

# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE

## Harmony of the Gospels

The writers often use expressions like: ‘at that time’, ‘another time’, ‘one of those days’, ‘again, Jesus began to teach by the Lake’ all of which give little certainty of timing. The phrase ‘some time later’ (John 5:1), makes it almost impossible to place the events of that chapter. Only with such expressions as ‘that same day’ or ‘immediately after’ can we be sure of a sequence. For a suggested order for the last week in the life of Jesus and of the resurrection accounts see *Evidence for the Bible* (Day One Publications) pp. 205–210.

It should also be remembered that a repetition of similar teaching may not have been given at the same time. Doubtless Jesus repeated himself many times.

The outline that follows is this author’s own and does not claim to be precise. All passages in the four Gospels are covered.

| <b>Main Events</b>  | <b>Matthew</b> | <b>Mark</b> | <b>Luke</b> | <b>John</b> |
|---|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| The eternal nature of Jesus                                   |                |             |             | 1:1–14      |
| The message of Gabriel to Zechariah                           |                |             | 1:1–25      |             |
| The birth of John the Baptist and Zechariah's praise          |                |             | 1:57–80     |             |
| The genealogy of Jesus  | 1:1–17         |             | 3:23–38     |             |
| Gabriel appears to Mary                                       |                |             | 1:26–38     |             |
| The angel appears to Joseph                                   | 1:18–25        |             |             |             |
| Mary visits Elizabeth and Mary's song of praise               |                |             | 1:39–56     |             |
| <b>Bethlehem:</b> The birth of Jesus                          |                |             | 2:1–7       |             |
| The angels appear to shepherds                                |                |             | 2:8–20      |             |
| <b>Jerusalem:</b> Jesus presented in the temple               |                |             | 2:21–38     |             |
| <b>Bethlehem:</b> The visit of the magi                       | 2:1–12         |             |             |             |
| <b>Egypt:</b> The family escape and the murder of the infants | 2:13–20        |             |             |             |
| <b>Nazareth:</b> The family return home                       | 2:21–23        |             | 2:39–40     |             |
| <b>Jerusalem:</b> Jesus as a boy questioning the teachers     |                |             | 2:41–52     |             |
| The ministry of John the Baptist                              | 3:1–12         | 1:1–8       | 3:1–18      | 1:15–36     |
| The first disciples of Jesus                                  |                |             |             | 1:37–51     |
| The baptism of Jesus  | 3:13–17        | 1:9–11      | 3:21–22     |             |
| The temptations of Jesus                                      | 4:1–11         | 1:12–13     | 4:1–13      |             |
|   |                |             |             |             |
| <b>Preaching and healing in Galilee</b>                       |                |             |             |             |
| Jesus' first miracle at Cana in Galilee                       |                |             |             | 2:1–11      |
| Capernaum for a few days                                      |                |             |             | 2:12        |
|   |                |             |             |             |
| <b>The Passover in Jerusalem and preaching in Judaea</b>      |                |             |             |             |
| The first cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem                |                |             |             | 2:13–25     |
| A secret meeting with Nicodemus                               |                |             |             | 3:1–21      |
| A 'certain Jew' questions John the Baptist                    |                |             |             | 3:22–36     |
| The woman at the well in Samaria                              |                |             |             | 4:1–42      |
|   |                |             |             |             |
| <b>A return to Galilee</b>                                    |                |             |             |             |
| Jesus' first rejection at Nazareth                            |                |             | 4:14–30     |             |

