

Why Four Gospels?

A Man, A Lion, An Ox, and An Eagle

Most Christians know there are
FOUR gospels in the New Testament.

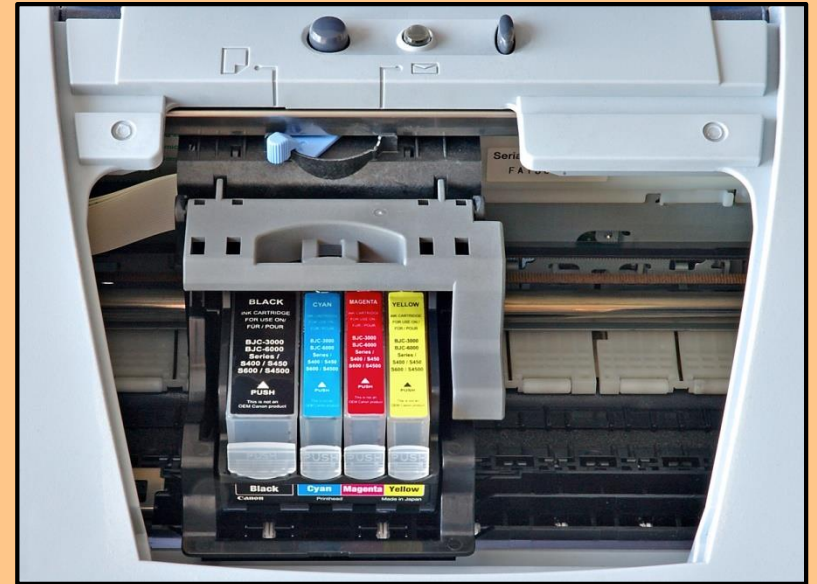


Most Christians know there are
FOUR gospels in the New Testament.
Not every Christian knows why.



Almost all modern printing uses a process called "color separation."

All the colors needed to print an image are separated into four components known as CMYK.

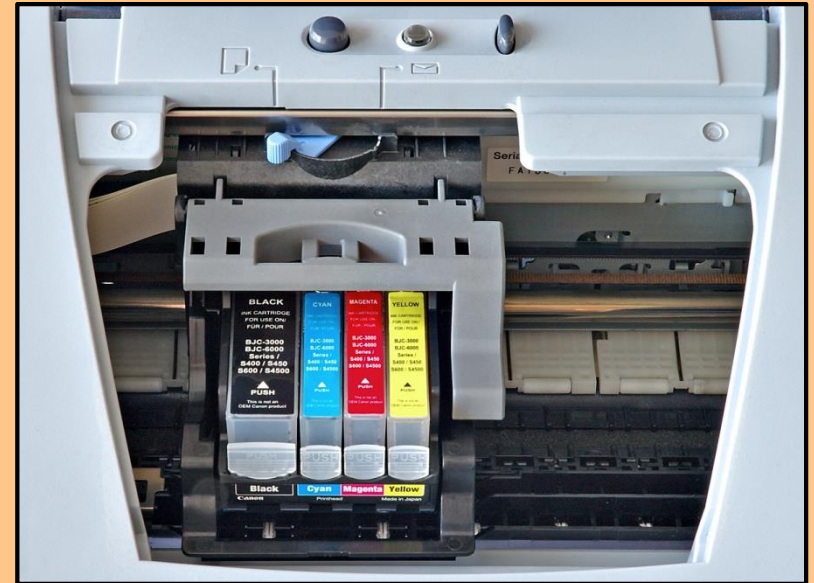


Almost all modern printing uses a process called "color separation."

All the colors needed to print an image are separated into four components known as CMYK.

CMYK is an acronym for:

Cyan,

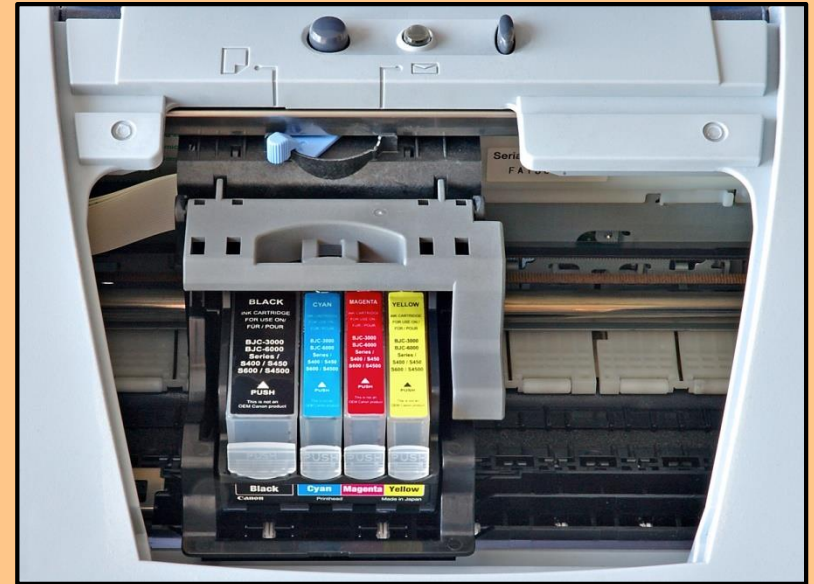


Almost all modern printing uses a process called "color separation."

All the colors needed to print an image are separated into four components known as CMYK.

CMYK is an acronym for:

Cyan,
Magenta,

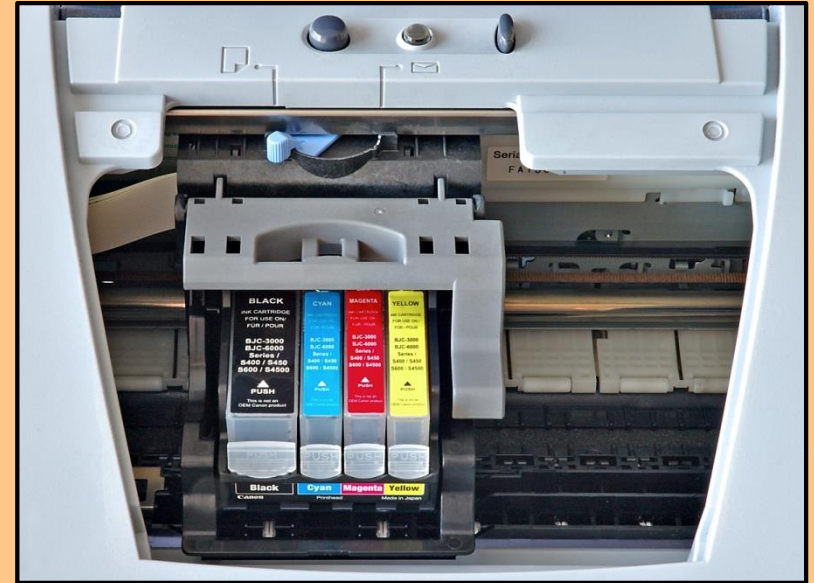


Almost all modern printing uses a process called "color separation."

All the colors needed to print an image are separated into four components known as CMYK.

CMYK is an acronym for:

Cyan,
Magenta,
Yellow,

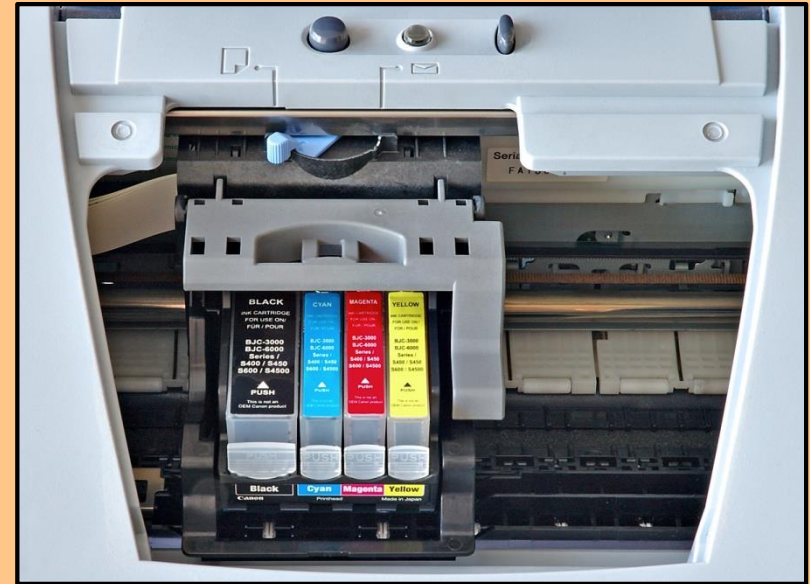


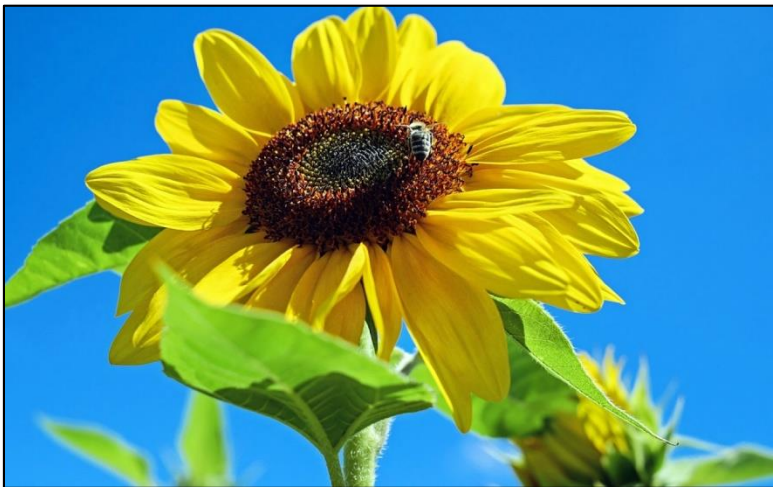
Almost all modern printing uses a process called "color separation."

All the colors needed to print an image are separated into four components known as CMYK.

CMYK is an acronym for:

Cyan,
Magenta,
Yellow,
and "Key" or black.

