



The Bible, Simplified – Session V: Jesus, the Messiah and The Four Gospels

- I. What happened during the “four hundred years of silence”?
- Four hundred years passed between the last Old _____ prophet and the birth of the _____. Yet God was working behind the scenes.
 - _____ rose to power, which spread Greek (Hellenistic) culture into Jerusalem. Jewish persecution led to the _____ revolt.
 - Internal fighting led to the _____ being invited in to restore peace. God used these events to prepare the world for the spread of the _____. Finally, _____, who would pave the way for Jesus, was born.
- II. How did the _____ enter the world and begin his ministry?
- A woman named _____ is told by an _____ that she will give birth to the _____. Her fiancé, Joseph has a dream that affirms the baby is from God.
 - _____ – the last Old Testament prophet – appears. He preaches, “_____, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 3:2)
 - Jesus shows up as John is baptizing people. When Jesus is baptized, the spirit of God descends on him, declaring him to be the _____.
 - God was beginning the process of merging heaven and earth.
- III. What took place during Jesus’ ministry on earth?
- Jesus is taken into the _____ to be tempted by the devil.
 - Jesus emerges preaching a message of repentance like John, but adds, “The kingdom of God is in your _____” (Luke 17:21)
 - Jesus chooses _____ disciples (a symbolic number) to study under him as their rabbi. They spread his message of God’s kingdom – the “_____.”

IV. What led to Jesus' death and resurrection?

- e. Tensions rise between Jesus and the _____—primarily the Pharisees and Sadducees—who expected the Messiah to _____ the physical world.
- f. Jesus goes to Jerusalem for the _____. In _____, he wrestles with the fact that he—though sinless—will take on humanity's sins.
- g. The _____ leaders arrange for Jesus to be arrested. He is tried, convicted, beaten, and mocked. He dies on the cross at _____ o'clock in the afternoon.
- h. _____ days later, Jesus rises, defeating death and hell. Jesus—sinless and spotless—becomes the perfect sacrifice for humanity's _____.

Theme Statement: The Gospels work together, illuminating different parts of Jesus' work. They each help to paint a fuller picture of who Jesus was then and who he is to us today. **Observe** the following accounts:

Question	Matthew 28:1-8	Mark 16:1-8	Luke 24:1-12	John 20:1-4
Who first saw the empty tomb?				
What did they do after seeing the empty tomb?				
Who appeared to the women and what did they say?				
Is Peter mentioned? If so, what did he do?				

Take home: Why do you think these differ? How do these differences affect the validity of Jesus' Resurrection?

Challenge: Which Gospel are you most interested in studying and exploring?