THE QUESTION

Which Gospel was written first?

Asked by a THF member on May 19, 2026 · published November 9, 2026, updated November 11, 2026 · 6 numbered quotations · the 18 early Christian passages and 193 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/which-gospel-was-written-first-2

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

The early writers in these passages say Matthew's Gospel was written first. Origen reports a tradition that Matthew came first, then Mark, Luke and John last. Irenaeus places Matthew while Peter and Paul preached in Rome, with Mark after them, and Tertullian puts the apostles' Gospels ahead of their followers'.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith’s library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

IN THIS STUDY

1	Origen received Matthew first by tradition	2
2	Irenaeus puts Matthew before Mark, John later	2
3	Caius counts Luke third and John fourth	3
4	Tertullian puts the apostles' Gospels earlier	3
5	John as first fruits means honor, not date	4
	What these passages don’t tell us	4
	The Sources: 18 early Christian passages and 193 Bible verses, with links	5

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

POINT 1 OF 5

Origen received Matthew first by tradition

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen says he learned by tradition, not by his own guess, that Matthew's Gospel came first. Matthew, the former tax collector, wrote in Hebrew for converts from Judaism. Origen then gives the full order: Mark second, from Peter's teaching; Luke third, for Gentile converts; and John last of all.

1

> “About the four Gospels, which alone are undisputed in the Church of God under heaven, I learned by tradition that the Gospel according to Matthew was written first. Matthew had once been a tax collector and later became an apostle of Jesus Christ. He wrote it in the Hebrew language and published it for converts from Judaism.”
>
> *later in the same passage*
>
> “The second Gospel written was the one according to Mark. Mark wrote it according to Peter's instruction.”
>
> *later in the same passage*
>
> “Third was the Gospel according to Luke, the Gospel commended by Paul, which Luke composed for converts from the Gentiles. Last of all was the Gospel according to John.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 14, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 5

Irenaeus puts Matthew before Mark, John later

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus ties Matthew's Gospel to the time when Peter and Paul were preaching in Rome. Mark wrote down Peter's preaching after their departure. Luke recorded what Paul preached, and John published his Gospel later, in Ephesus. He does not use the word first, but his account runs in this order.

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

2

“Matthew also wrote a Gospel in the Hebrew language while Peter and Paul were preaching in Rome and laying the foundations of the Church. After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, wrote down what Peter had preached.”

later in the same passage

“Luke, the companion of Paul, recorded in a book the Gospel preached by him. Later on, John, the disciple of the Lord, who had leaned upon His chest, published a Gospel during his time in Ephesus in Asia.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 3, page 5 Read it in the library ›

POINT 3 OF 5

Caius counts Luke third and John fourth

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The fragment under the name of Caius calls Luke's book the third Gospel, written after Christ's ascension, and John's the fourth. This fits the place given to Luke and John in the order above.

3

“The third book of the Gospel, the one according to Luke, was written by Luke, the well-known physician, in his own name and in order after the ascension of Christ, when Paul had taken him with himself as one devoted to what is right.”

later in the same passage

“The fourth Gospel is that of John, one of the disciples.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Caius,** *Fragments* 1 (c. 200–220 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 13, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 4 OF 5

Tertullian puts the apostles' Gospels earlier

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Tertullian names the apostles John and Matthew first, and their followers Luke and Mark afterward. He then argues that the apostles' Gospels existed from the very beginning and were earlier. He does not say whether Matthew or John came first, so he does not give a full order.

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

4 “Of the apostles, therefore, John and Matthew first instill faith into us. Of apostolic men, Luke and Mark renew it afterward.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 2 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 10, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

5 “Well then, Marcion ought to be called to a strict account concerning these other Gospels also, for having omitted them, and insisted in preference on Luke, as if they too had not had free course in the churches from the beginning, as well as Luke's Gospel. No, it is even more credible that they existed from the very beginning. For, being the work of apostles, they were earlier, and of the same beginning as the churches themselves.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 5 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 9, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 5

John as first fruits means honor, not date

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Origen calls John's Gospel the first fruits among the four Gospels. In these words he is ranking John in honor; nothing here says John was written first.

