

How the Gospels Work

This session will engage common arguments sceptics use to discredit the Gospels. Why is John's Gospel so different from Matthew, Mark, and Luke? What should we make of differences in parallel Gospel accounts that sceptics use to try and undercut the credibility of the Gospels? How does one discuss such differences? Come and join us as we explore these questions and consider how to respond well.

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1. **Earth Up (Synoptics) and Heaven Down (John):**

Multiple Complementary Angles

2. **Variation and Core Consistency:**

The Example of Acts 9, 22, 26

Ipsissima Verba and Vox (Summary is OK)

Peter at Caesarea Philippi

The Last Supper

3. **Updated Sayings:**

The question opening the Olivet Discourse (Mark 13:4=Luke 21:7 - these things be, about to take place; Matt 24:3 - sign of your coming and the end of the age

4. **Story Telling Choices:**

Healing of Centurion's Servant: Luke's Messengers

Jairus' Daughter: Matthew More Compact

5. Supplementing Information:

Mark's Use of Ps 22:1 versus Luke's Choice of Ps 31:5

6. Summary:

Let each Gospel speak but do not over literalize. No single Gospel tells us all. Together they give depth to the portrait.

Suggested Readings:

Jesus according to Scripture: Restoring the Portrait from the Gospels 2nd Edition, by [Darrell L. Bock](#) (Author), [Benjamin I. Simpson](#) (Author). Baker Academic. 2017.

Jesus the God-Man: The Unity and Diversity of the Gospel Portrayals by [Darrell L. Bock](#) (Author), [Benjamin I. Simpson](#) (Author). Baker Academic. 2016

Key Events in the Life of the Historical Jesus: A Collaborative Exploration of Context and Coherence, by [Darrell L. Bock](#) (Editor), [Robert L. Webb](#) (Editor) Eerdmans, 2010