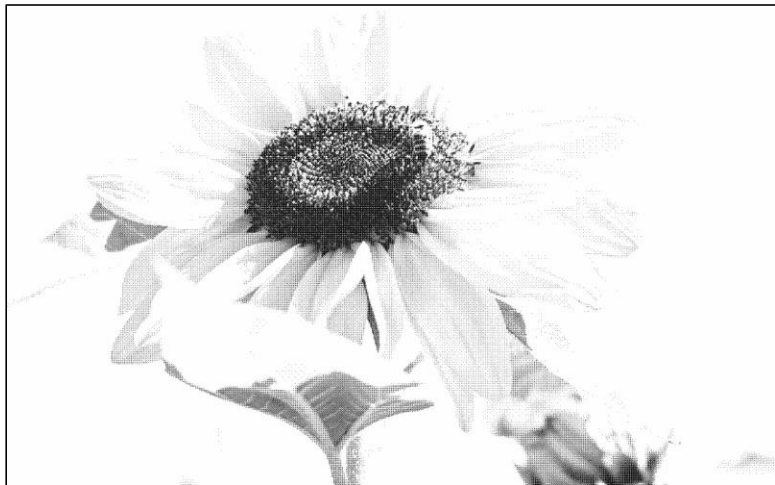




Imagine that you want to print this photo.



K



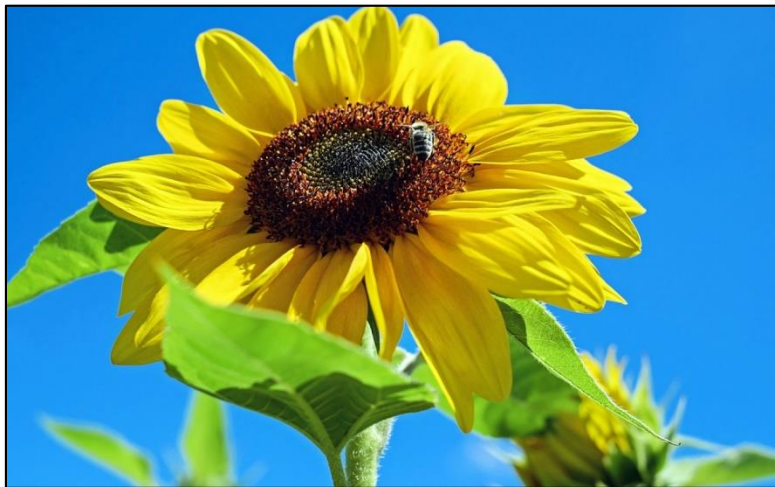
If you only have BLACK ink, you will get outlines and shading.



If you have YELLOW and black ink, the flower's petals are better, but the leaves are wrong and the sky is still missing.



With MAGENTA , yellow, and black,
the flower and the bee are more
accurate, but the rest is still wrong.



You need all four inks to produce the image as it should be.

The same is true with the four Gospels:

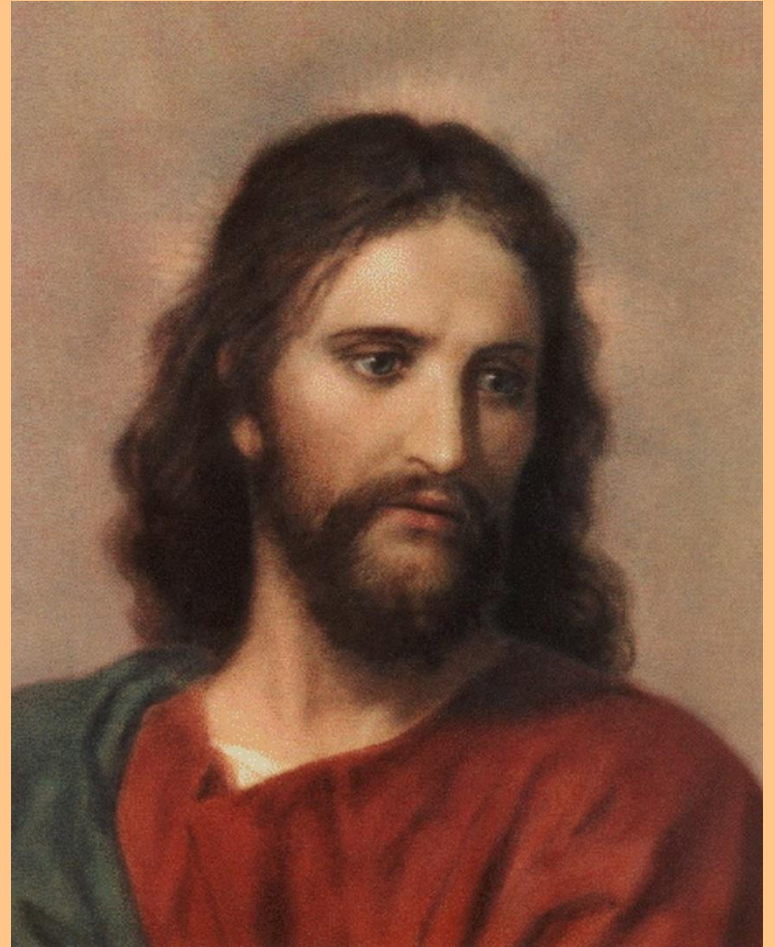


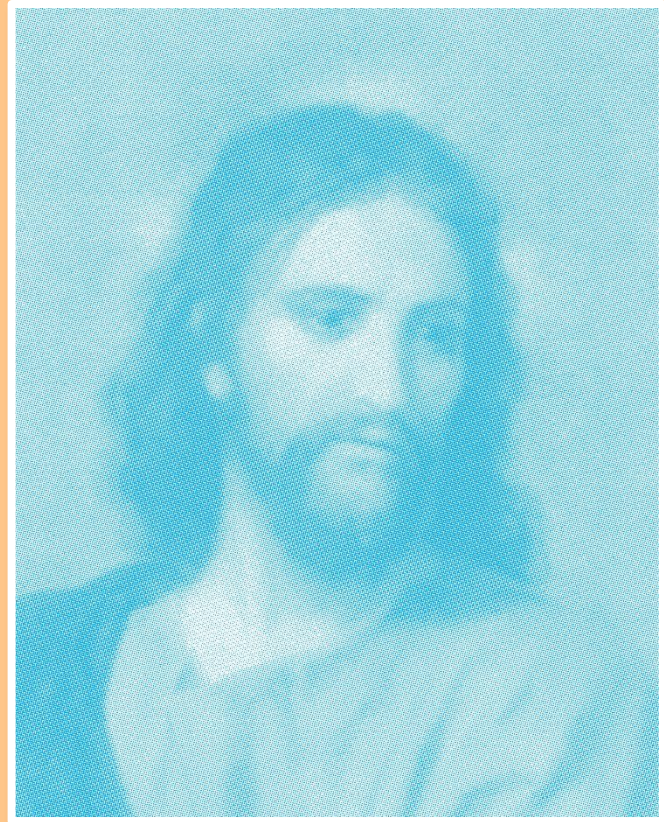
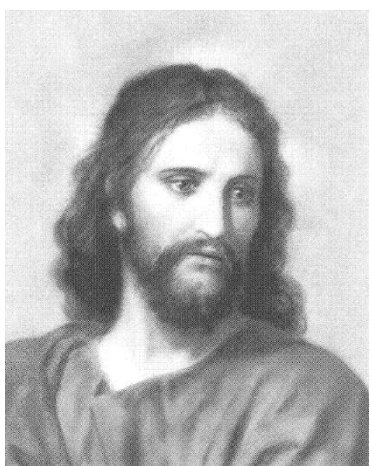
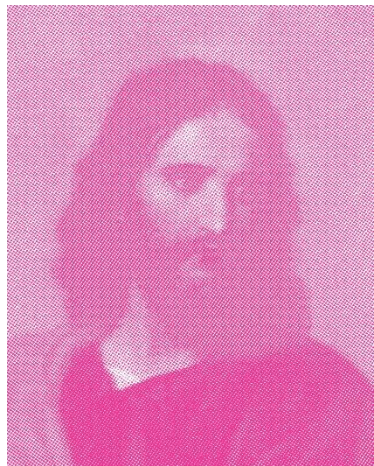
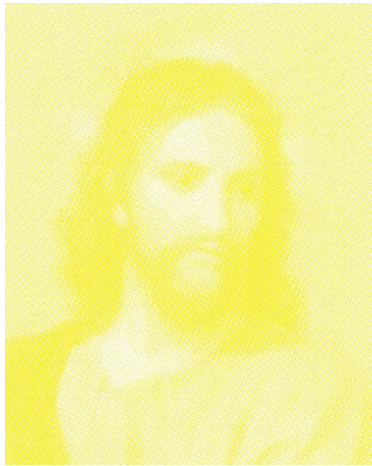
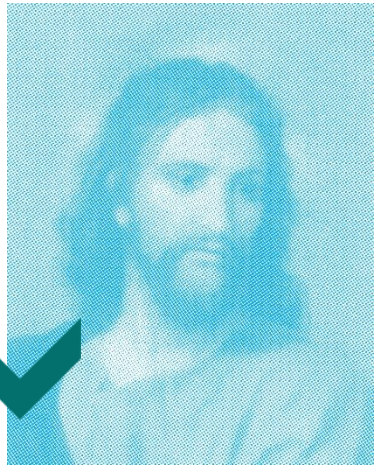
MATTHEW **MARK**