6 “Since there are four Gospels, I consider the first fruits of the Gospels to be the one you have told me to examine as far as I am able: the Gospel of John.”

later in the same passage

“We may therefore boldly say that the Gospels are the first fruits of all the Scriptures, and that among the Gospels, John's Gospel is the first fruits.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on John* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 17, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages report what the church handed down; they give no exact year for any Gospel.
- They do not take up modern debates about whether Mark came first or which Gospel writer used another's work.

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

- Tertullian ranks the apostles' Gospels ahead of their followers' but does not say whether Matthew or John came first.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 18 early Christian passages and 193 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–18, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 19–121, in Bible order), then 90 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *18 passages from 7 writers*

Papias, *c. 95–130 AD · source 1*

1 *Fragments* "the extracts already made, we will add, as a matter of primary importance, a tradition regarding Mark, who wrote the Gospel, which Papias stated in these words: The presbyter said… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 2–6*

2 *Against Heresies: Book III* "faced, and their faces were images of the arrangement of the Son of God. As Scripture says, "The first living creature was like a lion," symbolizing His powerful work, His… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 3** "also issued a written Gospel among the Hebrews in their own dialect, while Peter and Paul were preaching at Rome, and laying the foundations of the Church… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Against Heresies: Book III* these points, all who distort the shape of the Gospel are vain, ignorant, and also bold; those, I mean, who portray the aspects of the Gospel as being either more… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 2) "Wherefore also Mark, the interpreter and follower of Peter, does thus commence his Gospel narrative: "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English) "Gospel according to Matthew was written to the Jews… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 7–8*

7 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English) "my son, salutes you. Mark, the follower of Peter, while Peter publicly preached the Gospel at Rome before some of Cæsar's equites, and adduced many testimonies to Christ, in… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 5 "These things are written in the Gospel according to Mark… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 9–12*

9 *Against Marcion* 5 **Quote 5, page 4** the Romans give, so very near to the apostles, to whom Peter and Paul together bequeathed the gospel, sealed even with their own blood. We also have the foster churches… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Against Marcion* 2 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 4** "lay it down as our first position, that the evangelical Testament has apostles for its authors, to whom was assigned by the Lord Himself this office of publishing the gospel… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Against Marcion* 8 (1885 English; on point 4) "this quality, it will be evident, can only belong to that gospel which was the first to fill the world… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *On the Flesh of Christ* 22 (1885 English; on point 4) "is, first of all, Matthew, that most faithful chronicler of the Gospel, because the companion of the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Caius, *c. 200–220 AD · source 13*

13 *Fragments* 1 **Quote 3, page 3** "fourth Gospel is that of John, one of the disciples… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 14–17*

14 *Commentary on Matthew* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "the four Gospels which alone are uncontroverted in the Church of God under heaven, I have learned by tradition that the Gospel according to Matthew, who was at one time… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Commentary on John* 6 (1885 English; on point 1) "we will begin with Matthew, who is reported by tradition to have published his Gospel before the others, to the Hebrews, those, namely, of the circumcision who believed… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Commentary on John* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) "if there are those among men who are honoured with the ministry of evangelists, and if Jesus Himself brings tidings of good things, and preaches the Gospel to the poor… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Commentary on John* 1 **Quote 6, page 4** "Since there are four Gospels, I consider the first fruits of the Gospels to be the one you have told me to examine as far as I am able: the Gospel of John." **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · source 18*

18 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) "prophets. And besides these, take care that your young persons learn the Wisdom of the very learned Sirach… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *103 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

19 **Genesis 38:28** As she was giving birth, one of them put out his hand, and the midwife took it and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, "This one shall come out first." **read ›**

20 **Genesis 48:18** And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." **read ›**

21 **Exodus 31:18** And when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, he gave to Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone written with the finger of God. **read ›**

