

All 4 gospels agree on the following:

ministry of John the Baptist
 feeding of the 5000
 betrayal by Judas Iscariot
 denial of Peter
 trial and crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus

All 4 gospels agree on the following doctrines of Jesus:

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS WITHIN - god is your father, you are here to do his work
 GET RID OF PROPETRY - you cannot serve 2 masters, god and mammon
 GET RID OF JUDGES AND PUNISHMENT AND REVENGE - love your neighbor as yourself
 GET RID OF FAMILY ENTANGLEMENTS - mothers/fathers/sisters/brothers

MATTHEW - publican tax-gatherer, sees Jesus as KING, synoptic gospel covers 38 years
 John the Baptist substitutes baptism for circumcision
 Story of Herod seeking infant Jesus echoes Pharoah seeking infant Moses
 Jesus' father Joseph dreams dreams, goes to Egypt like Old Testament Joseph
 Matthew relies more on miracles than other gospels, also prophesies of Messiah
 Matthew implies gentiles were able to recognize fulfillment of Scriptures
 while Jewish scribes were not

MARK - covers period of 7 years, sees Jesus as SERVANT, synoptic gospel
 opening word of Mark, gospel = "glad tidings"
 John the Elder reports Mark composed his gospel from memories conveyed by Peter
 criticism agrees Mark has priority, between 65 and 70
 Matthew and Luke borrow from Mark

LUKE - beloved physician, covers 39 years, sees Jesus as MAN, synoptic gospel
 Shaw: achieves the most charming idyll in Bible ,, Luke's Jesus has won our hearts
 shepherds abiding in field, where Matthew had kings
 Durant: "Very probably Like was himself a gentile, friend of Paul, author of ACTS."
 Renan thought LUKE the most beautiful book ever written.

JOHN - covers 7 years, not synoptic but claims to be eye-witness, sees Jesus as GOD
 no other gospel writer claims intimacy with Jesus, or even to be his contemporary
 John does not mention virgin birth
 John as author of GOSPEL and LETTERS and REVELATIONS

What I heard a little time ago, Taylor observe with respect to Socrates, may be said of Jesus - That he was so great a man that though he transmitted no writing of his own to posterity, we have his Mind and his sayings and his greatness handed to us by others. It is to be lamented that the history of the latter was written and revised by Men interested in the pious frauds of Religion. Yet through it all I see his splendour.

John Keats, letter 123, LETTERS OF JOHN KEATS 1819

The whole world was full of idols and ordinances. The Jewish was a religion of forms: it was all body, it had no life, and the Almighty God was pleased to qualify and send forth a man to teach men that they must serve him with the heart; that only that life was religious which was thoroughly good; that sacrifice was smoke, and forms were shadows.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, THE LORD'S SUPPER, from ESSAYS 1832

No sooner had Jesus knocked over the dragon of superstition than Paul boldly set it on its legs again in the name of Jesus... There has really never been a more monstrous imposition perpetrated than the imposition of the limitations of Paul's soul upon the soul of Jesus.

George Bernard Shaw, Preface to ANDROCLES AND THE LION

