

Four Gospels—Four Living Creatures

Every religious book on earth has *one* account of an event. This makes sense because it is one story. Why then does the New Testament have four accounts of the same story?

To get a better understanding of this we need to find out what the writers of the four gospels were trying to emphasize in their story. We can see this in the four living creatures.

I. Four Living Creatures

- Ezekiel 1:5 - And from the midst of it there came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: They had the likeness of a man.
- Ezekiel 1:10 - As for the likeness of their faces, they had the face of a **man**; and the four of them had the face of a **lion** on the right side, and the four of them had the face of an **ox** on the left side, and the four of them had the face of an **eagle**.

Jesus is a Man—Normal, Approachable, Relatable and Proper

- 1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God and one Mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Jesus is a Lion—Courageous, Bold, Fierce, Strong and Kingly

- Revelation 5:5a - And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah...

Jesus is an Ox—Laboring, Serving, Bearing the burden, Faithful and Humble

- Matthew 11:30 - For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Jesus is an Eagle—Transcendent, Soaring, Uplifting, Heavenly and Buoyant

- Exodus 19:4 - You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

II. Four Gospels

Matthew—Lion = Jesus is a King

- Matthew 21:5 - “Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold, your King is coming to you, meek and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, a foal of a beast of burden.”
- Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- Matthew 1:6a - And Jesse begot David the king...
- Matthew 1:1a - The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David...

**The genealogy in Matthew starts with Jesus Christ and makes sure we know that He is the son of King David. This emphasis seen in verse 6 is there to prove that Jesus is a King.*

***The gospel of Matthew is also the only book that speaks of the Kingdom of the Heavens, thus proving that the King wants a Kingdom.*

Mark—Ox = Jesus is a servant

- Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

**“Immediately” is used 41 times in Mark, signifying that a slave has to work and serve at once and has no option to do otherwise.*

***There is no genealogy in Mark because a slave does not have the right to know who they are or where they are from.*

Luke—Man = Jesus is a man

- Luke 19:10 - For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost.
- Luke 10:33 - But a certain Samaritan, who was journeying, came upon him; and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion;

**The genealogy in Luke starts with Jesus and works back to Adam because we have to know that His genealogy is linked to the first man. It ends with God, thus proving that everything starts and ends with God.*

John—Eagle = Jesus is God

- John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- John 8:58 - Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham came into being, I am.

**The gospel of John doesn't have a genealogy, because God doesn't have a genealogy.*

***This is the only gospel that does not have the story of the mountain of transfiguration. This is because God does not need to be transformed, but a slave, king and man do.*

Activity for more fellowship: *Read with your group Philippians 2:5-11 and see if you can find the four living creatures*