22 **Numbers 10:13** They set out first by the voice of the Lord, by the hand of Moses. **read ›**

23 **Deuteronomy 19:15** One witness shall not stand to testify against a man for any unrighteousness, or for any offense, or for any sin that he commits. At the mouth of two witnesses or at the mouth of three witnesses every word shall stand. **read ›**

24 **1 Chronicles 9:31** Mattithiah, of the Levites, the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, was in a position of trust over the work of the high priest's griddle sacrifice. **read ›**

25 **1 Chronicles 12:11** Jethi the sixth, Eliab the seventh, (Septuagint 1 Chronicles 12:12 (1 Chronicles 12:11 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

26 **1 Chronicles 25:21** the fourteenth, Mattithiah; his sons and his brothers, twelve; **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

27 **Ezra 3:10** And they laid the foundation for building the house of the Lord; and the priests stood in their robes with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord by the direction of David king of Israel. **read ›**

28 **Ezra 6:12** And may the God whose name dwells there overthrow every king and people who shall stretch out his hand to alter or destroy the house of God in Jerusalem. I Darius have issued the decree; let it be done diligently. **read ›**

29 **Ezra 7:3** the son of Samaria, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, **read ›**

30 **Proverbs 2:1** Son, if you receive the saying of my commandment and hide it with you, **read ›**

31 **Proverbs 2:14** who rejoice in evils and delight in evil perverseness, **read ›**

32 **Proverbs 3:9** Honor the Lord from your righteous labors, and give him firstfruits from your fruits of righteousness, **read ›**

33 **Proverbs 5:14** I very nearly came into every kind of evil in the midst of the assembly and the congregation.” **read ›**

34 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

35 **Proverbs 15:24** The thoughts of the man of understanding are ways of life, that he may turn aside from Hades and be saved. **read ›**

36 **Proverbs 16:24** Good words are honeycombs, and their sweetness is healing for the soul. **read ›**

37 **Ecclesiastes 2:13** And I saw that wisdom has an advantage over foolishness, as light has an advantage over darkness. **read ›**

38 **Ecclesiastes 2:23** for all his days are days of pains, and his distraction is one of anger; even at night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity. **read ›**

39 **Ecclesiastes 2:25** For who will eat, and who will drink, apart from him? **read ›**

40 **Ecclesiastes 9:17** The words of the wise are heard in quietness more than the cry of those in power in foolishness. **read ›**

41 **Song of Solomon 3:5** I have charged you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the powers and by the strengths of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases. **read ›**

42 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

43 **Ezekiel 38:12** to plunder plunder and to loot their spoils, to turn my hands against the desolate land that has been resettled, and against a nation gathered from many nations, who have acquired possessions, who dwell at the navel of the earth.” **read ›**

44 **1 Esdras 3:10** The first wrote, “Wine is strongest.” **read ›**

45 **1 Esdras 3:17** And they said to them, “Tell us about what is written.” Then the first, who had spoken of the strength of wine, began, **read ›**

46 **1 Esdras 6:12** We questioned them, therefore, in order to inform you and to write down for you the men who were in charge, and we asked them for the list of names of their chief men. **read ›**

47 **1 Esdras 7:3** And the holy works prospered while Haggai and Zechariah the prophets prophesied. **read ›**

48 **1 Esdras 9:45** Then Ezra took up the book before the multitude and sat in the place of honor before them all. **read ›**

49 **Tobit 12:20** And now give thanks to God, because I am going up to him who sent me; and write all that has been accomplished in a book.” **read ›**

50 **Tobit 12:22** And they acknowledged his great and wonderful works, and how the angel of the Lord had appeared to them. **read ›**

51 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

52 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:20** A crooked heart will give sorrow, but a man of much experience will repay him. (Septuagint Wisdom of Sirach 36:25 (Wisdom of Sirach 36:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

53 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:32** Therefore from the beginning I was resolved, and I thought it through, and I have left it in writing. **read ›**

54 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:27** Jesus the son of Sirach of Jerusalem has engraved in this book instruction in understanding and knowledge, he who poured forth wisdom from his heart. **read ›**

