



CHRIST AND CHRISTMAS

Lessons from the Life of Joseph

The Gospels: humanity and divinity of Jesus

- Portray Jesus as His followers saw Him
- Preach the “good news” – Salvation is here!
- Jesus is King – Matthew (to reign in life)
 - Jesus a suffering servant – Mark (obedience)
 - Jesus the son of Man – Luke (relationships)
- Jesus is Divine – John (children of God)

The Early Church Fathers

- “Four and no More” – the gospels as canon
- Irenaeus (2nd century) – *“it is not possible that the Gospels can be either more or less than the number they are... for the cherubim, too, were four-faced, and their faces were images of the dispensation of the Son of God.”*

The Order of the Faces in Ezekiel Chapter One



The Order of the Faces in Ezekiel Chapter Ten

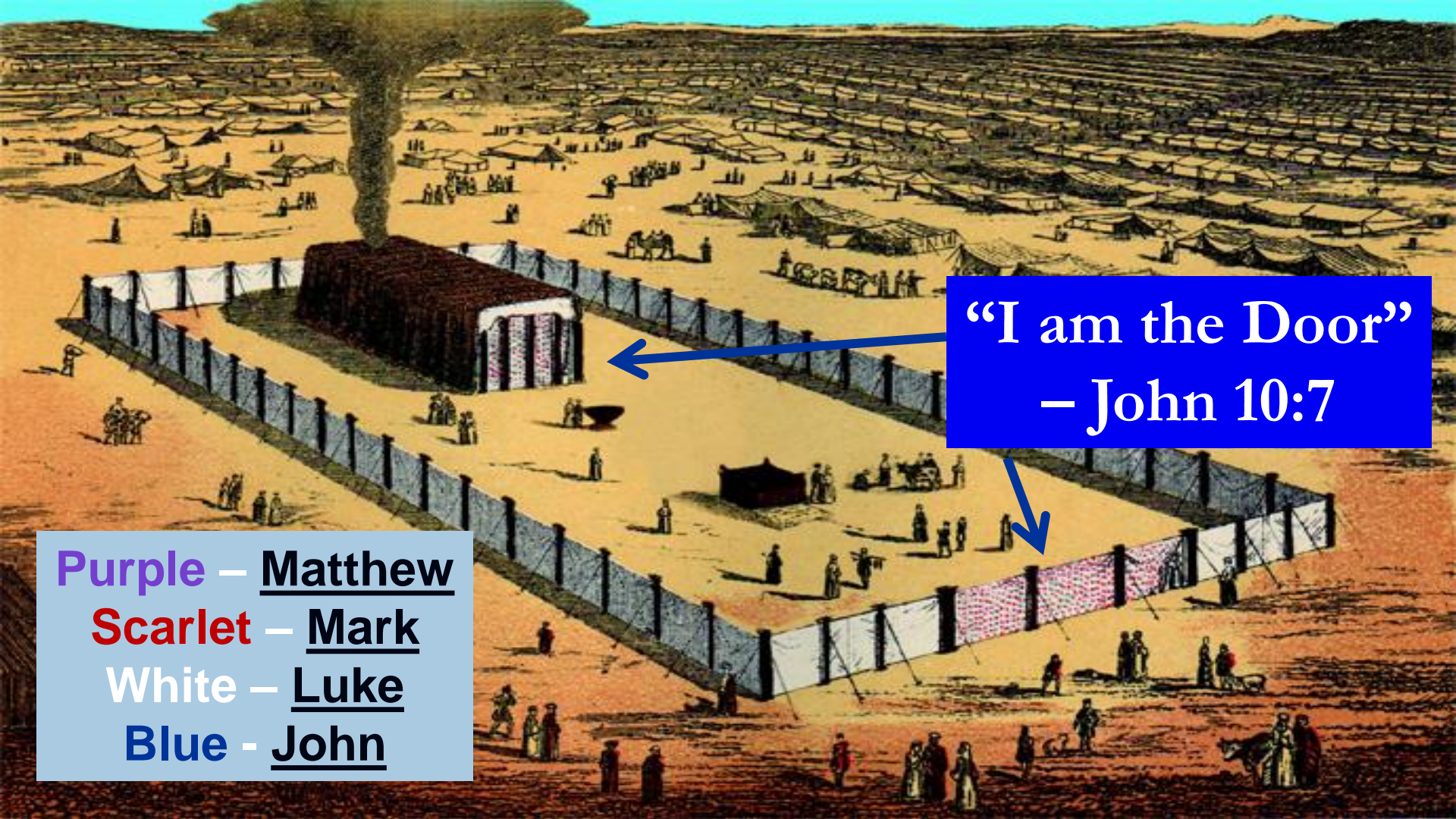


The Order of the Faces in John's Vision



Why are they in a different order for specific people and circumstances?

Christ reveals Himself to us as we need to see him in our particular situation!



**“I am the Door”
– John 10:7**

Purple – Matthew
Scarlet – Mark
White – Luke
Blue – John

Jesus the Messiah; fulfilled Prophecy

- Mt. 1:1 – *the record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David, the son of Abraham*
- Mt. 1:17 – *So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations*

Genealogies of Christ - *fulfilled prophecy*

Servants don't need a genealogy (Mark); God can't have one (John)

Matthew's Genealogy

- Joseph's descent from Abraham
- After David, God's choice Solomon
- Lists 42 generations (six 7's)
- Christ the 66th name (w/ additions)
- Jesus was the legal son of Joseph

Luke's Genealogy

- Mary's line of ascent to God
- After David, legal choice – Nathan
- Lists 77 names – God to Christ
- Christ the 77th name
- Jesus was the natural son of Mary

God's acts of Mercy in the Royal Line

- 1st set of 14 gen. – prophecies of Messiah through Abraham, Isaac, Judah, Jacob, Jesse and David, plus – *Tamar, Rahab and Ruth* – unique women
- 2nd set of 14 generations – (*Bathsheba*) – the “wife of *Uriah*” – honoring broken vessels
- 3rd set of 14 generations – *Jeconiah* before and after the deportation to Babylon

Joseph was raised to honor God

- He was the son of Jacob, descendant of King David – understood his royal line
- Jacob born a thousand years after David
- Joseph moved to Nazareth (“no good thing”)
- His betrothal approved by parents
- Joseph would build a home – wait a year

Joseph was Righteous *and* Merciful

- Mary “found with child” a personal insult
- Mary had been away with Elizabeth and witnessed the birth of John the Baptist
- A public embarrassment to both parents
- Joseph was “righteous” but “did not want to disgrace her” – would divorce her privately

Joseph's heart was Right with God



- A heart right with God can discern a dream as a “message” from God
- The angel spoke to Joseph in dreams – a way God communicated in the OT
- His obedience was evidence of his submission

Joseph had a good Work Ethic

- Joseph was poor (offering in the temple – Lk. 2:24; Lev. 12:6-8)
- He was sacrificial, unselfish
- A diligent carpenter (in wood, metal or stone)
- He trained Jesus and he could support himself later in ministry



Joseph was a good Father



- Jesus, at 12, taught to initiate decisions
- He stayed behind in the Temple
- Joseph's reaction was calm, respectful, and exhorting better communication

Luke 2:40-52