promise of the Second Coming
- Acts – Brings all four facts together

**Audience:** Theophilus

**Key Verses:** *1:1-3, 8*

*2:4*

*4:12, 19-20*

*9:3-6*

*16:31*

**Date:** ca. A.D. 63

Acts 1:8 serves as the outline for the book.

- ❖ 1:1 – 8:3 **Jerusalem** is the center of attention ... Peter is key figure.
- ❖ 8:4 – 12:25 Witness in **Judea** and **Samaría**.
- ❖ 13:1 – 28:31 **"ends of the earth"** – Antioch is now center of the church ... Paul is key figure.

Acts also serves as the historical framework for Paul's letters.

\*Show Paul's Missionary Journeys keynote presentation.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Journey – Ac.12:25 – 14:28
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Journey – Ac. 15:36 – 18:22
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Journey – Ac. 18:23 – 21:16
- Journey to Rome – 27:1 – 28:16

⇒ Acts is an "unfinished book"! ... What does this indicate?