



What are the Synoptic  
Gospels?

**Understanding the Synoptic Gospels from a  
Dispensational Perspective.**

**Put another way: Approaching and Interpreting the  
Synoptic Gospels Literally.**

Why is this important?

We are commanded to “Give Diligence” “Study” and to “Rightly  
Divide”

“Constantly Cut Straight” God’s Word.

What is the Danger or Consequences of Not Cutting God's Word Straight?

Wrong Interpretations will lead to Wrong Applications.

Illustration: Are we under the Law  
during the Church Age?

2Tim. 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is PROFITABLE...”

But not all Scripture will have a primary application to Church Age Saints.

There are many passages that do have  
a primary application to Church age  
saints,

And if there's not a primary application for us, there will normally be a principle for us to learn.

As with any Bible study, we must always be careful to ask the basic Bible Study Observation questions:  
Who? What? Where? Why? When? How?

Why did Jesus come during His First  
Advent?

Who was Jesus trying to reach?

**Where did Jesus minister?**

What was Jesus Preaching/Teaching  
about?

When did events take place?

{understanding the chronology}

How was Jesus received?

We need to keep asking ALL the Observation questions in every section of the Gospels, down to the immediate context and greater context of each chapter and verse.

A Caution about reading into the text as  
we study the Synoptic Gospels:

There might be a real temptation to arm chair quarter back these Historical Narratives about the Lord's earthly ministry during His first Advent.

You'll be tempted to have those, "Wait a minute" moments when you say to yourself, "If I know this Biblical truth, then the people Jesus was ministering to should have known..."

But they didn't have Church age truths, nor did they have the books of the Gospels yet.

You may also be tempted to say, “Wait a minute” they should have known this truth and that truth from the OT.

What they should have known and what they actually knew and understood are 2 different things.

We need to let the Historical Narrative within the Text tell us, What they actually knew and understood.

We need to pay attention to **WHEN** Jesus is correcting false teachings of the day and correcting false applications of God's Word in that day.

And there's also the Huge  
Elephant in the room that we  
need to acknowledge:

Mat. 13:13-16 The Blindness prophesied by  
Isaiah

Mat. 23:16 Woe unto you, [ye] blind guides

Why did Jesus come during His first  
Advent?

The Majority of Scripture that we know, in order to understand the Synoptic Gospels, is not found in the NT Epistles.

The majority of the Scriptures that we need to know, in order to understand the Synoptic Gospels, is found in the OT.

You must know and understand  
the 5 Covenants God gave to  
Israel.

You must also have a good understanding of many of the OT Prophecies pertaining to God's Chosen People.

The King was Born

The King was Presented

The King was Rejected

- Nationally

- Individually (by the majority of Jews)

The King was Received by some.

The King was Crucified

The King departed for a time.

The King was born:

The angel said to Mary...

To Mary: Luke 1:32, He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: 33, And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

What? Who?

The Angel of the Lord to  
Joseph...

Mat. 1:21, And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save His people from their sins.

What people?

Mat. 2:2, The wise men called the baby Jesus,  
“King of the Jews”

Who?

**Simeon said...**

Luke 2: 34, And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this [child] is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

Who?

Anna's response...

Luke 2:38, And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Who?

Mat. 2:6, And thou Bethlehem, [in] the land of Juda,  
art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of  
thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule  
(shepherd) my people Israel.

Who?

Beginning with Jesus birth and early childhood, there is a clear focus on Israel, Jerusalem and the Jewish people.

Who?

The King Presented to Israel:

It is clear from OT Scriptures, that the Nation of Israel was promised an earthly Kingdom with a Messiah/King.

# - Abrahamic Covenant

A Land                      What?

A Nation                    Who?

A People                    Who?

A Blessing to All Nations

- Davidic Covenant

A King Forever. Who?

A Throne Forever. Where?

A Kingdom Forever. When?/Where?

Jer. 23:5, Behold, the days come, saith the LORD,  
that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a  
King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute  
judgment and justice in the earth.

Zechariah 9:9, Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He [is] just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an donkey, and upon a colt the foal of an donkey.

