

Outline of Matthew¹
NT 601 Gospels & Acts
Westminster Seminary California

Prologue (1:1–2:23)

1. Gospel of the Kingdom (3:1–7:29)
 - ✧ **Καὶ ἐγένετο ὅτε ἐτέλεσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς** τοὺς λόγους τούτους, ἐξεπλήσσαντο οἱ ὄχλοι ἐπὶ τῇ διδασχῇ αὐτοῦ· (7:28)
2. The Kingdom Extended under Jesus' Authority (8:1–11:1)
 - ✧ **Καὶ ἐγένετο ὅτε ἐτέλεσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς** διατάσων τοῖς δώδεκα μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ, μετέβη ἐκεῖθεν τοῦ διδάσκειν καὶ κηρύσσειν ἐν ταῖς πόλεσιν αὐτῶν. (11:1)
3. Teaching and Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom (Rising Opposition) (11:2–13:53)
 - ✧ **Καὶ ἐγένετο ὅτε ἐτέλεσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς** τὰς παραβολὰς ταύτας, μετῆρεν ἐκεῖθεν. (13:53)
4. The Glory and the Shadow: Progressive Polarization (13:54–19:2)
 - ✧ **Καὶ ἐγένετο ὅτε ἐτέλεσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς** τοὺς λόγους τούτους, μετῆρεν ἀπὸ τῆς Γαλιλαίας καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς τὰ ὅρια τῆς Ἰουδαίας πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου. (19:1)
5. Opposition and Eschatology: the Triumph of Grace (19:3–26:5)
 - ✧ **Καὶ ἐγένετο ὅτε ἐτέλεσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς** πάντα τοὺς λόγους τούτους, εἶπεν τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ· (26:1)
6. The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus (26:6–28:20)

A Narrative Outline²

1. **Beginning** (1:1–4:16)—Introduction of Jesus as protagonist and Jewish authorities as antagonists.
2. **Middle** (4:17–16:20)
 - a. 4:17–11:1—Jesus proffers salvation to Israel
 - b. 11:2–16:20—Israel responds by repudiating Jesus
3. **End** (16:21–28:20)—Jesus journeys to Jerusalem for apparent defeat at the cross, which, ironically, is his victory.

¹ From D. A. Carson, Douglas Moo, & Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992) 61–65; cf. 2nd Edition, pp. 134–40. Cf. R. T. France, *MATTHEW: Evangelist and Teacher* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989) 141ff.

² Jack Dean Kingsbury, “The Plot of Matthew’s Story,” in *Gospel Interpretation: Narrative-Critical & Social Scientific Approaches* (Harrisburg, PA: Trinity, 1997), 16–26. “Generically, whatever else Matthew’s Gospel may be, it is a narrative with a beginning, middle, and end.” (p. 16)

Mark Outline³

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- 1:1–13 Preliminaries to the Ministry
- ☆ 1:14–15 Transition: summary of Jesus' kingdom teaching and ministry
- 1:16–3:6 The Galilean Ministry Part I: Opening of Jesus' miraculous ministry
- ☆ 3:7–12 Transition: Jesus' popularity and ministry of healing and exorcism
- 3:13–5:43 The Galilean Ministry Part II: Focus on the Kingdom
- ☆ 6:1–6 Transition: Movement from Sea of Galilee region to Nazareth
- 6:7–8:26 The Galilean Ministry Conclusion: Emphasis on Jesus' powerful feats; his criticism of Jewish customs; growing opposition. Major theme emerges: the disciples' lack of understanding.
- ☆ 8:27–30 Transition: Peter's Confession.
- 8:27–10:52 The Way of Glory and Suffering: Emphasis shifts from the crowds to the disciples and the cross.
- ☆ 11:1–12 Transition: Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem
- 11:1–13:37 Final Ministry in Jerusalem: Growing conflict with the Jewish leaders
- 14:1–16:8 The Passion (Ch. 14–15) and Empty-Tomb (Ch. 16) Narratives

³From D. A. Carson, Douglas Moo, & Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992) 89–91; cf. 2nd Edition, pp. 169–72.