LUKE

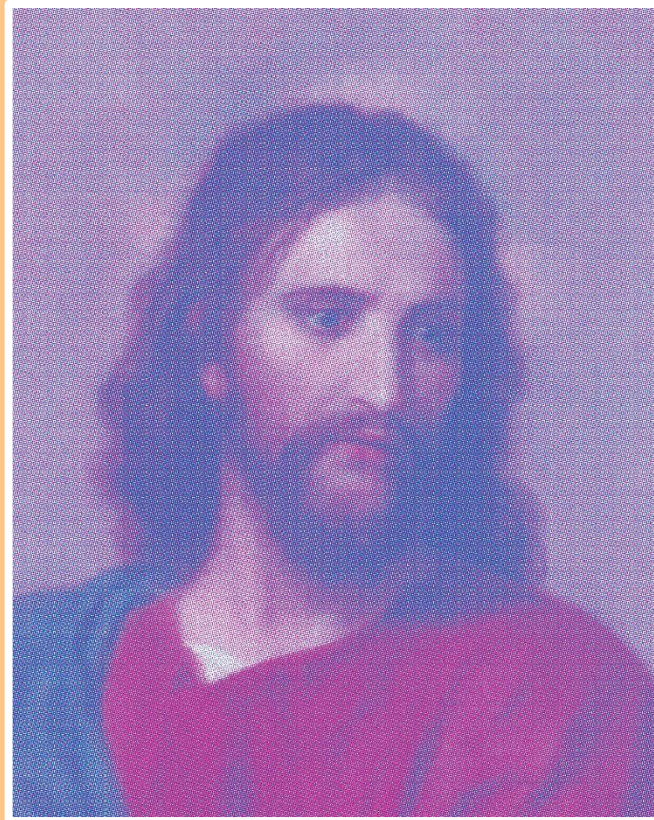
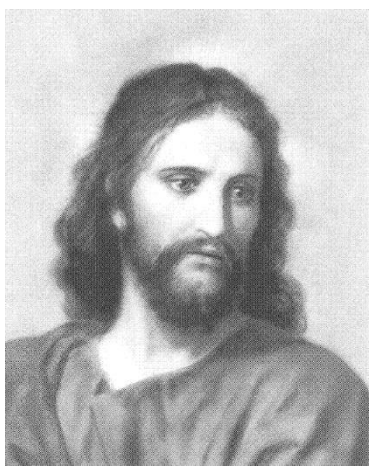
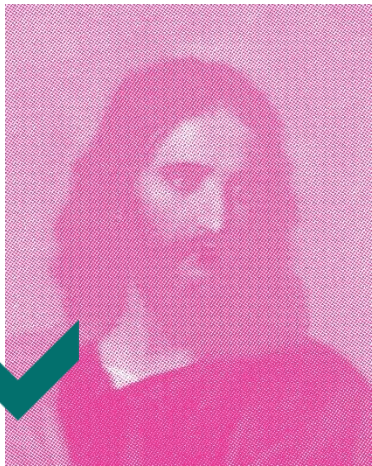
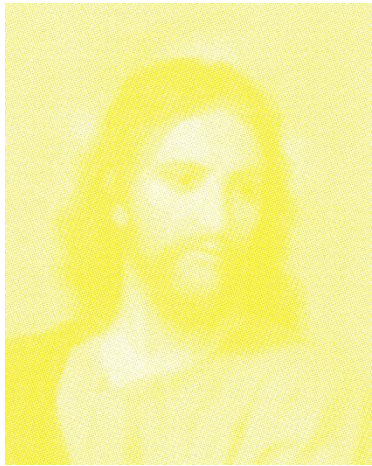
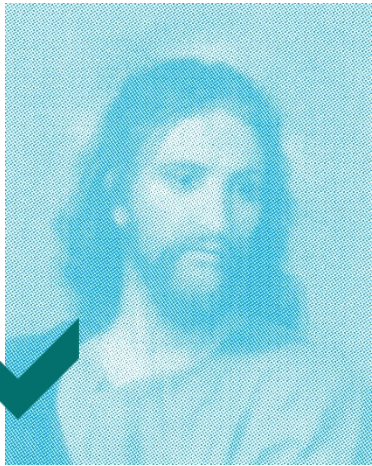
JOHN

The four Gospels work together like the four inks in a printer. All four are needed to tell the complete story.

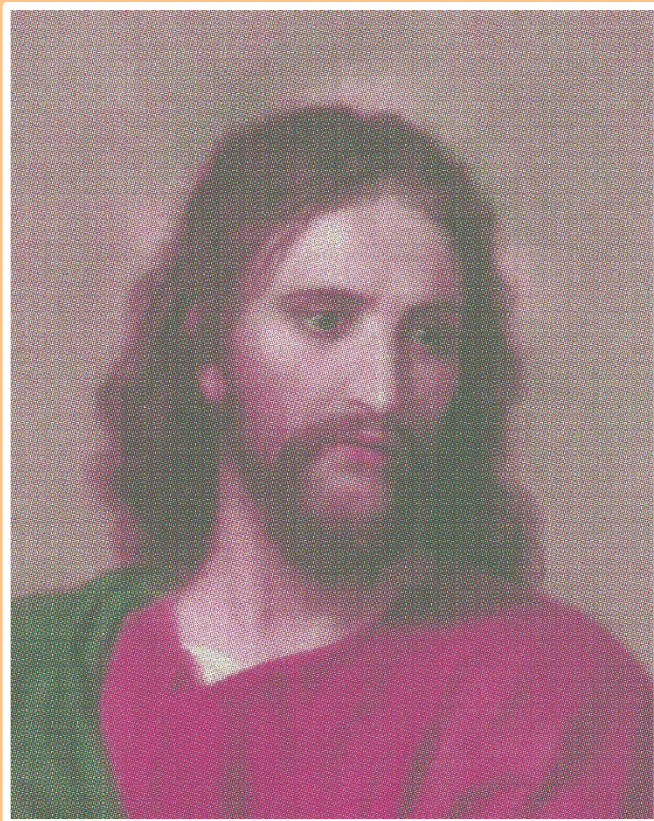
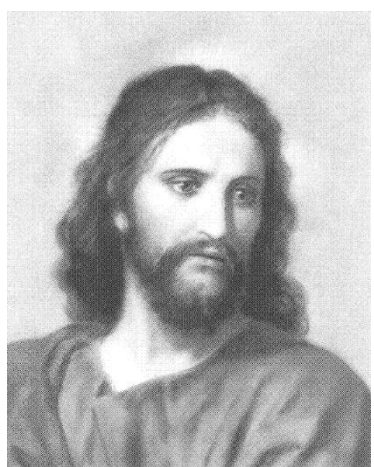
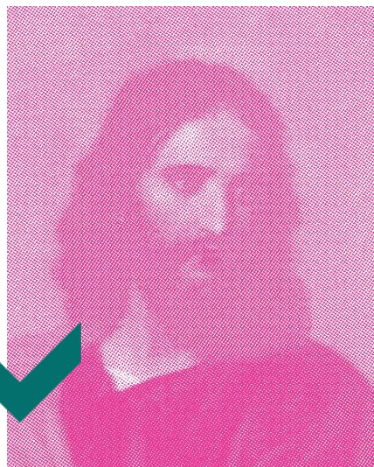
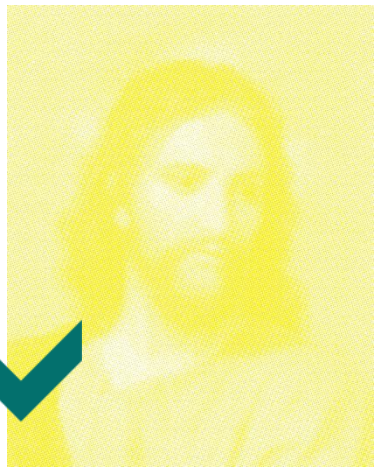
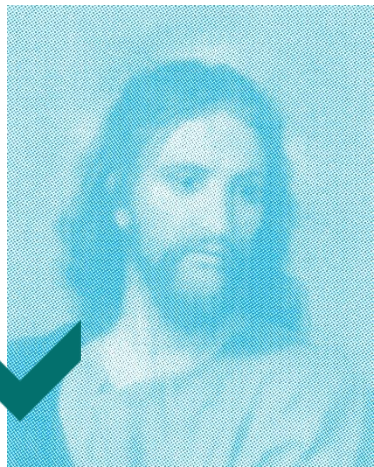




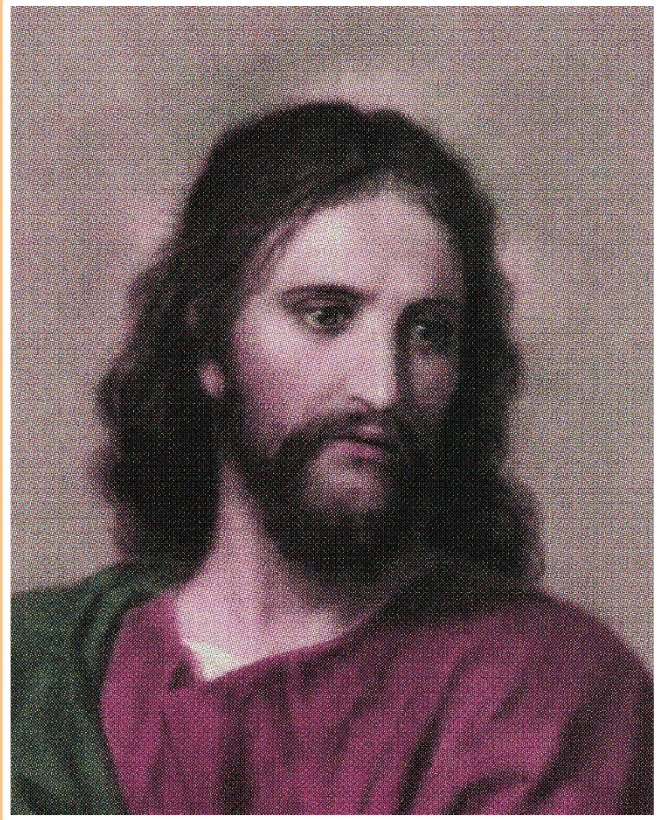
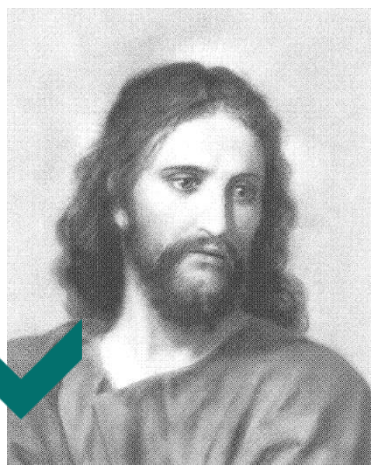
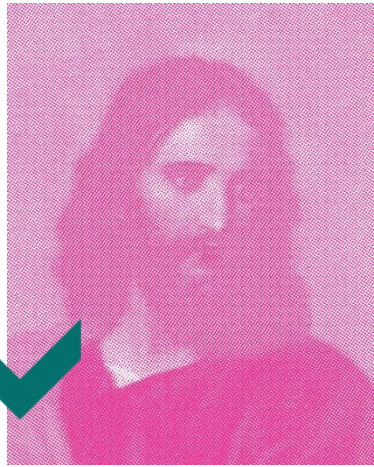
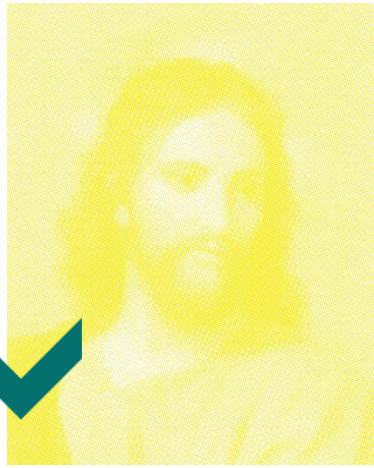
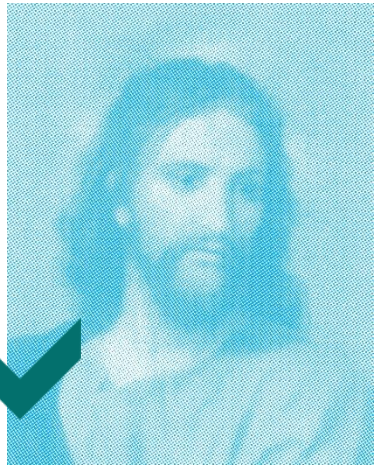
One is not enough.



