

## Birth narratives in parallel

### Matthew

Abraham

Mary and Joseph  
betrothed in Bethlehem

Angel tells Joseph

Jesus born in Bethlehem

Wise men visit

Herod tries to dupe the  
Wise Men

Flight to Egypt to avoid  
infanticide

Return from Egypt to  
Nazareth

John's activity

### Luke

Adam

Story of Zacharias and  
Elizabeth (John)

Mary and Joseph  
betrothed in Nazareth

Angel tells Mary

Mary visits Elizabeth

John is born

Mary and Joseph travel  
to Bethlehem

Jesus born in Bethlehem  
– no place in the Inn

Shepherds visit

Purification and  
presentation – Simeon  
and Anna

Return to Nazareth

Passover at the Temple

John's activity

### John

In the beginning

John (bear witness to the  
light – not “the Baptist”)

The word became flesh

John's activity

## **Matthew**

### **Parallels**

Israel (O.T.)	Jesus (N.T.)
To Egypt and back	To Egypt and back
Red Sea	Baptism
Temptation in wilderness	Temptation in Wilderness
Failure to be God's servant to the nations	Faithful servant ministry
Pharaoh's last plague	Herod kills the innocents

## **Mark**

Perhaps written in Rome or Syria, 60 CE

- First half—Jesus as Savior
- Second half – Jesus as victim of human sin and death
- Jesus is presented as the manifestation of the power of God, but no one around him recognizes it.

Jesus was from Nazareth; Jesus is mysterious

## **Luke**

Joyous

Genealogy 3:23 – only men; common men (Adam)

## **John**

Jesus as heavenly

Wisdom