Who?

Jesus, himself, announced in Mat. 21:5, “Behold, thy King cometh unto thee (as He rode into Jerusalem),”

Who?

Close to the end of Jesus earthly ministry:

John 18:37, Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. (YES)

At Jesus crucifixion:

Luke 23:38, And a superscription also was written  
over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew,  
**THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

## What and Who?

Jesus prior to his birth, during His earthly ministry and at His death, was presented as the King to the Nation of Israel.

To the Nation of Israel (In the Synoptic Gospels) ,  
the emphasis is on Jesus being the King of the  
Jews.

To the church, in the epistles, the emphasis is on  
Jesus being the Head of the Church.

## John the Baptist:

John 1: 31, And I knew him not: but that He should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

Who did Jesus send His disciples to?

Mt 10:6, But go rather to the lost sheep of the house  
of Israel.

Who did Jesus not focus on?

Mat. 10:5, These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

**It doesn't take a long time in the  
Synoptic Gospels, when taking them  
literally, to see this does not sound like  
the church.**

**Could you imagine a missionary in the Church today saying, “I don’t try to reach Gentiles and Samaritans.”**

Mt 15:24, But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Who is Jesus focusing on?

What is Jesus being presented as?

**The King was Rejected!**

The Jewish Messiah was Presenting Himself  
and Preaching a message of the Kingdom.

The Majority of the people in Israel rejected:

- The Message of Jesus Christ
- The Person of Jesus Christ

Mat. 11:20, Then began He to upbraid the cities  
wherein most of his mighty works were done,  
because they repented not:

What? Why?

For a Time during the Lord's first coming,  
Jesus presented Himself as the Messiah, to be the King of the Jews,  
But they needed to repent as a Nation.

Who? What?

John the Baptist's message, Jesus' message and Jesus' disciples' message proclaimed, "repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

We'll deal with this Gospel of  
the Kingdom in another  
session.

How did the nation of Israel respond to the  
Person and Message of Jesus Christ?

The Kingdom of God was Near, but Nationally,  
the Jews rejected the Messiah along with the  
Kingdom, for the moment.

This Rejection of Jesus as the Messiah started  
from the Top Down.

From the religious leaders in Israel, down to all  
that were taught by them.

Mat. 23:13, “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in [yourselves], neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.”

What is the biggest indicator or symptom during John's ministry and Jesus ministry, that the Nation of Israel **NEEDED** to Repent?

# Roman occupation

# Palestinian Covenant:

Dt. 28:15-68

Read this section this week.

Dt. 28:15, But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt NOT  
hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to  
observe to do all his commandments and his statutes  
which I command thee this day; that all these curses  
shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Dt. 28: 48, Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all [things]: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

Jesus clearly states the  
rejection by the Nation of Israel:

Mat. 23:37-39

Mat. 23:37, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not! 38, Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. 39, For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”

John 1: 11, He came unto his own, and His own received him not. 12,  
But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the  
sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name:

National rejection in v. 11.

Individual salvation in v. 12.

The Synoptic Gospels reveal to us that the Majority of Jewish people did not believe who Jesus presented Himself to be:

As a result, there was a National rejection of the Person of Jesus Christ and an Individual rejection of Jesus Christ.

**The Church has no National  
Identity going back to one man,  
like Abraham.**

**The Church has not been  
promised a specific area of  
land.**

The Church has not been promised a  
King from our genealogy.

# The Rejection of the King.

Pilate: John 18:39, But ye have a custom, that I should  
release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I  
release unto you the King of the Jews?  
40, Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man,...

Mark 15:12, And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews?  
13, And they cried out again, Crucify Him.

The King Departs for a  
time.

Luke 24:51, And it came to pass, while he blessed them,  
He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.  
52, And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem  
with great joy:  
53, And were continually in the temple, praising and  
blessing God. Amen.

Acts 1:9, records the same ascension moment and the disciples ask a very telling question in Acts 1:6.

Acts 1:6, When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

What does this question  
reveal to us?



Mat. 21:43, Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.