| <b>Main Events</b>   | <b>Matthew</b>    | <b>Mark</b>      | <b>Luke</b> | <b>John</b> |
|--|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| John the Baptist imprisoned                                  |                   | 1:14             | 3:19–20     |             |
| Jesus begins preaching in Galilee                            | 4:12–17,<br>23–25 |                  |             |             |
| <b>Capernaum:</b><br>evil spirits and Simon's mother-in-law  |                   | 1:21–34          | 4:31–41     |             |
| Jesus prays alone and continues preaching in Galilee         |                   | 1:35–39          | 4:42–44     |             |
| Healing of an official's son at Capernaum                    |                   |                  |             | 4:43–54     |
| The calling of his disciples and the great catch of fish     | 4:18–22           | 1:15–20          | 5:1–11      |             |
| Jesus commissions his twelve disciples                       |                   | 3:13–19          | 6:12–16     |             |
| The sermon on the mount                                      | 5:1 to 7:29       |                  | 6:17–49?    |             |
| Healing a man with leprosy                                   | 8:1–4             | 1:40–45          | 5:12–16     |             |
| <b>Capernaum:</b><br>centurion's servant healed and teaching | 8:5–22            |                  | 7:1–10      |             |
| <b>Nain:</b> Widow's son raised                              |                   |                  | 7:11–17     |             |
| <b>Capernaum:</b> The paralytic healed and forgiven          | 9:1–8             | 2:1–12           | 5:17–26     |             |
| Matthew Levi called to be a disciple                         | 9:9–13            | 2:13–17          | 5:27–32     |             |
| Questions about fasting                                      | 9:14–17           | 2:18–22          | 5:33–39     |             |
| Healing a sick woman and raising Jairus' daughter            | 9:18–26           | 5:21–43          | 8:40–56     |             |
| Healing the blind and mute. The workers are few              | 9:27–34           |                  |             |             |
| Jesus sends out his twelve disciples                         | 9:35 to<br>10:42  | 6:7–12,<br>30–32 | 9:1–6       |             |
| John's disciples question Jesus                              | 11:1–19           |                  | 7:18–35     |             |
| A woman anoints Jesus in Simon's house                       |                   |                  | 7:36–50     |             |
| Parables in Galilee  |                   |                  | 8:1–21      |             |
| Unbelief condemned and Jesus' invitation to rest             | 11:20–30          |                  |             |             |
| The cornfield, healing and Lord of the Sabbath               | 12:1–21           | 2:23 to 3:6      | 6:1–11      |             |
| Jesus accused of exorcising by Beelzebub                     | 12:22–37          | 3:20–30          | 11:14–28    |             |
| The sign of Jonah  | 12:38–45          |                  | 11:29–32    |             |
| 'Who is my mother?'  | 12:46–50          | 3:31–35          |             |             |
| Jesus preaches from a boat                                   | 13:1–2            | 3:7–12           |             |             |
| Parables by the Lake of Galilee                              | 13:3–52           | 4:1–34           |             |             |
| <b>Nazareth:</b><br>Jesus' second rejection by his home town | 13:53–58          | 6:1–6            |             |             |

| <b>Main Events</b>                                      | <b>Matthew</b> | <b>Mark</b> | <b>Luke</b> | <b>John</b> |
|---|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Jesus calms a storm on Galilee                          | 8:23–27        | 4:35–41     | 8:22–25     |             |
| Healing of the two demon-possessed men                  | 8:28–34        | 5:1–20      | 8:26–39     |             |
| The death of John the Baptist                           | 14:1–12        | 6:14–29     | 9:7–9       |             |
| Healing the disabled man at the pool in Jerusalem?      |                |             |             | 5:1–47      |
| <b>Near Bethsaida:</b> Feeding the five thousand        | 14:13–21       | 6:33–44     | 9:10–17     | 6:1–15      |
| Jesus walks on the Lake of Galilee                      | 14:22–33       | 6:45–56     |             | 6:16–21     |
| Crowds searching for Jesus                              |                |             |             | 6:22–24     |
| Jesus, the bread of life                                |                |             |             | 6:25–40     |
| <b>Capernaum:</b> The Pharisees grumble against Jesus   |                |             |             | 6:41–59     |
| Many disciples desert Jesus                             |                |             |             | 6:60–71     |
| <b>Gennesaret:</b> Many healed                          | 14:34–36       |             |             |             |
| Debating with the Pharisees                             | 15:1–20        | 7:1–23      |             |             |
| <b>Tyre:</b> The faith of the woman                     | 15:21–28       | 7:24–30     |             |             |
| Healing a deaf and dumb man                             |                | 7:31–37     |             |             |
| <b>By Galilee:</b> Feeding the four thousand            | 15:29–39       | 8:1–10      |             |             |
| <b>Magadan:</b> the Pharisees demand a sign             | 16:1–4         | 8:11–13     |             |             |
| Jesus warns of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees | 16:5–12        | 8:14–21     |             |             |
| <b>Bethsaida:</b> a blind man healed                    |                | 8:22–26     |             |             |
| <b>Caesarea Philippi:</b> Peter's confession of Christ  | 16:13–20       | 8:27–30     | 9:18–27     |             |
| Jesus predicts his coming death                         | 16:21–28       | 8:31 to 9:1 |             |             |
| Eight days later, the Transfiguration                   | 17:1–13        | 9:2–13      | 9:28–36     |             |
| Healing the demon-possessed boy                         | 17:14–21       | 9:14–29     | 9:37–43     |             |
| Passing through Galilee and prediction of his death     | 17:22–23       | 9:30–32     | 9:43–45     | 7:1–9       |
| <b>Capernaum:</b> the provision of the Temple Tax       | 17:24–27       |             |             |             |
| The disciples question who is greatest in the Kingdom   | 18:1–9         | 9:33–37     | 9:46–48     |             |
| 'Whoever is not against us is for us'                   |                | 9:38–41     | 9:49–50     |             |
| The millstone warning                                   |                | 9:42–50     |             |             |
| Parable: the lost sheep                                 | 18:10–14       |             |             |             |
| Parables: forgiving a brother; the unmerciful servant   | 18:15–35       |             |             |             |

