

Interpretation

Josh Spoelstra | 25 June 2023

The Synoptic Gospels



Baptism

Resurrection



Matthew

A diagram illustrating the coverage of the three Synoptic Gospels. It features three horizontal bars stacked vertically. The top bar is purple and labeled 'Matthew'. The middle bar is teal and labeled 'Mark'. The bottom bar is reddish-brown and labeled 'Luke'. Two vertical yellow lines are drawn across all three bars, one on the left and one on the right. The word 'Baptism' is positioned above the left yellow line, and the word 'Resurrection' is positioned above the right yellow line. The purple bar for Matthew spans the entire distance between the two yellow lines. The teal bar for Mark and the reddish-brown bar for Luke are shorter, starting at the left yellow line but ending before the right yellow line.

Mark

Luke

A Venn diagram on a black background. On the left, three overlapping circles in orange, green, and purple represent the Synoptic Gospels. The text 'synoptics' and '68-72 AD' is centered within these circles. On the right, a single large blue circle represents the Gospel of John. The text 'John' and '(ca. 90 AD)' is centered within this circle. The two groups of circles do not overlap each other.

synoptics
68-72 AD

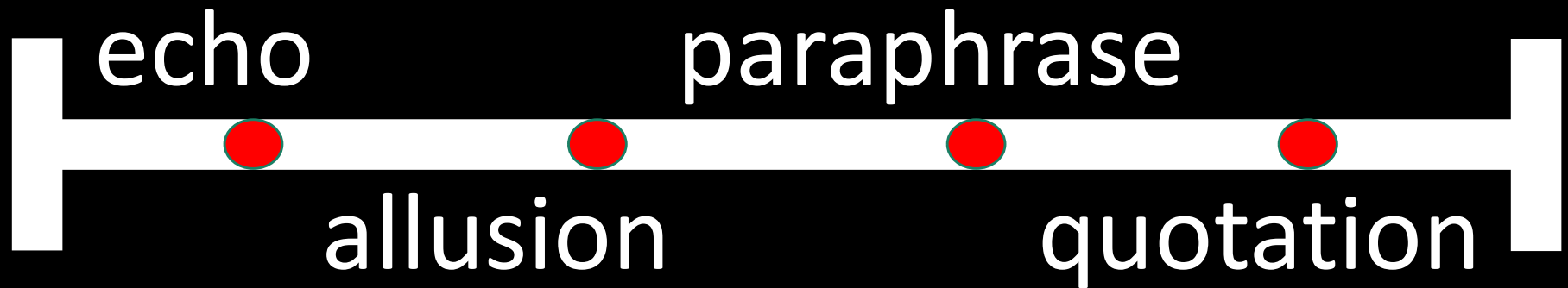
John
(ca. 90 AD)

The Synoptic Gospels



Gospel	Audience	Purpose
Matthew	Jews	Jesus = Messiah/Christ
Mark	Romans	Jesus = GoodNews
Luke	Gentiles	Jesus = Savior
John	Church	Jesus = Divine-Human

Continuum of Citation



But if you are not listened to, take **one or two others** along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of **two or three** witnesses.

...For where **two or three** are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

(Matthew 18:16, 20 NRSV; cf.
Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15)

- Matthew, Mark, & Luke =
3 witnesses
- Synoptic Gospels + Gospel of John =
2 witnesses