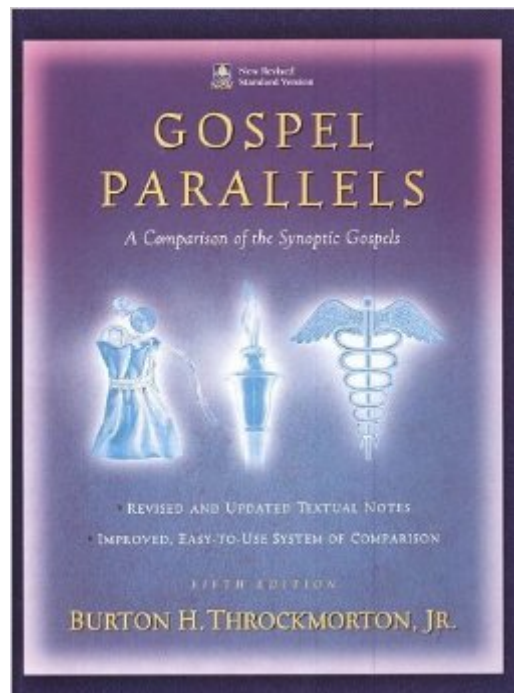


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Gospel Parallels: A Comparison Of The Synoptic Gospels, New Revised Standard Version



Synopsis

A classic since 1949, Gospel Parallels presents Matthew, Mark, and Luke printed side-by-side for easy and enlightening comparative study. Now fully revised and updated using the NRSV, it features a more readable type face and a new, even more effective system for comparison.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gospel Parallels is a serious work indexing and comparing the first three New Testament books (Matthew, Mark and Luke) so that those interested in the study of the Gospels can see exactly the similarities and discrepancies in the stories. But the book is more than that. Given the increasing interest in recent years in the non-canonical works, Greek and other manuscripts that are not easily found in the local library are cited as a way of further illuminating the path toward further understanding of early Christian writing and thinking. This is not a book that offers a lot of commentary. In fact, it offers virtually none. It simply lines up in a table such offerings as Accusations Against Jesus and then gives us Matthew (12:22-24) against Mark (3:19-22) and Luke (11:14-16). One benefit of this style is that we're able to quickly see the differences in accounts. Those wanting an explication of the significance in choice of language or details included or excluded will have to look elsewhere for enlightenment. That makes this very thorough book a study aid accompanying other works that might provide more understanding; it is not a freestanding help to those curious about why accounts of Jesus' life or teaching vary so radically. I used the fourth edition of this book in a New Testament course years ago and had forgotten its seeming limitations.

But for those interested in serious exploration and in need of help tracking down New Testament and other texts, this book is invaluable. It offers us a decent who's who of church fathers, and a short but terrific explanation of the different versions of texts in the Bible, which helps account for differing interpretations and changes in language. The fourth edition is in conformity with the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

There are three very good books which compare the texts of the Gospels. The less expensive one, comparing the three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) by Burton H Throckmorton, Jr. is the one you may be most inclined to get, since it costs about \$22 from , compared to a "new" price of \$145 for the Synopsis of the Four Gospels, English Edition edited by Kurt Aland. It's important to specify "English Edition" as there is a Greek edition as well, with titles and explanatory notes in German (but with English titles in small print off to the left, with Latin titles off to the right.)! If you do not know German, you may not want the Greek edition. However, if you are intent on comparing the Greek across the Gospels, you may wish to go for it anyway. It may be a very nice way to exercise your Greek. All the verse numbers are, of course, language independent, and the Gospel names are virtually the same in German and English. The Throckmorton is based on particular English translations. The Fifth Edition is based on the NRSV, which should work well for most Protestant and many Catholic churches. The Aland is based on the RSV; however, it includes notes on the differences between translations in the KJV of 1611, the Catholic Edition of the RSV, the English Revised Version of 1881, and the American Standard Version of 1901. Some of these may not be useful to most people, but the comparison with the KJV will recoup some famous phrases which may have been lost in modern translations, such as "generation of vipers", replaced by "brood of vipers" in 20th century translations. Before going any further, I suggest that unlike the Concordance, modern Bible software such as Bibleworks has not replaced this style of book.

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