

Part 1: John and other Gospels

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What's special about John?

- Each story and event has been captured intentionally
- Only captures seven miracles, called 'signs'
 - Water to wine
 - Healing a sick boy
 - Healing a disabled man
 - Feeding 5000
 - Walking on water
 - Healing of man born blind
 - Resurrection of Lazarus
- Focused on *who* Jesus is, rather than what he did
- Clearly states Jesus is God, bluntly and repeatedly

The origins of 'Critical' scholarship

- Challenge 1 – the right place at the right time
- Challenge 2 – copies of copies
- Until 1800s earliest copies were 4th Century
 - What happened between 30^{AD} and 325^{AD}?
- David Friedrich Strauss, secular historian
 - 1835 - *Das Leben Jesu*, 'The life of Jesus'
 - "Discovering" the historical Jesus
 - New Testament as Christian myth



Christian tradition

- Biblical texts are complete and accurate
- The New Testament was written between 35-90_{AD}
- Tradition tried to capture true information about biblical texts

'Critical' scholarship

- The Bible is a collection of myths which must be deconstructed to find historical information
- Biblical texts were written no earlier than we can prove
- Tradition is full of hearsay and is to be ignored

Christian tradition ■

'Critical' scholarship - 1800s ■



Matthew

Mark

Luke-Acts

John



Christian tradition ■

'Critical' scholarship - 1800s ■



Matthew

Mark

Luke-Acts

John



Christian tradition ■

'Critical' scholarship - today ■



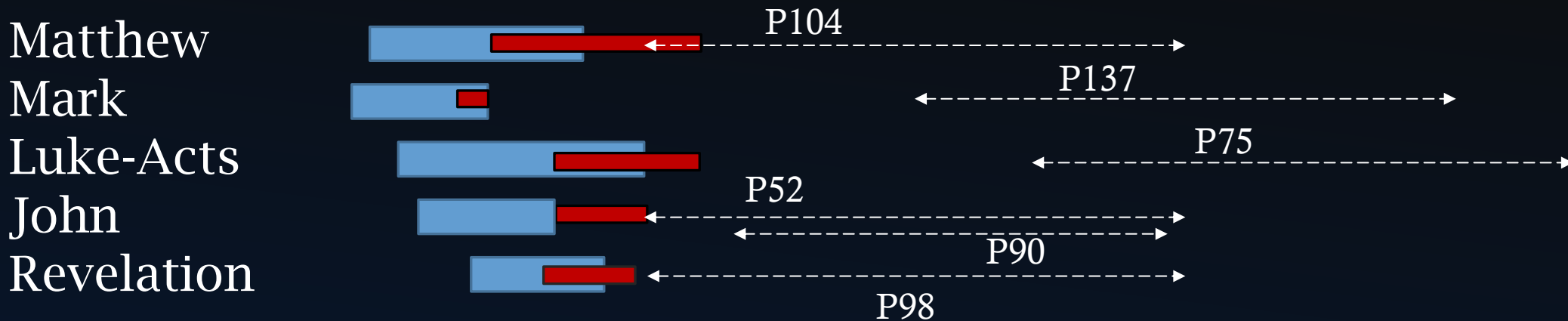
Matthew

Mark

Luke-Acts

John

Revelation



Christian tradition ■

'Critical' scholarship - today ■



Matthew

Mark

Luke-Acts

John

Revelation

Didache

1 Clement to Corinthians

Polycarp to Philippians

Ignatius to Ephesians

Papias (fragments quoted by others)



Contains quotes from Mt/Lk



Contains quotes from Mt/Mk



Contains quotes from Mt/Mk/Lk



Records John as having written a Gospel

P104

P137

P75

P52

P90

P98

11th Century

Namur witness

11th Century

11th Century

Summary

- We have solid evidence that the Gospels were written in the 1st Century, during the lives of direct eyewitnesses
- The New Testament we have always used is an excellent match to early texts and was not intentionally altered
- Scholars disagree about everything – just because a book or article sounds persuasive doesn't mean it's accurate

Jesus Heals an Official's Son

John 4:43-54

John 4:43-48

⁴³ After the *two days* he departed for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honour in his own hometown.)

⁴⁵ So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had *done in Jerusalem at the feast*. For they too had *gone to the feast*.

⁴⁶ So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ So Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.”

John 4:49-54

⁴⁹ The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.

⁵¹ As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering. ⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.”

⁵³ The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” And he himself believed, and all his household. ⁵⁴ This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

Further reading

Cold-Case Christianity

J. Warner Wallace

For the first 35 *years* of his life, J. Warner Wallace was a devout atheist. After all, how can you believe a claim made about an event in the distant past for which there is little forensic evidence? Then Wallace realized something. Christianity was a lot like the cold cases he solved as a homicide detective--cold cases that turned out to have enough evidence, eyewitnesses, and records to solve. When Wallace applied his skills as an expert detective to the assertions of the New Testament, he came to a startling realization: the case for Christianity was as convincing as any case he'd ever worked as a detective.