Two are better.



With three, the image is clearer.



With four, the picture is complete.

Why four gospels? This vision shown to Ezekiel adds a layer to our understanding:



Ezekiel 1:4-6

- 4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness *was* about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.
- 5 Also out of the midst thereof *came* the likeness of **four living creatures**. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.
- 6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.



Ezekiel 1:10

¹⁰ As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of **a man**, and the face of **a lion**, on the right side:
and they four had the face of **an ox** on the left side;
they four also had the face of **an eagle**.





Ezekiel 1:10

¹⁰ As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of **a man**, and the face of **a lion**, on the right side:
and they four had the face of **an ox** on the left side;
they four also had the face of **an eagle**.





These same four – a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle – appear together in the book of Revelation:

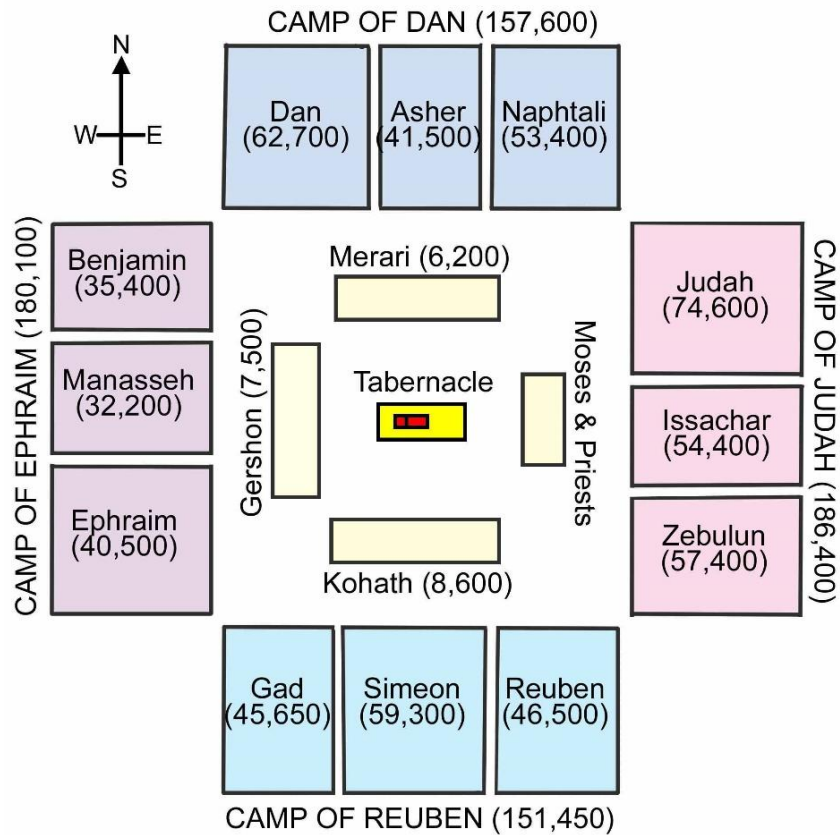
Revelation 4:6-8

- ⁶ And before the throne *there was a sea of glass like unto crystal:* and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.
- ⁷ And the first beast *was like a lion,* and the second beast like **a calf,** and the third beast had a face as **a man,** and the fourth beast was like **a flying eagle.**





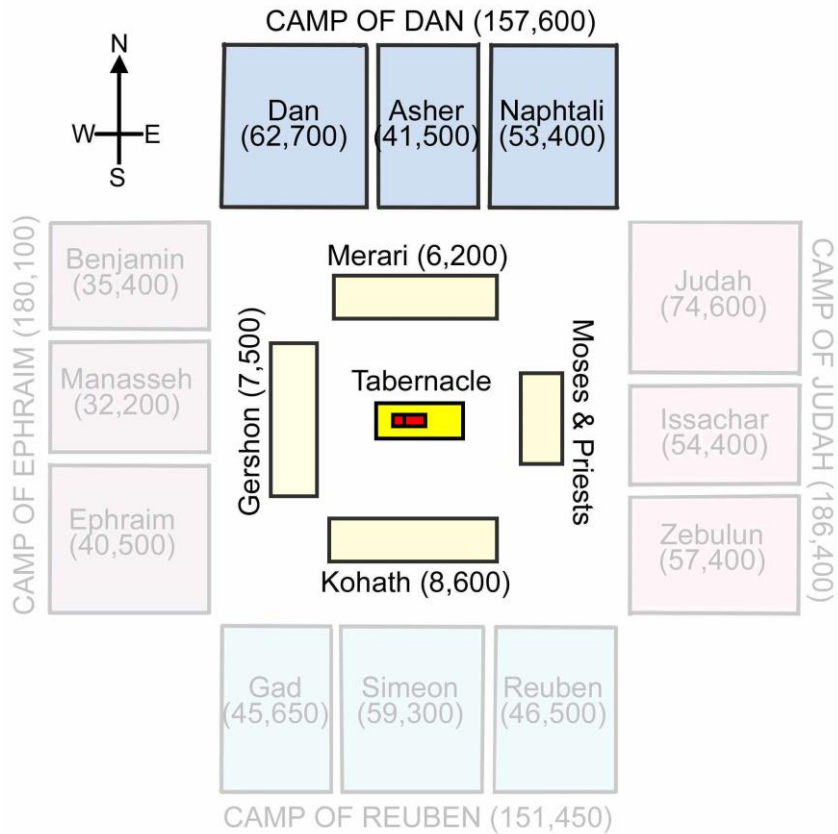
In the vision given to Ezekiel,
the eagle and ox were on the left side,
and the man and lion were on the right.



In the vision given to Ezekiel, the eagle and ox were on the left side, and the man and lion were on the right.

These same four faces in the same position were represented in the camps around the Tabernacle:

Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39

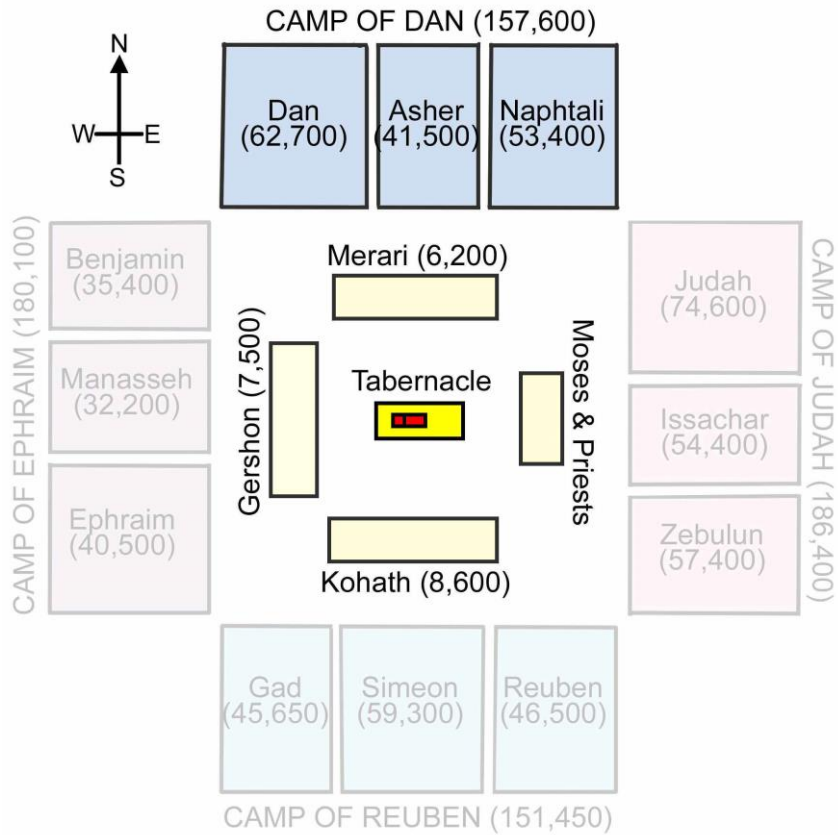


Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39

Numbers 2:25

²⁵ The standard of the camp of Dan shall be on the north side by their armies ...





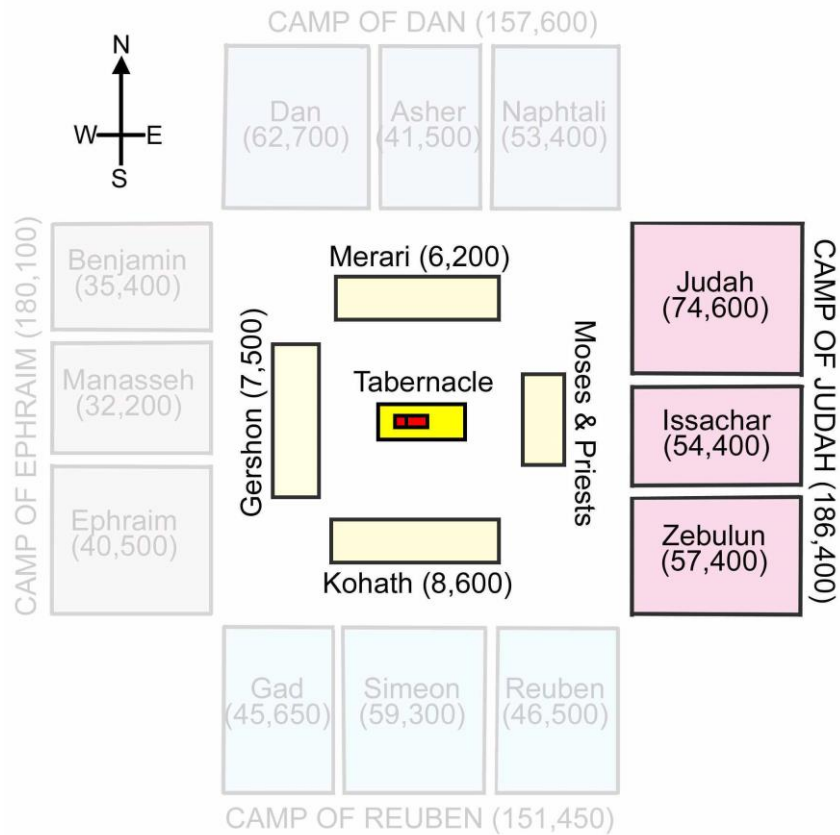
Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39

Numbers 2:25

²⁵ The standard of the camp of Dan shall be on the north side by their armies ...

