

# The Gospel of Matthew



Author: It is very possible that the author was NOT Matthew. It is at least just as likely, anonymous – with authorship added later - 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century.



## **Against Matthew's authorship**

-Heavy borrowing from other sources - like a historian rather than an eye witness

## **For Mathew's authorship**

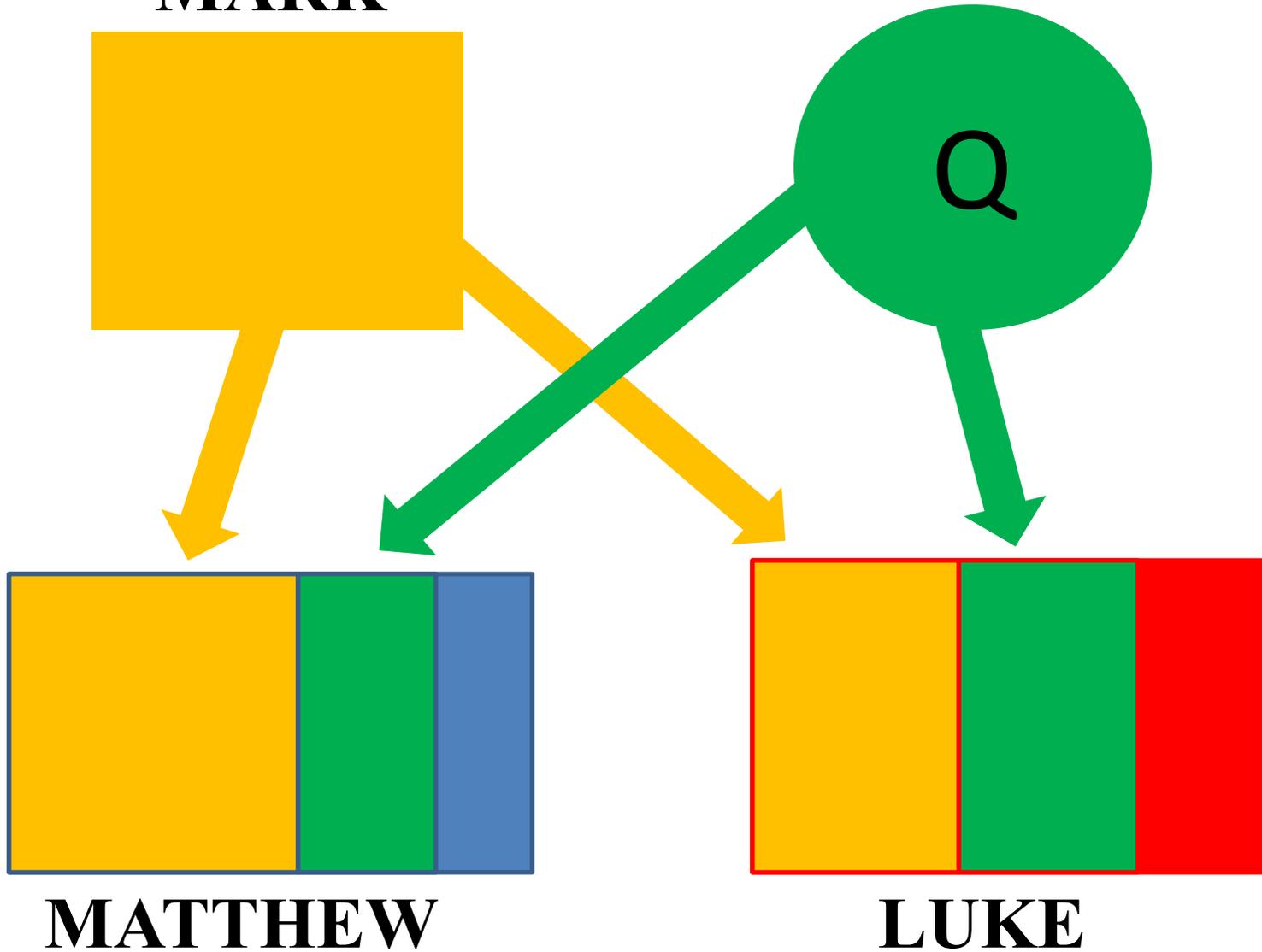
-A key argument FOR apostolic authorship is that the early Church fathers in their writings thought its author was Matthew. But in the absence of good records, even a period of 25, 50, but especially 100, 200, or 300 years could have muddied the issue of original authorship greatly!

-Jewish writer

-Written pre-A.D. 70 – before the destruction of Jerusalem (and the temple) by the Romans.

# SYNOPTIC GOSPEL SOURCES

MARK



- May have been originally written in Aramaic, but there is no conclusive proof. Certainly this gospel record was consumed by gentile audiences – earliest surviving copies were in Greek.

- Notice that I have to use the word “probably” a lot. It was written almost 2000 years ago! We can



only look at the evidence that is there in the text, extra biblical writing and try to draw conclusions, but much of it is more or less speculation – we just can't know for sure on much of this.



This is why He begins with the genealogy of Jesus, rather than the conception and birth. He's taking us back, showing us that Jesus is no sudden phenomenon! He is the culmination, the *fulfillment* of a huge, long-standing, patient effort by God to reconcile the world to Himself. The genealogy takes us from **where** it all started and brings us up to date. Jesus **was** planned for since even before the beginning!  He was not just the star of the show at that time in history, but always had been the star, ***AND STILL IS TODAY!***

**[1 Pet. 1:18-21]**



## - **Mary** (*rebellious*)

She was a human being born with a fallen (rebellious) human nature. Yet, at the probable age of 14 or 15, when she was contacted by God's messenger, the angel, her only question was, "*Why me? Who am I that I should be chosen for such an important role?*" She was actually **honored** to bear God's Son! She was rebellious by nature but used her free will to be obedient instead. She said "yes" to God. "Yes" implies trust! It was not a small task she was being asked to do. She was in for 9 months of pregnancy, and a *lifetime* of raising and caring for the most unusual human ever born! Her life suddenly took on great significance



What part *have you* played/ *are you* playing/ *will you* play in salvation history? What has God called you to do that you have done, are doing, or will be willing to do?

Maybe I should put it another way. What is it that God has requested of you that you are *not* doing?

**Gospeling?**

**Serving in some capacity @ church?**

**Tithing the whole amount?**

**Peace making?**

**Caring?**



Does anything you do for the Kingdom cost you personally so that it is a joyous **sacrifice**? Does anything you do for the Kingdom require **courage**, or even require **faith**? No one in God's Kingdom gets a pass to do nothing! I mean, a person may do nothing, but they have not been given permission by God to do so. It just does not work that way! We are all called into a love relationship with Jesus, and from there into a partnership with His enterprises. Being involved in God's purposes is integral to coming to know God personally and learning to love Him and depend upon Him. Personal sacrifice in our involvement is necessary because it helps us learn to love Him more than we love ourselves!



SACRIFICE