



## The Backstory

Matthew, Mark,  
Luke, John

### I. God chose four biographers

- A. Matthew presents Jesus as the King of the Jews
- B. Mark presents Jesus as God's suffering servant
- C. Luke presents Jesus as the perfect man
- D. John presents Jesus as the Mighty God

### II. Two of the Gospels contain prefaces

#### A. Luke's preface Luke 1:1-4

- 1. Many had written narratives of Jesus' life
- 2. God directed Luke to do the same
- 3. Luke claimed special revelation from above
- 4. Luke addressed his account to Theophilus

#### B. John's preface John 1:1-5

- 1. Jesus was with His Father through all eternity past
- 2. Jesus is Creator of everything
- 3. Jesus is the light and life of men
- 4. Jesus light cannot be extinguished

### III. The Gospel accounts contain two genealogies

- A. Matthew's genealogy for Jesus  
Matthew 1:1-17

- B. Luke's genealogy for Jesus Luke 3:23-38

### IV. Three announcements of Jesus' coming birth

#### A. To Zacharias the priest Luke 1:5-25

- a. He and Elisabeth would have a son 1:13
- b. His name would be John 1:13
- c. He would be filled with the Spirit 1:15
- d. He would turn many in Israel to God 1:16
- e. He would prepare the way for the Messiah 1:17
- f. He would come in the power of Elijah 1:17

#### B. To Mary – she would bear the Christ Child Luke 1:26-38

#### C. To Joseph to assure his troubled mind Matthew 1:18-25

### V. Four anthems of praise

#### A. The praise of Elisabeth to Mary Luke 1:39-45

#### B. The praise of Mary to God Luke 1:46-56

#### C. The praise of Zacharias to God Luke 1:67-79

#### D. My praise to God for sending the Savior 2 Corinthians 9:15