| Main Events   | Matthew | Mark | Luke     | John         |
|---|---------|------|----------|--------------|
| <b>Through Samaria into Judea</b> (Luke 9:51–52)              |         |      |          |              |
| On his way to Jerusalem through Samaria                       |         |      | 9:51–56  |              |
| The cost of discipleship                                      |         |      | 9:57–62  |              |
| Jesus sends out the seventy-two disciples                     |         |      | 10:1–24  |              |
| The parable of the Good Samaritan                             |         |      | 10:25–37 |              |
| Ten men healed of leprosy                                     |         |      | 17:11–19 |              |
|   |         |      |          |              |
| <b>Into Judea</b> (Matthew 19:1)                              |         |      |          |              |
| <b>Bethany:</b> the home of Martha and Mary                   |         |      | 10:38–42 |              |
| <b>Jerusalem:</b> The Feast of Tabernacles                    |         |      |          | 7:10–52      |
| The woman taken in adultery                                   |         |      |          | 7:53 to 8:11 |
| Teaching in Jerusalem   |         |      |          | 8:12–59      |
| Healing a man born blind                                      |         |      |          | 9:1–41       |
| Jesus, the Good Shepherd                                      |         |      |          | 10:1–21      |
| The Feast of Dedication                                       |         |      |          | 10:22–39     |
| Jesus returns across the Jordan                               |         |      |          | 10:40–42     |
| <b>Bethany:</b><br>The raising of Lazarus and the Jewish plot |         |      |          | 11:1–44      |
| <b>Village of Ephraim:</b><br>Jesus withdraws from the crowds |         |      |          | 11:45–57     |
| Jesus' teaching on prayer                                     |         |      | 11:1–13  |              |
| 'Your eye is the lamp'  |         |      | 11:33–36 |              |
| Six woes in the home of a Pharisee                            |         |      | 11:37–54 |              |
| Warnings and encouragements to the crowd                      |         |      | 12:1–12  |              |
| Parable of the rich fool                                      |         |      | 12:13–21 |              |
| Encouragement not to be anxious but to be watchful            |         |      | 12:22–48 |              |
| Warning of division caused by the Gospel                      |         |      | 12:49–53 |              |
| Interpreting the times  |         |      | 12:54–59 |              |
| Necessity of repentance and parable of the fig tree           |         |      | 13:1–9   |              |
| A crippled woman healed on the Sabbath                        |         |      | 13:10–17 |              |
| Parables of the mustard seed and yeast                        |         |      | 13:18–21 |              |
| The narrow door into the Kingdom                              |         |      | 13:22–30 |              |