A “standard” is a banner or flag.



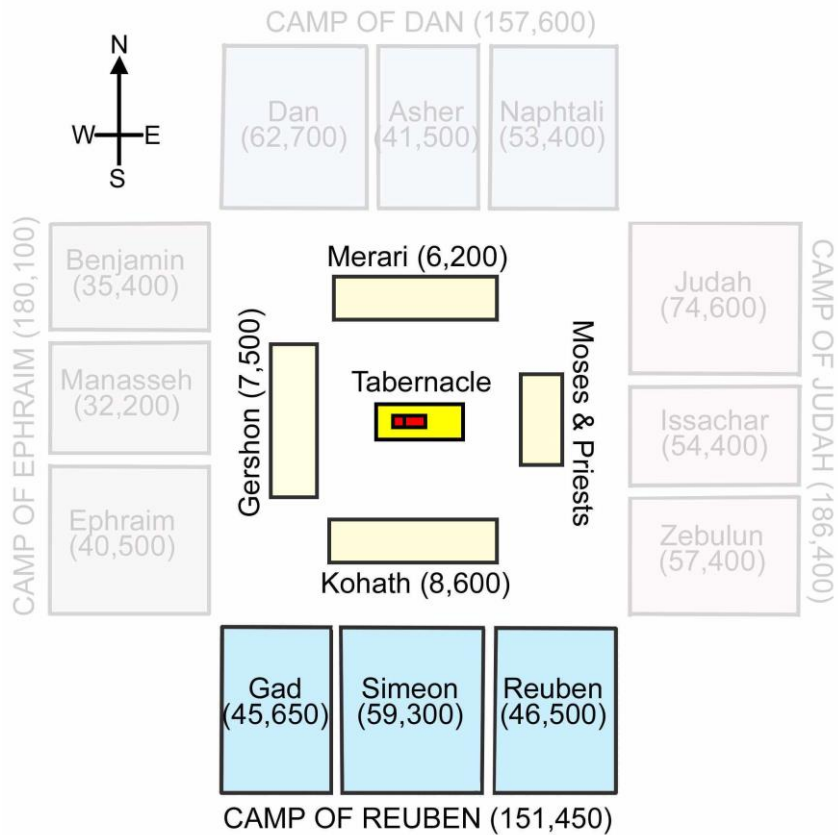


Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39

Numbers 2:3

- ³ And on **the east side** toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch throughout their armies ...



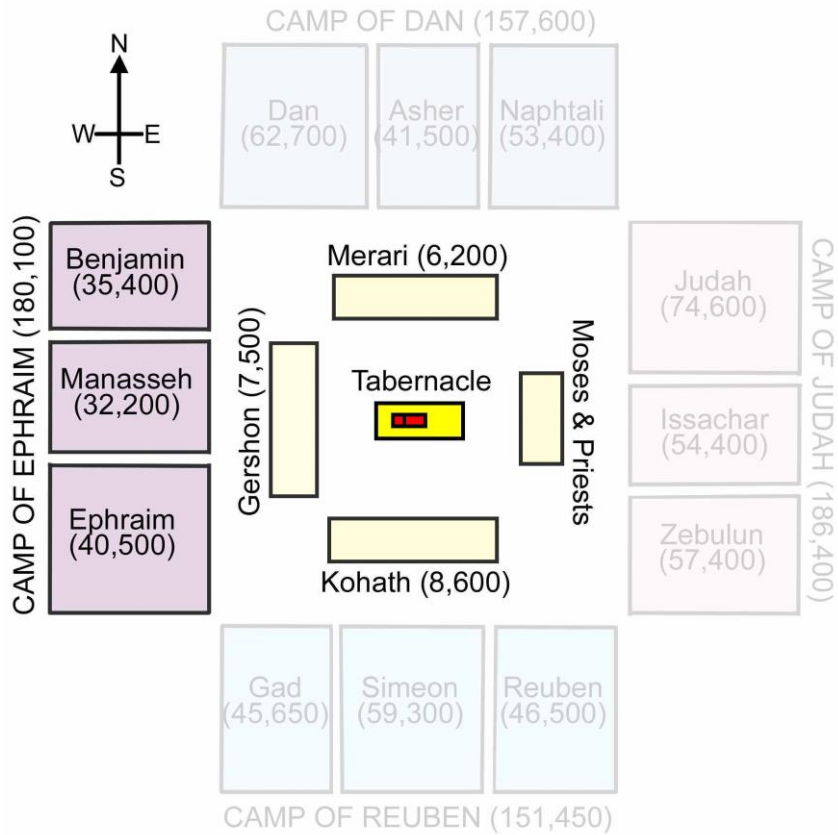


Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39

Numbers 2:10

¹⁰ On **the south side** shall be the standard of the camp of Reuben according to their armies ...



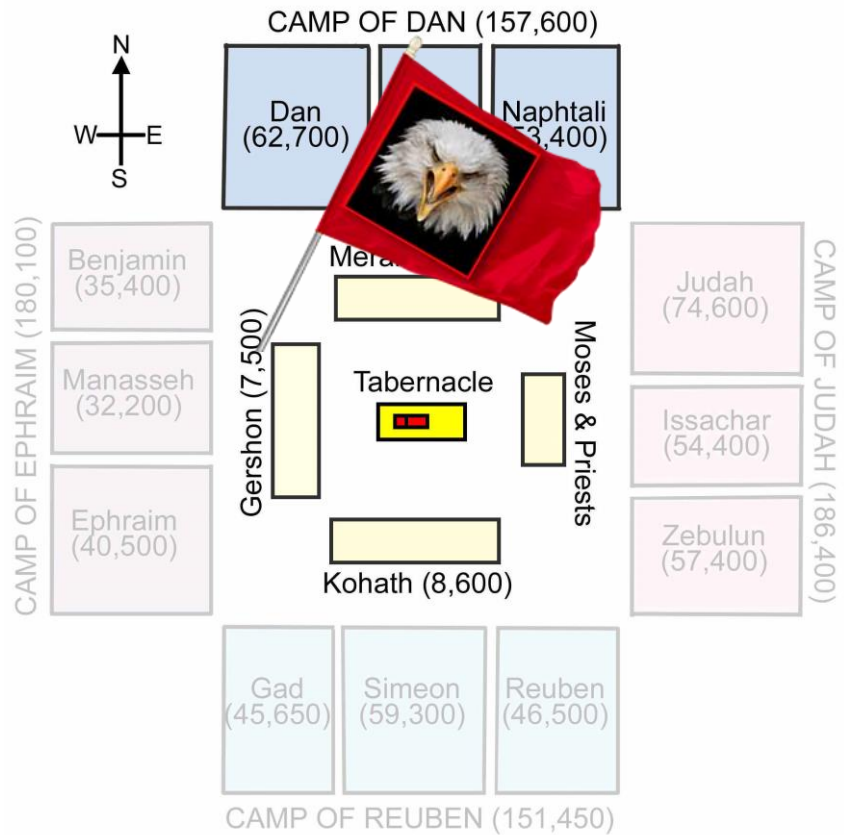


Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39

Numbers 2:18

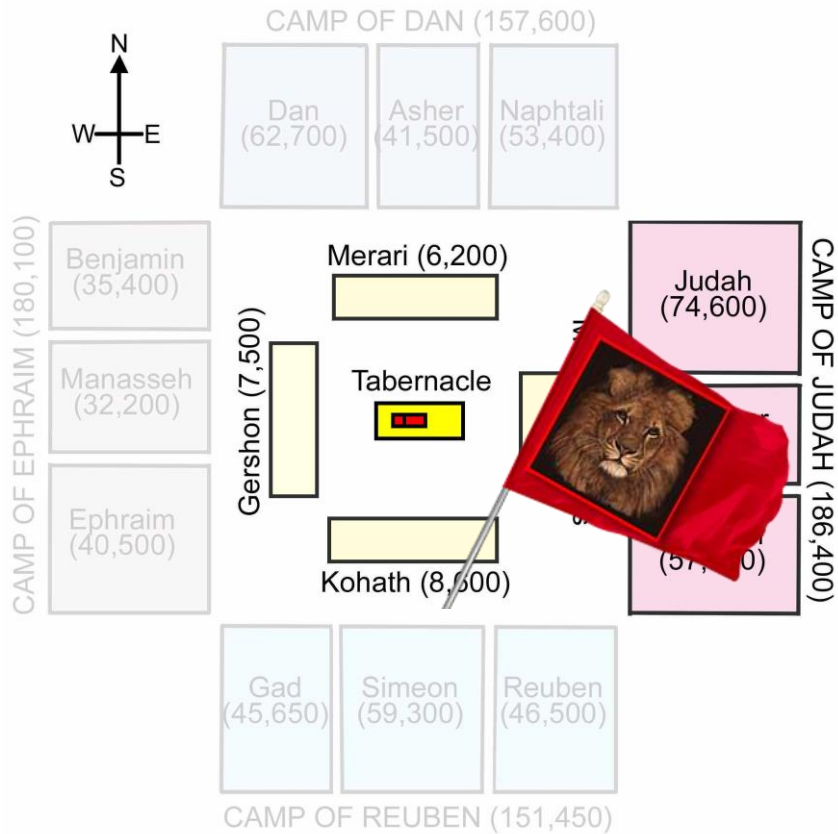
¹⁸ On **the west side** shall be the standard of the camp of Ephraim according to their armies ...





