

## **The Forgotten Jesus Podcast**

### **S2E2**

#### **Title - Themes and Audiences of the Gospels**

**Description - In the last episode we began looking at the gospels and the audiences and themes the gospel authors were writing to. In this episode we will continue to explore those themes and audiences.**

So how do you account for these guys all writing the same stories and encounters? Scholars think that there had to be some proto-gospel, "Quell" or "Q" that they had access too, but we've never found any such document. It's all just theoretical.

Plus, you also have to completely ignore the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The theme of Matthew - God is with us, Jesus is the son of David, and the new Moses.

Luke teaches via direct quotations and teaching narrative via the mouths of people.

Luke is going to teach what it means to follow God through obedience. He's going to have encounter after encounter with Jesus & People who are obedient to God.

The entire Gospel of Luke is created around Jesus going to a meal, Jesus at a meal, or Jesus coming from a meal.

Luke's emphasizing the need for community, the need for connection. This is a big deal in the Jewish community, that when you host someone for a meal, you're welcoming them and affirming them.

Now, on to the book of Matthew

Who's Matthew's audience - Jewish culture. He quotes more OT scripture than any other gospel.

Why is Matthew writing - Remember Matthew's themes:

1. Jesus is the new Moses
2. Jesus is from the lineage of David
3. God is with us

Let's go all the way back to 722 BC and then 586 BC

What happened in 722? Assyria conquers and destroys the kingdom of Israel, the northern tribes.

Jeremiah warns them that the Ark will be destroyed in 586 BC.

Jeremiah 3:16

<sup>16</sup>When you multiply and increase in the land, in those days—this is the LORD’s declaration—no one will say again, “The ark of the LORD’s covenant.” It will never come to mind, and no one will remember or miss it. Another one will not be made.

Remember, the Jews thought that the Ark was the point where Heaven met earth. The top of the ark was the mercy seat, where once a year the High priest would sprinkle blood on the day of atonement. Not having the ark was a very, very big deal.

591 BC - Ezekiel 10:18-19

<sup>18</sup>Then the glory of the LORD moved away from the threshold of the temple and stopped above the cherubim. <sup>19</sup>The cherubim lifted their wings and ascended from the earth right before my eyes; the wheels were beside them as they went. The glory of the God of Israel was above them, and it stopped at the entrance to the eastern gate of the LORD’s house.

So a few years before Jeremiah prophesied the Ark being captured and destroyed, God had already left the building. He said, “I’m out” because of the people’s sinful hearts. So for 5-6 years, the priests were going through the motions, doing all the things, but it was all about religion, not about relationship.

So for 400 years from Ezra / Nehemiah and the temple being rebuilt to the time of Jesus, there was a temple with no ark, and no presence of God. They’re going through the motions and keeping a facade.

Malachi ends and God ceases to speak for 400+ years, all the way up to the angel Gabriel appearing to Zacheriah in the temple when he goes to burn incense.