| <b>Main Events</b>  | <b>Matthew</b> | <b>Mark</b>     | <b>Luke</b> | <b>John</b> |
|---|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Jesus warned by Pharisees, weeps over Jerusalem                 |                |                 | 13:31–35    |             |
| In the home of a Pharisee and parable of the banquet            |                |                 | 14:1–24     |             |
| Counting the cost of discipleship                               |                |                 | 14:25–35    |             |
| Parables: Lost sheep, lost coin, lost son                       |                |                 | 15:1–32     |             |
| Parable: The shrewd manager; rich man and Lazarus               |                |                 | 16:1–31     |             |
| Rebuking an erring brother; faith and duty                      |                |                 | 17:1–10     |             |
| Parable: the persistent widow                                   |                |                 | 18:1–8      |             |
| Parable: the Pharisee and Tax Collector                         |                |                 | 18:9–14     |             |
| Jesus' teaching on divorce                                      | 19:1–12        | 10:1–12         |             |             |
| Receiving little children                                       | 19:13–15       | 10:13–16        | 18:15–17    |             |
| The rich young man  | 19:16–30       | 10:17–31        | 18:18–30    |             |
| Parable of the vineyard   | 20:1–16        |                 |             |             |
| 'Going up to Jerusalem': Jesus predicts his death               | 20:17–19       | 10:32–34        | 18:31–34    |             |
| The request of the mother of James and John                     | 20:20–28       | 10:35–45        |             |             |
| 'Leaving Jericho': healing two blind men (Bartimaeus)           | 20:29–34       | 10:46–52        | 18:35–43    |             |
| At Jericho: The conversion of Zacchaeus                         |                |                 | 19:1–10     |             |
| Parable of ten minas  |                |                 | 19:11–27    |             |
| <b>Bethany:</b><br>In the home of Simon, Jesus anointed by Mary | 26:6–13        | 14:1–11         |             | 12:1–11     |
|   |                |                 |             |             |
| <b>Jerusalem</b> (John 12:12 'The next day')                    |                |                 |             |             |
| <b>Sunday:</b> The triumphal entry                              | 21:1–11        | 11:1–11         | 19:28–44    | 12:12–19    |
| <b>Monday/Tuesday:</b>  |                |                 |             |             |
| The fig tree withered   | 21:18–22       | 11:12–14, 20–26 |             |             |
| Second cleansing the temple and return to Bethany               | 21:12–17       | 11:15–19        | 19:45–48    |             |
| The Greeks' request and Jesus predicts his death                |                |                 |             | 12:20–36    |
| Many of the Jews will not believe, but some do                  |                |                 |             | 12:37–50    |
| Jesus' authority questioned                                     | 21:23–27       | 11:27–33        | 20:1–8      |             |
| Parable of the tenants  | 21:33–46       | 12:1–12         | 20:9–19     |             |
| Parables: the two sons and a wedding banquet                    | 21:28 to 22:14 |                 |             |             |