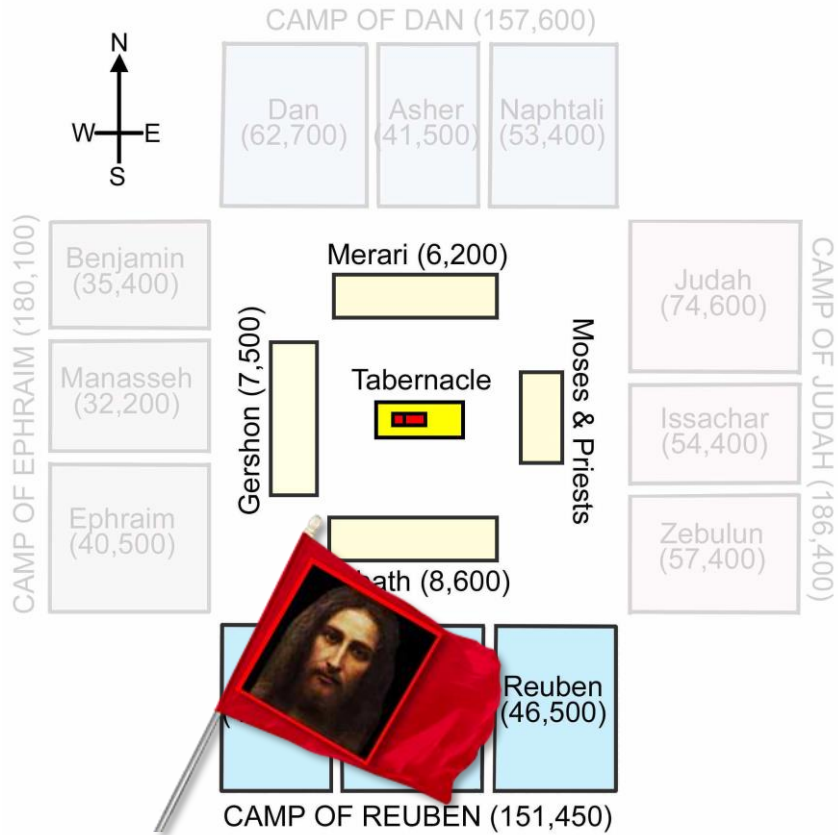
The standard of Dan was an EAGLE.

Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39



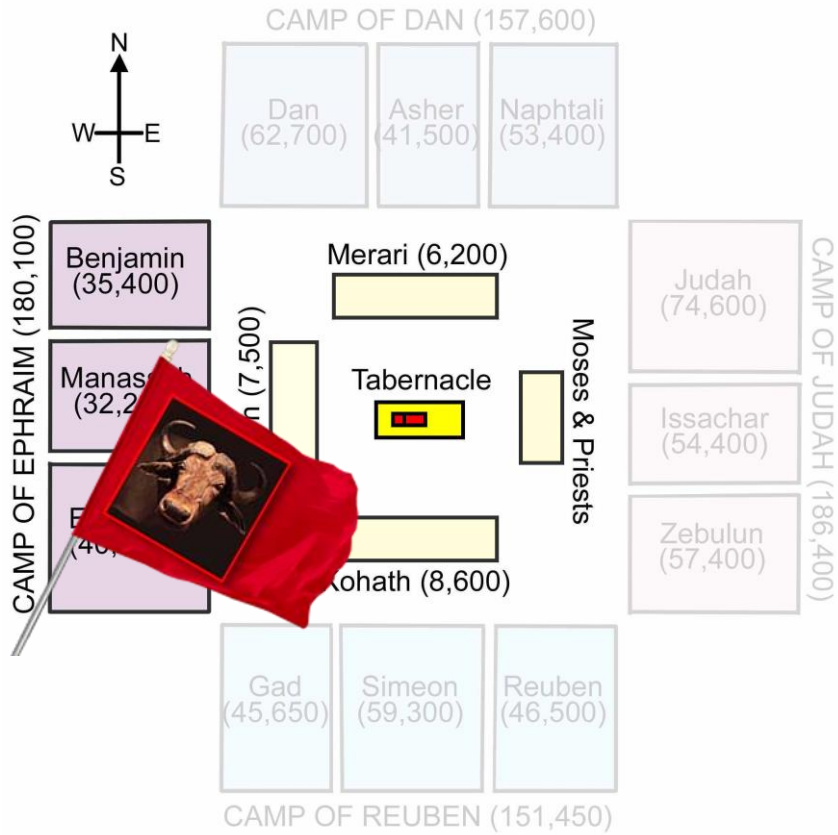
The standard of Judah was a LION.

Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39



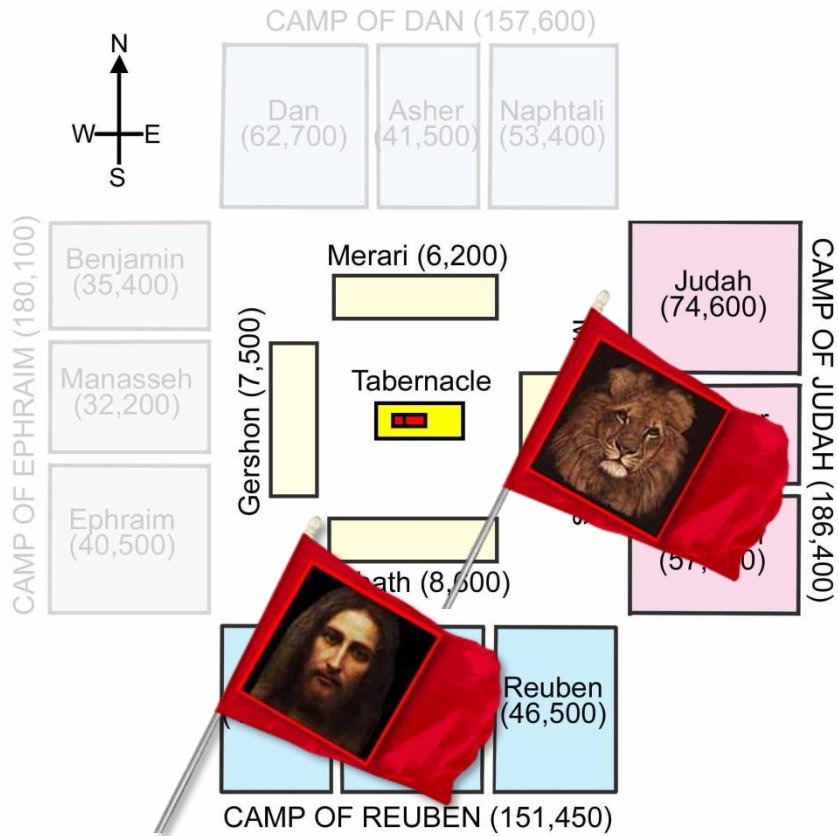
The standard of Reuben was a MAN.

Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39



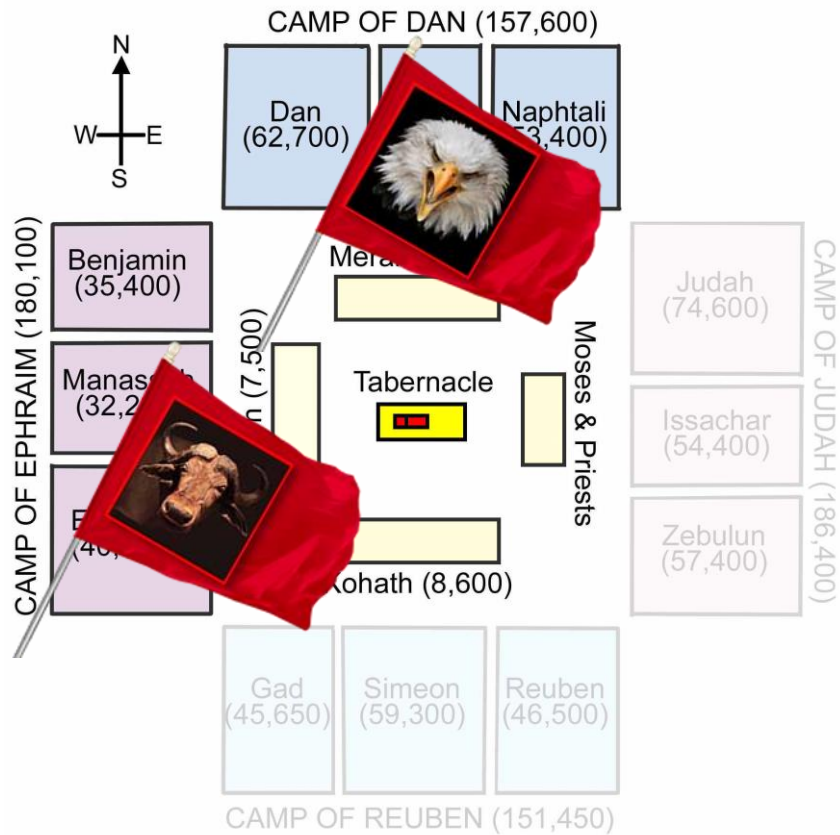
The standard of Ephraim was an OX.

Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39



The man and the lion were on one side.

Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39



The ox and the eagle on the other.

Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39

Why is this important?



These four faces are the “faces” of the Lord Jesus Christ.



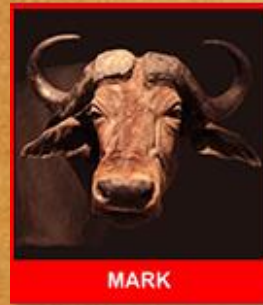
Each of the Gospels portrays one of the faces:



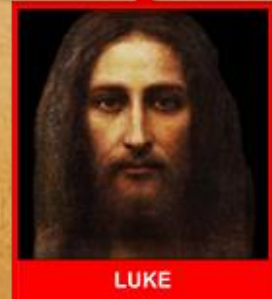
In Matthew,
Jesus is the Lion, the King of kings.



In Mark,
he is the Ox, the Servant.



In Luke,
Jesus is the Son of man.



In John,
he is the Eagle, the Son of God.



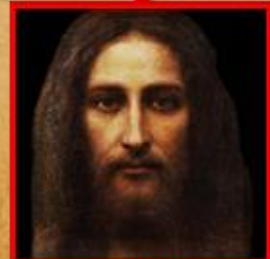
JOHN



MARK



MATTHEW



LUKE

Each account is balanced by its counterpart.



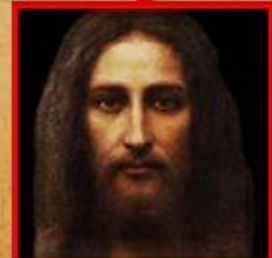
JOHN



MARK



MATTHEW



LUKE

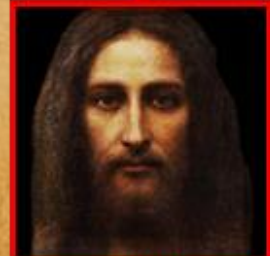
The Lion to the east is balanced by the Ox to the west.



The Eagle to the north is balanced by the Man to the south.



JOHN



LUKE

Christ the King is also Christ the Servant.



MARK

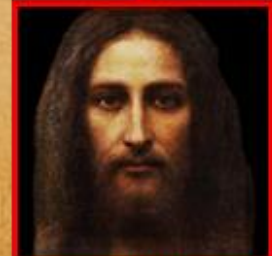


MATTHEW

The Son of God is also the Son of Man.



