

# 四福音對讀系統

Aligned Reading System of the Four Gospels

## About the Four Gospels



建置單位



國立彰化師範大學  
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技術支援



臺灣大學

數位人文研究中心  
Research Center for Digital Humanities



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# Concept of the "Four Gospels"

- The "Four Gospels," which refers to the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the New Testament of the Christian Bible, detailing the life of Jesus Christ.



# Concept of the "Four Gospels"

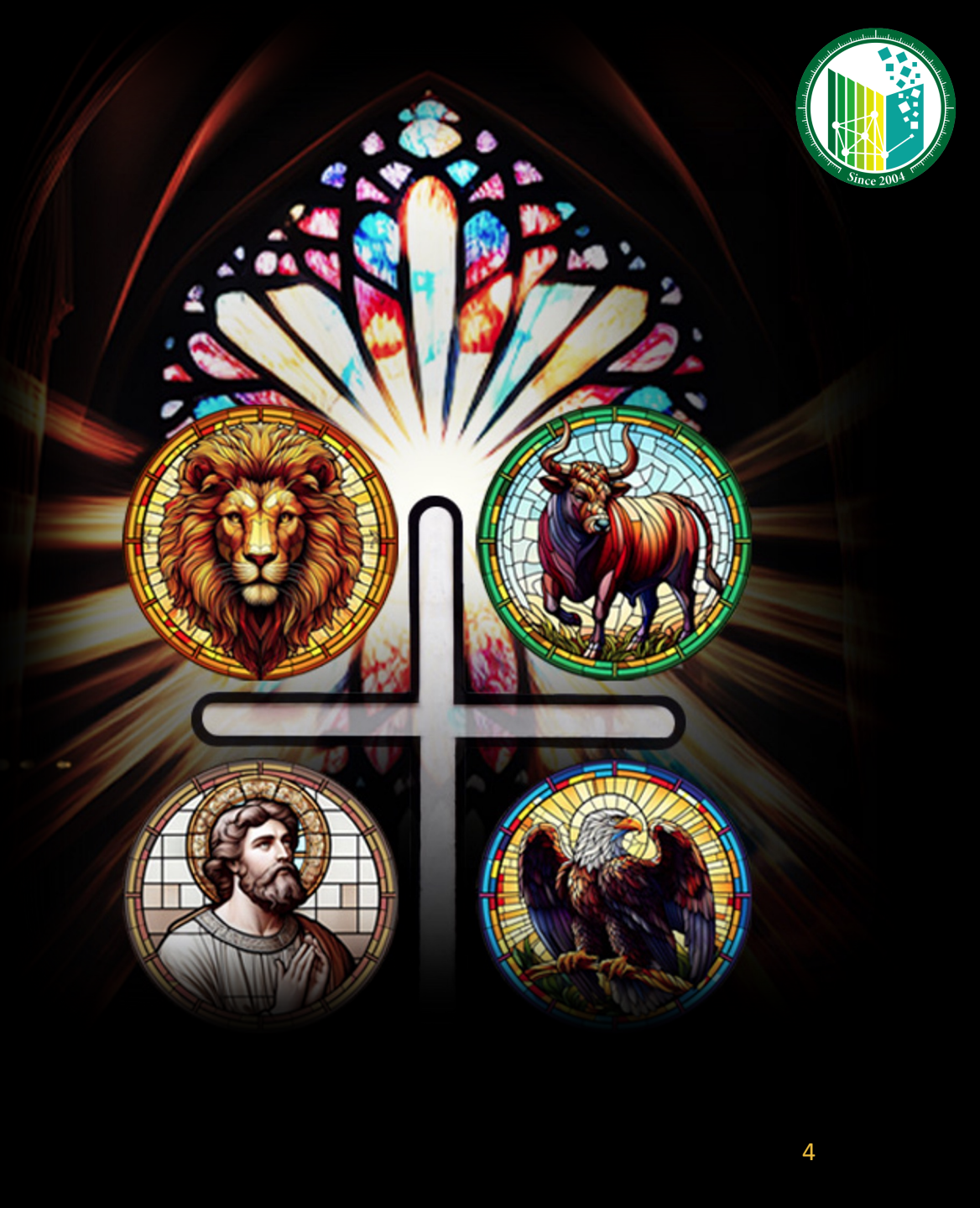
- Since each Gospel was written by different authors, they each present a distinct viewpoint on Jesus Christ and the events of his life, resulting in variations in textual style and focus. The target audiences for each of the Gospels also differ.