| <b>Main Events</b>                              | <b>Matthew</b>   | <b>Mark</b> | <b>Luke</b>          | <b>John</b>        |
|---|------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Paying taxes to Caesar                          | 22:15–22         | 12:13–17    | 20:20–26             |                    |
| Marriage and the Resurrection                   | 22:23–33         | 12:18–27    | 20:27–39             |                    |
| The greatest commandment                        | 22:34–40         | 12:28–34    |                      |                    |
| Jesus explains that he is the Son of God        | 22:41–46         | 12:35–40    | 20:41–47             |                    |
| Seven Woes                                      | 23:1–39          |             |                      |                    |
| The widow's offering                            |                  | 12:41–44    | 21:1–4               |                    |
| Destruction of the Temple and signs of the end  | 24:1–51          | 13:1–37     | 17:20–37;<br>21:5–38 |                    |
| Parables: ten virgins, talents, sheep and goats | 25:1–46          |             |                      |                    |
| The plot against Jesus and Judas' betrayal      | 26:1–5,<br>14–16 |             | 22:1–6               |                    |
| <b><i>Wednesday:</i></b>                        |                  |             |                      |                    |
| The Last Supper                                 | 26:17–30         | 14:12–26    | 22:7–38              |                    |
| Jesus washed his disciples' feet                |                  |             |                      | 13:1–17            |
| Jesus warns of a betrayer                       |                  |             |                      | 13:18–30           |
| Peter's denial predicted                        | 26:31–35         | 14:27–31    |                      | 13:31–38           |
| Jesus' encouragement and promise of the Spirit  |                  |             |                      | 14:1–31            |
| The vine and the branches                       |                  |             |                      | 15:1–17            |
| Warning of persecution                          |                  |             |                      | 15:18 to<br>16:4   |
| The ministry of the Spirit                      |                  |             |                      | 16:5–16            |
| Their grief will turn to joy                    |                  |             |                      | 16:17–33           |
| Jesus' prayer for his disciples                 |                  |             |                      | 17:1–26            |
| Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives               | 26:36–45         | 14:32–42    | 22:39–46             | 18:1               |
| Jesus' betrayal and arrest                      | 26:47–56         | 14:43–52    | 22:47–53             | 18:2–11            |
| <b><i>Wednesday/Thursday:</i></b>               |                  |             |                      |                    |
| Jesus taken before Annas                        |                  |             |                      | 18:12–14,<br>19–23 |
| Jesus before the High Priest, Caiaphas          | 26:57–68         | 14:53       | 22:54                |                    |
| Jesus mocked and beaten and Peter's denial      | 26:58,<br>69–75  | 14:54–72    | 22:54–65             | 18:15–18,<br>25–26 |
| <b><i>Thursday:</i></b>                         |                  |             |                      |                    |
| Jesus condemned by the Jewish Sanhedrin         | 27:1             | 15:1        | 22:66–71             |                    |
| Judas' remorse and death                        | 27:3–10          |             |                      |                    |

| <b>Main Events</b>                                   | <b>Matthew</b> | <b>Mark</b> | <b>Luke</b> | <b>John</b>      |
|--|----------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Jesus before Pilate                                  | 27:2,<br>11–14 | 15:1–5      | 23:1–5      | 18:28–40         |
| Jesus before Herod                                   |                |             | 23:6–12     |                  |
| <b><i>Friday:</i></b>                                |                |             |             |                  |
| Jesus before Pilate again                            | 27:15–26       | 15:6–15     | 23:13–25    | 19:1–16          |
| Jesus handed over to the soldiers and beaten         | 27:27–31       | 15:16–20    |             |                  |
| Simon of Cyrene carries the cross                    | 27:32          | 15:21       | 23:26       |                  |
| The crucifixion of Jesus (9.00 am)                   | 27:33–44       | 15:22–32    | 23:27–38    | 19:17–27         |
| The repentant thief                                  |                |             | 23:39–43    |                  |
| Jesus' death (3.00 pm)                               | 27:45–56       | 15:33–41    | 23:44–49    | 19:28–37         |
| His burial by Joseph and Nicodemus                   | 27:57–61       | 15:42–47    | 23:50–56    | 19:38–42         |
| The guard at the tomb                                | 27:62–66       |             |             |                  |
| <b><i>The resurrection:</i></b>                      |                |             |             |                  |
| The women at the tomb                                | 28:1–10        | 16:1–8      | 24:1–11     |                  |
| Mary Magdalene and Jesus                             |                |             |             | 20:1–2,<br>11–18 |
| Peter and John at the tomb                           |                |             | 24:12       | 20:3–10          |
| The rumour spread by the Jews                        | 28:11–15       |             |             |                  |
| Jesus meets with Mary Magdalene                      |                | 16:9–11     |             |                  |
| Two on the Emmaus road                               |                | 16:12–13    | 24:13–35    |                  |
| Jesus meets with the ten disciples                   |                |             | 24:36–49    | 20:19–23         |
| With the eleven including Thomas                     |                | 16:14       |             | 20:24–31         |
| Breakfast by the Lake                                |                |             |             | 21:1–14          |
| Peter's profession of love                           |                |             |             | 21:15–23         |
|  |                |             |             |                  |
| Jesus' commission to the disciples and his ascension | 28:16–20       | 16:15–20    | 24:50–53    |                  |
| (The record of the ascension in Acts 1:1–11)         |                |             |             |                  |
| John's final confirmation of the truth of his Gospel |                |             |             | 21:24–25         |