55 **1 Maccabees 2:1** In those days Mattathias son of John, son of Simeon, a priest of the sons of Joarib, arose from Jerusalem and settled in Modein. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

56 **1 Maccabees 2:14** And Mattathias and his sons tore their garments and put on sackcloth and mourned greatly. **read ›**

57 **1 Maccabees 2:24** And Mattathias saw it and was filled with zeal, and his inward parts trembled; and he let his anger rise up in accordance with the judgment, and ran and slaughtered him on the pagan altar. **read ›**

58 **1 Maccabees 3:9** His name became known to the end of the earth, and he gathered together those who were perishing. **read ›**

59 **1 Maccabees 5:14** While the letters were still being read, behold, other messengers came from Galilee with their garments torn, reporting in these words, **read ›**

60 **1 Maccabees 5:49** So Judas ordered a proclamation in the camp that each man should encamp where he was. **read ›**

61 **1 Maccabees 5:53** Judas kept gathering those who lagged behind and encouraging the people all along the way, until they came to the land of Judah. **read ›**

62 **1 Maccabees 5:55** Now in the days when Judas and Jonathan were in Gilead, and Simon his brother was in Galilee opposite Ptolemais, **read ›**

63 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

64 **1 Maccabees 15:24** And they wrote a copy of these to Simon the high priest. **read ›**

65 **1 Maccabees 16:24** behold, these are written in the book of the days of his high priesthood, from the time he became high priest after his father. **read ›**

66 **2 Maccabees 2:13** The same things were also reported in the records and in the memoirs of Nehemiah, and how he founded a library and collected the accounts of the kings and prophets, and the writings of David, and letters of kings about dedicated gifts. **read ›**

67 **2 Maccabees 2:23** all this, set forth by Jason of Cyrene in five books, we will attempt to condense into a single work. **read ›**

68 **2 Maccabees 2:25** we have aimed to give pleasure to those who wish to read, ease to those who are eager to commit things to memory, and profit to all who come upon it. **read ›**

69 **2 Maccabees 2:30** To enter into the matter, to discuss everything, and to be busy with each detail belongs to the original writer of the history; **read ›**

70 **2 Maccabees 3:36** And he bore witness to everyone about the works of the greatest God, which he had seen with his own eyes. **read ›**

71 **2 Maccabees 9:17** and besides all this, he would become a Jew and would go through every inhabited place proclaiming the power of God. **read ›**

72 **2 Maccabees 13:20** And Judas sent in what they needed to those inside. **read ›**

73 **2 Maccabees 14:38** For in the former times of separation he had been brought to trial for Judaism, and he had risked body and soul for Judaism with all earnestness. **read ›**

74 **3 Maccabees 3:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

75 **4 Maccabees 12:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

76 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

77 **1 Enoch 2:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

78 **1 Enoch 41:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

79 **1 Enoch 62:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

80 **1 Enoch 62:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

81 **1 Enoch 77:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

82 **1 Enoch 82:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

83 **1 Enoch 89:68** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

84 **1 Enoch 89:77** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

85 **1 Enoch 92:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

86 **1 Enoch 104:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

87 **Matthew 4:12** Now when Jesus heard that John had been handed over, he withdrew into Galilee. **read ›**

88 **Matthew 8:4** Jesus said to him, “See that you tell nobody; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

89 **Matthew 9:9** As Jesus passed by from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax collection office. He said to him, “Follow me.” He got up and followed him. **read ›**

90 **Matthew 10:18** And you will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony to them and to the nations. **read ›**

91 **Matthew 14:1** At that time, Herod the tetrarch heard the report concerning Jesus, **read ›**

92 **Matthew 14:2** and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist. He has risen from the dead, and that is why these powers are at work in him.” **read ›**

93 **Matthew 14:33** Those who were in the boat came and worshiped him, saying, “You are truly the Son of God!” **read ›**

94 **Matthew 24:14** This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end shall come. **read ›**