Mark Outline II⁴

- 1:1** **The Heading**
- 1:2–13** **The Prologue: Setting the Scene—The Dramatis Personae**
- 1:14–8:21** **Act One: Galilee**
- 1:14–15 Introduction: The Essential Message of Jesus
- 1:16–20 The Formation of the “Jesus Circle”
- 1:21–29 Preaching and Healing: General Impression (A Day in Capernaum)
- 1:40–3:6 Controversial Aspects of Jesus’ Ministry
- 3:7–12 Wide Recognition of Jesus’ Authority to Heal
- 3:13–35 Varying Responses to Jesus: Supporters and Opponents
- 4:1–34 *Explanatory Discourse: The Paradox of the Kingdom of God*⁵
- 4:35–5:43 Further Revelations of Jesus’ Unique Authority
- 6:1–6 Not Everyone is Impressed by Jesus
- 6:7–30 Jesus’ Mission Extended through the Disciples
- 6:31–56 A Sequence of Miracles around the Lake: Who Is Jesus?
- 7:1–23 A Foretaste of Confrontation in Jerusalem: The Issue of Purity
- 7:24–8:10 The Mission Extended to Neighbouring Peoples
- 8:11–21 Summary So Far: Both Opponents and Supporters Still Have a Lot to Learn
- 8:22–10:52** **Act Two: On the Way to Jerusalem (Learning about the Cross)**
- 8:22–26 First Healing of a Blind Man
- 8:27–9:13 Learning to Recognise Jesus
- 9:14–29 Success and Failure in Exorcism
- 9:30–50 More Lessons about the Way of the Cross
- 10:1–31 The Revolutionary Values of the Kingdom of God
- 10:32–45 Following Jesus in the Way of the Cross
- 10:45–52 Second Healing of a Blind Man
- 11:1–16:8** **Act Three: Jerusalem**
- 11:1–25 Throwing Down the Gauntlet
- 11:27–13:2 Confrontation with the Jerusalem Establishment
- 13:3–35 *Explanatory Discourse: The End of the Old Order*
- 14:1–11 Setting the Scene for the Passion
- 14:12–42 Last Hours with the Disciples
- 14:43–15:15 The Arrest and Trials of Jesus
- 15:16–47 The Crucifixion, Death, and Burial of Jesus
- 16:1–8 The Empty Tomb

⁴ R. T. France, *The Gospel of Mark* (NIGTC; Grand Rapids and Carlisle: Eerdmans and Paternoster, 2002), 13–15.

⁵ “The two discourses of chapters 4 and 13 thus allow the reader a pause in the otherwise rapid pace of the narrative to think through the implications of the story so far, and provide a theological framework for understanding the new thing that is happening with the coming of Jesus of Nazareth. The fact that each occurs roughly halfway through what I have termed Acts One and Three of the drama suggests that there may be a literary as well as a theological purpose in the discourses, to provide a narrative pause which gives the reader time to reflect on the events as they unfold.” (France, p. 15).

Gospel of John Structure⁶

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1:1–18 Prologue

BOOK I: The Book of Signs: the Revelation of the Son to Israel

1:19–10:42 Jesus Reveals Himself to Israel⁷ in Word and Deed

1:19–51 Prelude to public ministry (a bridge passage)

1:19–28 John the Baptist introduced in relation to Jesus

1:29–34 John the Baptist's witness to Jesus

1:35–51 Jesus gains first disciples

2:1–4:54 Jesus' early ministry: Jesus revealed as inaugurator of the eschatological order at the expense of the old

2:1–11 First Sign at Cana: new and better wine which Jesus provides

2:12–22 Cleansing of temple—Jesus as better temple

2:23–25 Inadequate faith of many early followers (prelude to Nicodemus)

3:1–21 Jesus and Nicodemus—faith as supernatural product

3:22–36 John the Baptist's witness to Jesus and his better baptism

4:1–42 Jesus and the Samaritans—living water displaces the old

4:43–54 Second sign at Cana: healing of the official's son

5:1–7:52 More Signs, Words & Works in Face of Rising Opposition

5:1–15 Healing of paralytic at pool of Bethesda

5:16–30 The healing demonstrates Jesus' person as divine Son

5:31–47 Witnesses to Jesus as divine Son

6:1–15 Feeding of 5,000

6:16–21 Walking on water

6:22–58 Bread of life discourse

6:59–71 Many early followers hesitate; Jesus determines his followers

7:1–13 Continuing hesitation even among Jesus' family

7:14–44 First round of exchange with Jewish authorities at Feast of Tabernacles

7:45–52 Organized opposition by Jewish authorities

[7:53–8:11 Woman Caught in Adultery—not considered authentic by Carson et al.]