JOHN



LUKE

Look only to the EAGLE, and your image of Christ will lack his humanity.



JOHN

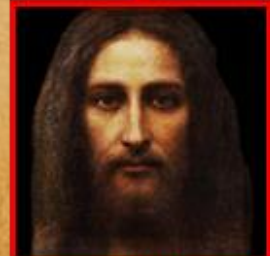


LUKE

Look only to the MAN, and your image of Christ will neglect his divinity.



JOHN



LUKE

With these truths in mind, each of the four Gospels is important not only for what it DOES contain, but also for what it DOES NOT.



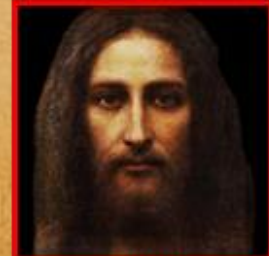
JOHN



MARK



MATTHEW



LUKE

Consider the four accounts of Christ's birth:



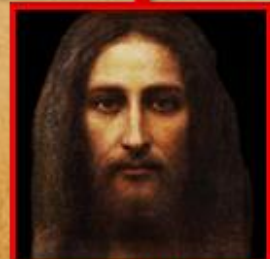
JOHN



MARK



MATTHEW



LUKE



MATTHEW

The Gospel of the King of kings

Matthew presents the genealogy of Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus.

Matthew 1:2, 6, 16





The Gospel of the King of kings

Matthew presents the genealogy of Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus.

Matthew begins with Abraham, the "father of all who believe" (Rom. 4:16) and runs through King David and his son, Solomon.

Matthew 1:2, 6, 16

- ² Abraham begat Isaac;
and Isaac begat Jacob;
and Jacob begat Judas and his
brethren;
- ⁶ And Jesse begat David the king;
and David the king begat Solomon
of her *that had been the wife of*
Urias;
- ¹⁶ And Jacob begat Joseph the
husband of Mary, of whom was born
Jesus, who is called Christ.





The Gospel of the King of kings

Matthew presents the genealogy of Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus.

It begins with Abraham, the "father of all who believe" (Rom. 4:16) and runs through King David and his son, Solomon.

This is important because God promised that the King of kings would come from the house of David through Solomon.

Matthew 1:2, 6, 16

- ² Abraham begat Isaac;
and Isaac begat Jacob;
and Jacob begat Judas and his
brethren;
- ⁶ And Jesse begat David the king;
and **David the king begat Solomon**
of her *that had been the wife of*
Urias;
- ¹⁶ And Jacob begat Joseph the
husband of Mary, of whom was born
Jesus, who is called Christ.





The Gospel of the King of kings

Notice that Joseph's father was named *Jacob*.

Matthew 1:2, 6, 16

- ² Abraham begat Isaac;
and Isaac begat Jacob;
and Jacob begat Judas and his
brethren;
- ⁶ And Jesse begat David the king;
and David the king begat Solomon
of her *that had been the wife of*
Urias;
- ¹⁶ **And Jacob begat Joseph** the
husband of Mary, of whom was born
Jesus, who is called Christ.





LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man

In Luke we read the only genealogy in the Bible that runs *backwards*, and the only genealogy of a woman – Mary.

Luke 3:23, 31, 34, 38



The Gospel of the Son of Man

In Luke we read the only genealogy in the Bible that runs *backwards*, and the only genealogy of a woman – Mary.

Matthew began with Abraham.
Luke goes all the way back to Adam.

Luke 3:23, 31, 34, 38

- ²³ And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was *the son of Heli,*
- ³¹ ... which was *the son of Mattatha,* which was *the son of Nathan,* which was *the son of David,*
- ³⁴ Which was *the son of Jacob,* which was *the son of Isaac,* which was *the son of Abraham...*
- ³⁸ Which was *the son of Enos,* which was *the son of Seth,* which was *the son of Adam,* which was *the son of God.*



LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man

Is Luke contradicting Matthew's statement that Joseph's father was named JACOB?

Luke 3:23, 31, 34, 38

²³ And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of **Joseph, which was *the son of Heli,***

³¹ ... which was *the son of Mattatha, which was the son of Nathan,*

Matthew 1:16

¹⁶ And **Jacob begat Joseph** the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

³⁸ Which was *the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.*



The Gospel of the Son of Man

Is Luke contradicting Matthew's statement that Joseph's father was named JACOB?

HELI was actually *Mary's* father. Joseph was Heli's *son-in-law*. This is how Luke solved the problem of putting a woman's family tree in the Bible.

Luke 3:23, 31, 34, 38

²³ And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of **Joseph, which was *the son of Heli,***

³¹ ... which was *the son of Mattatha, which was the son of Nathan,*

Matthew 1:16

¹⁶ And **Jacob begat Joseph** the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

³⁸ Which was *the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.*



LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man

Mary's line runs through David's son *Nathan*. Her family was NOT in the covenant line.

Luke 3:23, 31, 34, 38

- ²³ And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was *the son of Heli,*
- ³¹ ... which was *the son of Mattatha,* **which was the son of Nathan,** **which was the son of David,**
- ³⁴ Which was *the son of Jacob,* which was *the son of Isaac,* which was *the son of Abraham...*
- ³⁸ Which was *the son of Enos,* which was *the son of Seth,* which was *the son of Adam,* which was *the son of God.*



MATTHEW

The Gospel of the King of kings

Through Joseph, Jesus was a legitimate heir to David's throne.



LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man



MATTHEW

The Gospel of the King of kings

Through Joseph, Jesus was a legitimate heir to David's throne.



LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man

Through Mary, Jesus was legitimately human, and legitimately a Jew.



MATTHEW

The Gospel of the King of kings

UNIQUE TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW:



LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man



MATTHEW

The Gospel of the King of kings

UNIQUE TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW:

Joseph's reaction to Mary's pregnancy.



LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man



MATTHEW

The Gospel of the King of kings

UNIQUE TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW:

Joseph's reaction to Mary's pregnancy.

Gabriel's appearance to Joseph.



LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man



MATTHEW

The Gospel of the King of kings

UNIQUE TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW:

Joseph's reaction to Mary's pregnancy.

Gabriel's appearance to Joseph.

The visit of the Magi who came to honor
"he that is born King of the Jews."



LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man



MATTHEW

The Gospel of the King of kings



LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man

UNIQUE TO THE GOSPEL OF LUKE:



MATTHEW

The Gospel of the King of kings



LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man

UNIQUE TO THE GOSPEL OF LUKE:

The story of how Mary came to be the
mother of the Christ.



MATTHEW

The Gospel of the King of kings



LUKE

The Gospel of the Son of Man

UNIQUE TO THE GOSPEL OF LUKE:

The story of how Mary came to be the mother of the Christ.

The story of the babe “wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”



The Gospel of the Greatest Servant

Mark makes no mention of Christ's birth. He begins with the ministry of John the Baptist.

Mark 1:1-2

- ¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;
- ² As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.





The Gospel of the Greatest Servant

Mark makes no mention of Christ's birth. He begins with the ministry of John the Baptist.

Mark's gospel tells of Christ the Servant, and a servant's lineage is inconsequential.

Mark 1:1-2

- ¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;
- ² As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.





The Gospel of the Son of God

John's genealogy makes no mention of Adam or Abraham, or David, Joseph, or Mary. John takes us all the way back to "in the beginning." He teaches us about the eternal Word of God that was made flesh for us.

John 1:1-3, 10, 14

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 The same was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
- 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Why are there four gospels? Matthew, Mark, Luke and John combine to give us a complete picture of God's only begotten Son.



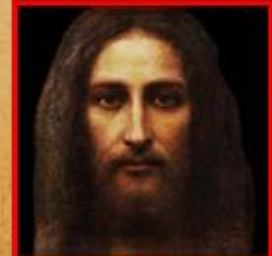
JOHN



MARK

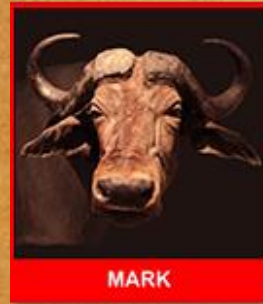


MATTHEW



LUKE

Jesus is the King of kings, but he uses his authority and power to be the greatest servant. He is the LION and the OX.



MARK



MATTHEW

Mark 10:42-44

- 42 But Jesus called them *to him*, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.
- 43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:
- 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.
- 45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.



MARK



MATTHEW

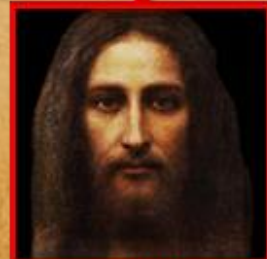
Jesus was a man born of a woman,
and so he understands our frailties.

But he is also the incarnation of the
almighty God who can forgive us of
our sins and impute righteousness
unto us.

The Son of Man is the Son of God.
HE is the MAN and the EAGLE.



JOHN



LUKE

Even if Matthew, Mark, Luke and John got together to decide who would write what (which they assuredly did not) they could not have done a more perfect job of teaching us about the one who is The WORD.



