

NT 503  
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A Survey of the New Testament  
Chapter 5

Q: How do literary interrelationships, differences among the Gospels in wording and order, and the use and revision of source materials affect belief in the divine origin and inspiration of the Bible?

It is fascinating to see how the four gospels differ in a way that enables us to appreciate the rich and multifaceted aspects of the person and life of Jesus. Even the same events and teachings are rarely presented identically, which helps bring out distinctive tastes and fragrances from each reading experience and cater to various people with their own particular needs.

The four gospels also contain the event, parables, and teachings exclusive only to themselves. For example, Matthew is the only gospel that highlights the establishment of the church with much emphasis on the order in the kingdom of God, whereas the gospel of Mark comforts the believers by showing us that the early disciples were no better than ordinary people like us with same human defects and weaknesses. Luke exclusively contains many stories that comfort the heart of the socially deprived and impoverished. On the other hand, the gospel of John was carefully constructed to protect the believers from heresies like Gnosticism and reveal that Jesus was actually God becoming flesh for our salvation. We can say that each gospel is unique and beautiful in its own way. But when they are put together, the harmonious message resonating from each gospel is finally complete.

Therefore, I believe that the differences found in the gospels are not the proof that the stories were fabricated by men, but rather they are the very evidence that the word of God has a flexible and instant nature that can meet the needs of all kinds of people, whether they are believers and unbelievers.