⁶ Based on D. A. Carson, Douglas Moo, & Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992) 135–38; and John W. Pryor, *JOHN: Evangelist of the Covenant People* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1992): 98–100. Note the following helpful point by Moisés Silva: “The task of outlining a book should be seen as an effort to place passages in their proper context, since ascertaining the connection of a statement to what precedes and follow it is essential to its proper interpretation. Accordingly, a good outline does not merely describe contents, but reveals the progression of the argument” (“Approaching the Fourth Gospel,” *Crisswell Theological Review* 31 [1988] 17–29; quote on p. 26).

⁷ Silva (“Approaching the Fourth Gospel,” 27) entitles this section as Jesus' revelation to the “world,” but it should be seen as his revelation to national Israel.

- 8:12–10:42 Climactic Signs to Israel in Word & Deed
 - 8:12–59 Second round of exchange with Jewish authorities at Feast of Tabernacles
 - 9:1–41 Healing of man born blind
 - 10:1–21 Jesus is Good Shepherd; reactions from Jewish authorities
 - 10:22–39 Jesus' claims at Feast of Dedication bring opposition
 - 10:40–42 Jesus retreats of where John was baptizing with growing number of disciples

- 11:1–12:50 TRANSITION: Lazarus & the Resurrection
 - 11:1–44 Raising of Lazarus
 - 11:45–54 Decision of kill Jesus
 - 11:55–57 Setting in Jewish Passover
 - 12:1–11 Mary anoints Jesus
 - 12:12–19 Triumphal entry
 - 12:20–36a Arrival of Gentiles announces arrival of Jesus' hour
 - 12:36b–50 Climax to the revelation of Jesus to Israel: Jesus' offering and glorification foreshadowed

BOOK II: The Sign of Jesus' Death & Resurrection to the New Israel

- 13:1–20:31: Jesus' Self-Disclosure regarding the cross and exaltation
 - 13:1–30 The Last Supper (foot washing—no account of the Lord's Supper)
 - 13:1–17 Foot washing
 - 13:18–30 Example for disciples; announcement of betrayal
 - 13:31–14:31 Farewell Discourse Part I
 - 15:1–16:33 Farewell Discourse Part II
 - 17:1–26 High Priestly Prayer
 - 17:1–5 Jesus prays to be glorified
 - 17:6–19 Jesus prays for his disciples
 - 17:20–23 Jesus prays for those who would later believe
 - 17:24–26 Jesus prays for the unity of all his own
 - 18:1–19:42 The Trial and Passion of Jesus
 - 20:1–31 The resurrection of Jesus: the new creation
(Statement of the Gospel's purpose: 20:30–31.)
- 21:1–25 Epilogue
 - 21:1–23 Peter and the Beloved Disciple: models of the church in mission
 - 21:24–25 Final comments

George Mlakuzhyil:⁸

I. THE BOOK OF JESUS' SIGNS (1:1–12:50)

o. Christocentric Introduction (1:1–2:11)

C (1:1–18) Hymnic-testimonial introduction (Prologue)

B (1:19–51) Testimonial-kerygmatic introduction

A (2:1–11) Historical sign-introduction

1. Jesus' Initial Signs And Encounters (from Cana to Cana) (2:1–4:54)

A (2:1–12) The beginning of the signs at Cana in Galilee: the changing of the water into wine

B (2:13–25+) The cleansing of the Jerusalem-temple and dialogue with the Jews on the new temple

C (2:23–3:21) Dialogue with Nicodemus on birth from above and discourse on having eternal life

C' (3:22–4:3+) Dialogue of J.B. with his disciples on the groom from above and discourse on life.

B' (4:1–42) Dialogue with the Samaritan woman on living water and true (temple) worship.

A' (4:43–54) The second sign at Cana in Galilee: the healing of the royal official's son.

2. Jesus' Works, Signs And Discussions (at Jewish Feasts) (5:1–10:42)

3. The Climactic Sign and the Coming of Jesus' Hour (Bridge-Section) (11:1–12:50)

II. THE BOOK OF JESUS' HOUR (13:1–17:26)

4. Jesus' Farewell of the Hour (at the Last Supper) (13:1–17:26)

5. The Hour of Jesus' Passion-Death-Resurrection (18:1–20:29)

Z. Christocentric Conclusion (20:30–31)

X. Appendix (21:1–25)

6. Epilogue: the Risen Jesus and the Disciples (at the Sea of Tiberias) (21:1–23)

Z'. Second (Editorial) Conclusion (21:24–25)

⁸ From George Mlakuzhyil, *The Christocentric Literary Structure of the Fourth Gospel* (Analecta Biblica, 117; Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1987); (Scripture citation form altered). Only part of the outline is reproduced here.