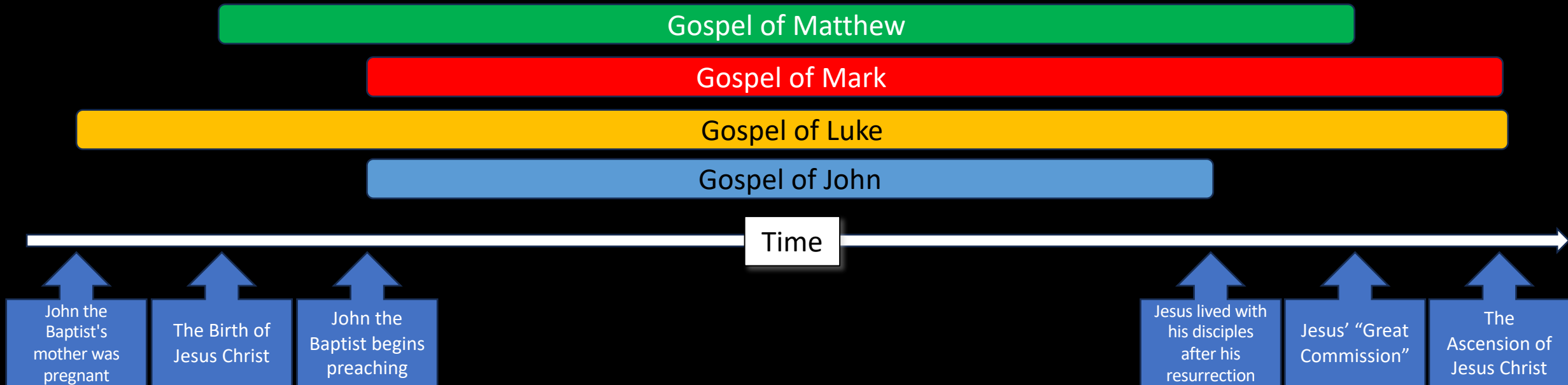
# The Authors

- Four Gospels were named by the authors, and the backgrounds and professions of them:
  1. Matthew: A tax collector and one of the twelve apostles.
  2. Mark: A companion and disciple of the apostle Peter, involved in spreading the Christian missionary works.
  3. Luke: A physician who accompanied the apostle Paul on his missionary journeys.
  4. John: A fisherman and also one of the twelve apostles.



# The estimated chronological order of Four Gospels

- The Gospel of Mark is believed to have been written first, followed by either Matthew or Luke, and the Gospel of John is the last. The content of the Four Gospels is as follows:



# The symbolism of the Four Gospels

- The symbolism of the Four Gospels, noting that theologians have traditionally represented each Gospel with one of the four living creatures mentioned in the Old Testament. This symbolism is frequently seen in art and iconography. Such as “As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.” (Ezekiel 1:10-11, KJV)



Image : [Wikipedia](#)



# The symbolism of the Four Gospels

- in the New Testament's Book of Revelation, it mentioned that “And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.(4:7)
- The symbolism associated with the Four Gospels, described through the concept of the "Tetramorph." This term, combining the Greek words for "four" (tetra) and "form" (morph), refers to the representation of each Gospel by one of four living creatures.



Image : [Wikipedia](#)



# The symbolism of the Four Gospels

- The interpretation of each creature has varied through church history:

Theologian	Man	Lion	Ox	Egale	Theologian	Man	Lion	Ox	Egale
Irenaeus	Mat.	Luk.	Jhn.	Mak.	Primasius of Hadrumetum	Mak.	Mat.	Luk.	Jhn.
Hippolytus of Rome	Mak.	Mat.	Luk.	Jhn.	St Gregory the Great	Mat.	Mak.	Luk.	Jhn.
Victorinus of Pettau	Mat.	Jhn.	Luk.	Mak.	Book of Kells	Mat.	Mak.	Luk.	Jhn.
Epiphanius	Mat.	Mak.	Luk.	Jhn.	Adam of St Victor	Mat.	Mak.	Luk.	Jhn.
Chromatius of Aquileia	Mat.	Jhn.	Luk.	Mak.	Thomas Aquinas	Mat.	Mak.	Luk.	Jhn.
Jerome	Mat.	Mak.	Luk.	Jhn.	Jamieson Fausset Brown Bible Commentary	Luk.	Mat.	Mak.	Jhn.
Pseudo-Athanasius	Mat.	Luk.	Mak.	Jhn.	Aimee Semple McPherson	Luk.	Jhn.	Mak.	Mat.
Ambrose	Mat.	Mak.	Luk.	Jhn.	H. A. Ironside	Luk.	Mat.	Mak.	Jhn.
Augustine	Mak.	Mat.	Luk.	Jhn.	Scofield Reference Bible	Luk.	Mat.	Mak.	Jhn.

Source: Wikipedia



# The symbolism of the Four Gospels

- In our system, we use the symbolism from modern theologian:
- Gospel of Matthew: A lion, symbolizes sovereignty and kingship.
- Gospel of Mark: An ox, represents servitude.
- Gospel of Luke: The Son of man, signifies the incarnation of Christ, the perfect man.
- Gospel of John: An eagle, symbolizes the divine nature of Christ.

Source : Skeat, T. C., 1992, "Irenaeus and the Four-Gospel Canon" *Novum Testamentum*, Vol. 34, Fasc. 2, pp. 194-199.



# Meaning of this System

- Although many reference books provide comparison tables of the Four Gospels, the practicality of such comparative reading in traditional print formats is limited.
- The Aligned Reading System of Four Gospels was developed to address these limitations and fulfill the practical needs of reading and comparing the Four Gospels.