JOHN



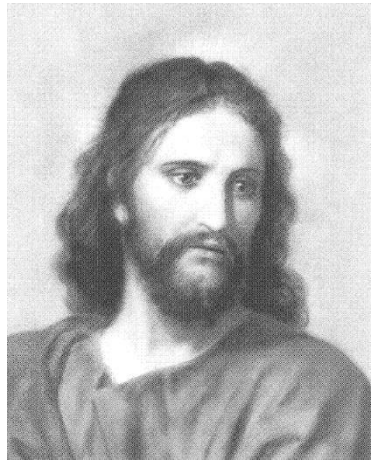
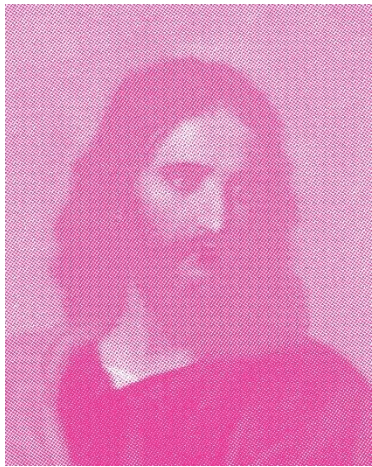
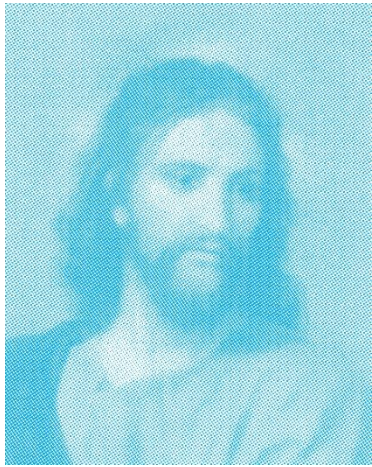
MARK



MATTHEW

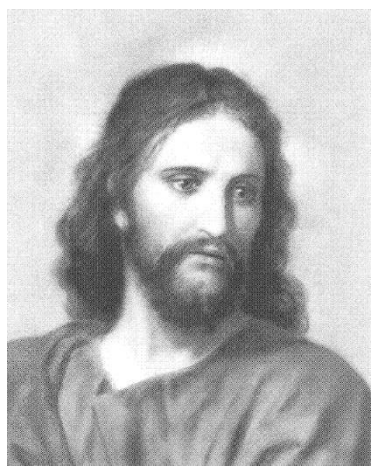
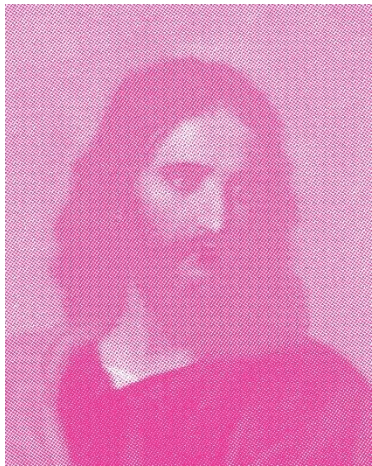
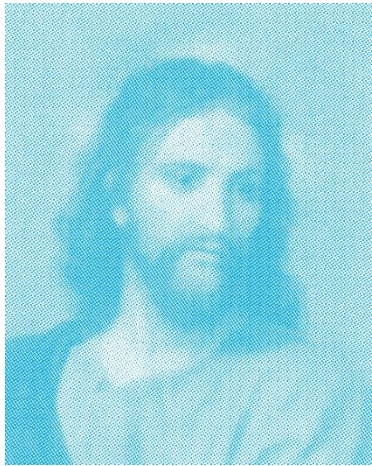


LUKE



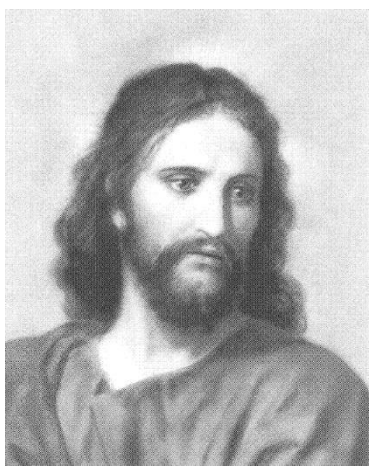
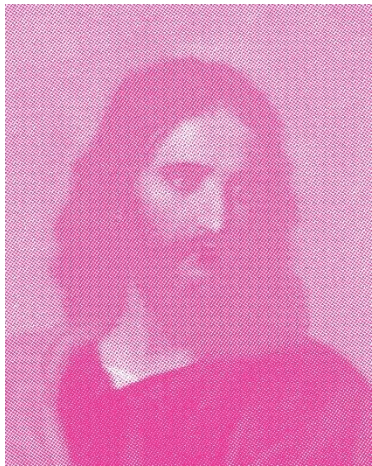
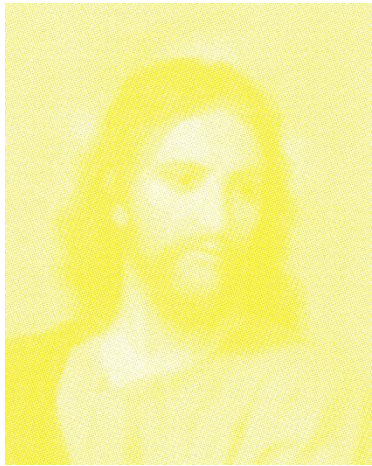
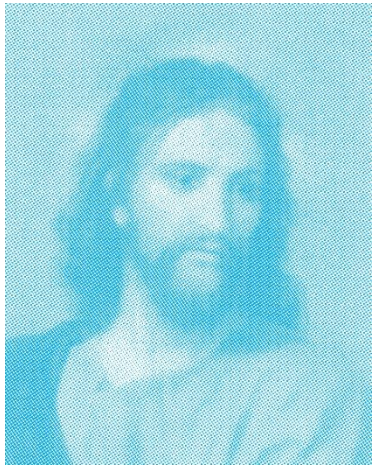
He is the **MAN**,





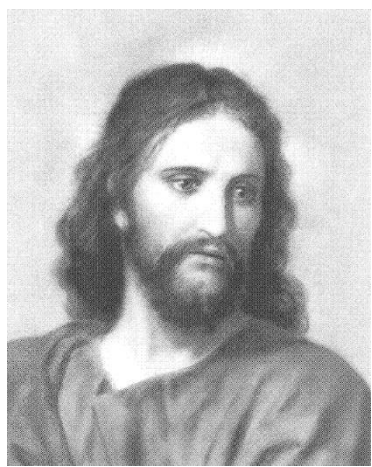
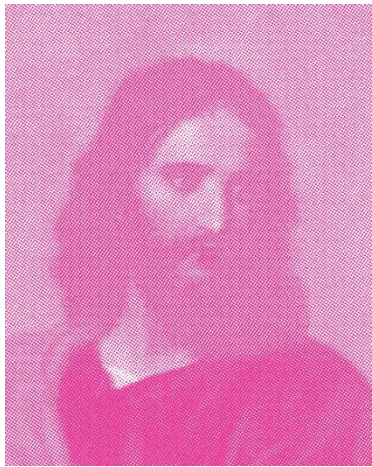
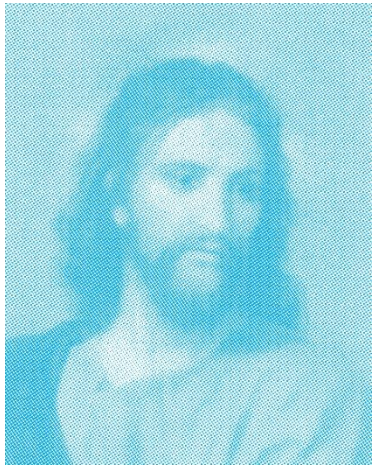
He is the **MAN**,
the **LION**,





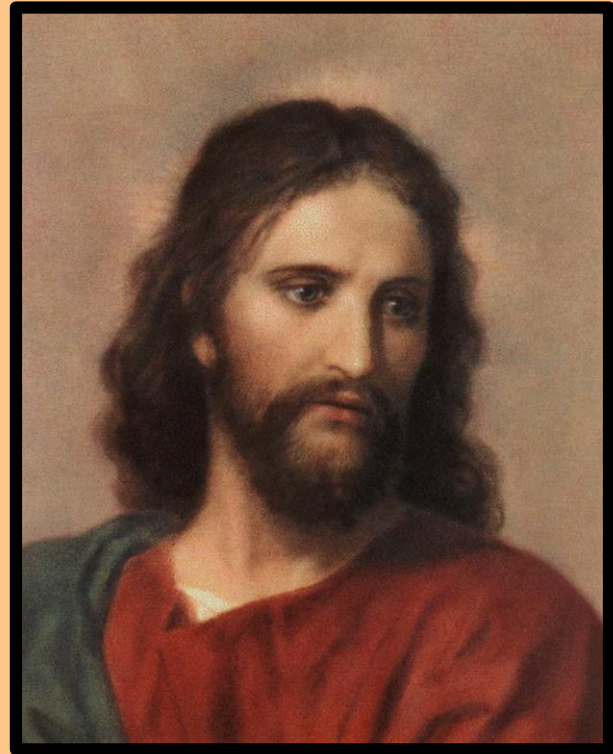
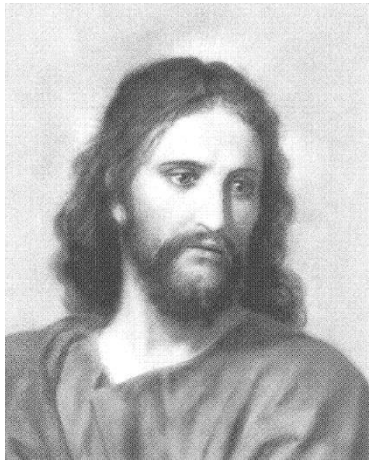
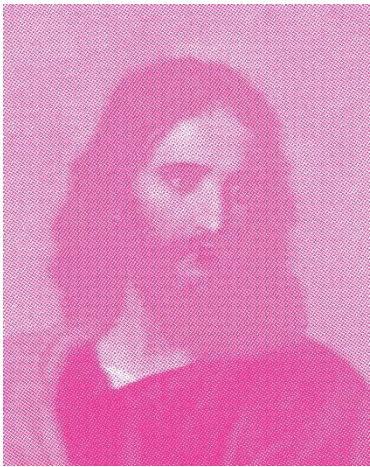
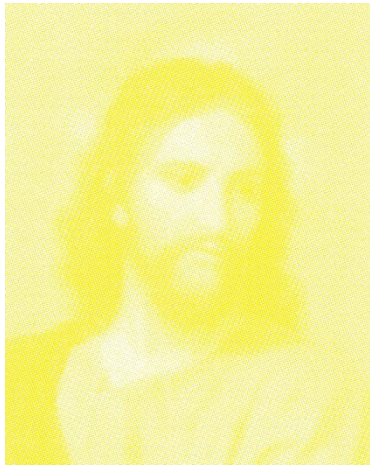
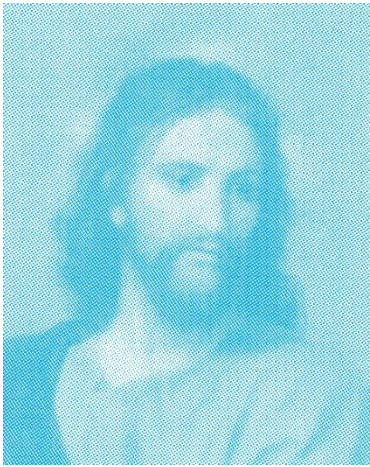
He is the **MAN**,
the **LION**,
the **OX**,





He is the **MAN**,
the **LION**,
the **OX**,
& the **EAGLE**.





He is Jesus Christ,
“My Lord and my God.”



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