95 **Matthew 26:60** but they found none. Though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. **read ›**

96 **Mark 1:1** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **read ›**

97 **Mark 1:9** In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **read ›**

98 **Mark 1:14** Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, **read ›**

99 **Mark 1:28** The report of him went out immediately throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. **read ›**

100 **Mark 13:10** The gospel must first be preached to all the nations. **read ›**

101 **Mark 16:9** Now when he had risen early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. **read ›**

102 **Mark 16:15** He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. **read ›**

103 **Luke 1:1** Since many have undertaken to set in order a narrative concerning those matters which have been fulfilled among us, **read ›**

104 **Luke 1:2** even as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word delivered them to us, **read ›**

105 **Luke 1:3** it seemed good to me also, having followed all things carefully from the beginning, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, **read ›**

106 **Luke 9:6** They departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere. **read ›**

107 **John 1:15** John bore witness about him and cried out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for he was before me.’” **read ›**

108 **John 1:30** This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, for he was before me.’ **read ›**

109 **John 19:35** He who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, that you may believe. **read ›**

110 **John 20:4** They both ran together. The other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. **read ›**

111 **John 20:30** Therefore Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; **read ›**

112 **John 21:24** This is the disciple who testifies about these things, and wrote these things. We know that his witness is true. **read ›**

113 **John 21:25** There are also many other things which Jesus did. If they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself would not have room for the books that would be written. Amen. **read ›**

114 **Acts 8:23** For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the bond of unrighteousness.” **read ›**

115 **Acts 14:7** There they preached the gospel. **read ›**

116 **1 Corinthians 15:1** Now I declare to you, brothers, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand, **read ›**

117 **1 Corinthians 15:3** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **read ›**

118 **Galatians 1:8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach to you a gospel other than what we preached to you, let him be cursed. **read ›**

119 **Ephesians 4:11** He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, shepherds and teachers; **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

120 **1 Thessalonians 1:5** because our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, just as you know what sort of men we were among you for your sake. **read ›**

121 **Revelation 14:6** I saw an angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *90 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 1:5

Psalms 24:7

Proverbs 1:11

Ecclesiastes 5:2

Song of Solomon 3:6

Isaiah 65:5

Jeremiah 23:20 · 23:30

Daniel 1:1 · 3:26 · 7:1 · 10:16 · 10:18 · 12:3

Matthew 1:1 · 1:18 · 3:13 · 3:15 · 3:16 · 5:10 · 5:13 · 5:18 · 5:42 · 6:1 · 10:23 · 10:29 · 13:8 · 16:23 · 17:1 · 22:10

Mark 2:17 · 9:2 · 14:62

Luke 1:35 · 2:10 · 17:19 · 19:12

John 1:1 · 1:3 · 1:14 · 1:26 · 2:1 · 2:4 · 3:6 · 4:16 · 4:24 · 14:2 · 18:28 · 19:13 · 19:31 · 21:22

Acts 10:37 · 19:2

Romans 1:3

1 Corinthians 1:19 · 1:27 · 2:9 · 5:7 · 11:3 · 15:20

2 Corinthians 5:17 · 8:9

Galatians 2:2 · 3:8

Ephesians 1:10 · 1:23

Philippians 3:10 · 4:3

Colossians 1:5 · 1:6 · 1:15 · 1:18 · 1:19 · 1:20 · 1:21 · 1:22 · 1:24 · 2:8 · 2:13 · 2:16 · 2:18 · 2:22

2 Thessalonians 2:1

2 Timothy 2:8

Hebrews 9:27

1 John 1:1 · 5:7

Revelation 1:9 · 11:3 · 22:7

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Which Gospel was written first?” on May 19, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “Which Gospel was written first?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/which-gospel-was-written-first-2. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 14.”

© 2026 The Historic Faith. Selection, arrangement and editing by THF; machine-compiled text and public-domain quotations are not claimed. For personal study; please don’t republish.

THEHISTORICFAITH.COM

THE END OF THIS STUDY