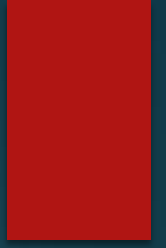




The Synoptic Gospels

BEREAN SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE

The “Synoptic” Gospels



The “Synoptic” Gospels

- Synoptic = “seeing together”

The “Synoptic” Gospels

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke

Synoptic Problem

Account for the similarities and the differences.

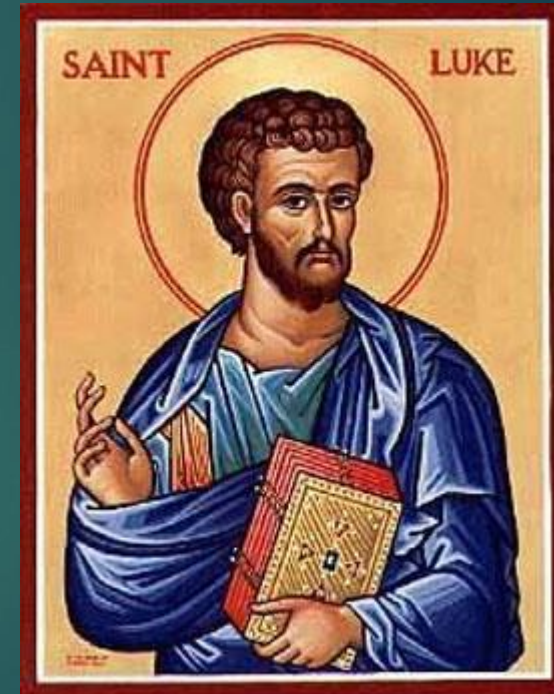
- In materials
- In vocabulary
- In order
- In style

Source Criticism

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

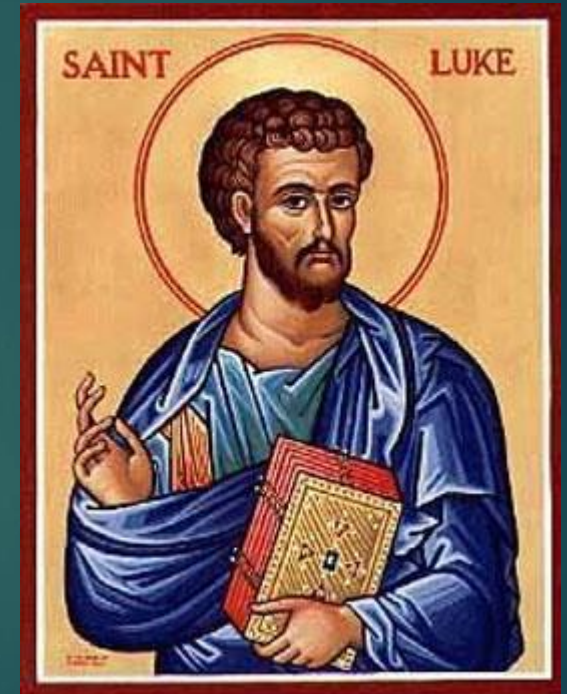
What Sources did they use?

- Eyewitness accounts



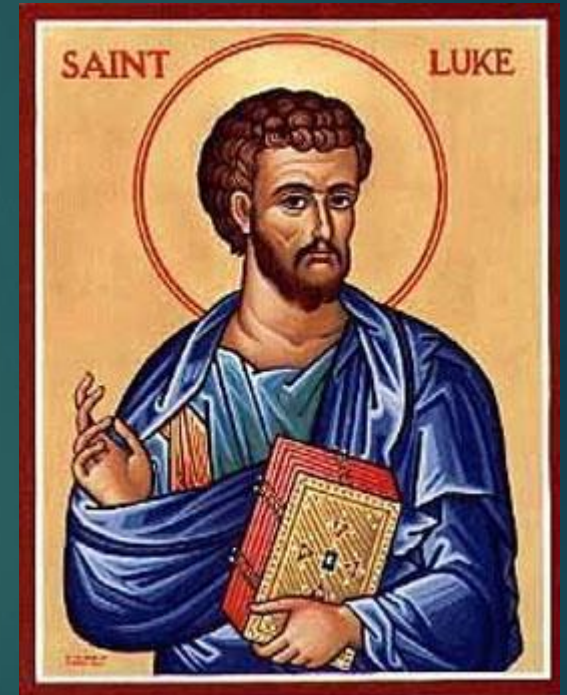
What Sources did they use?

- Eyewitness accounts
- Other written accounts



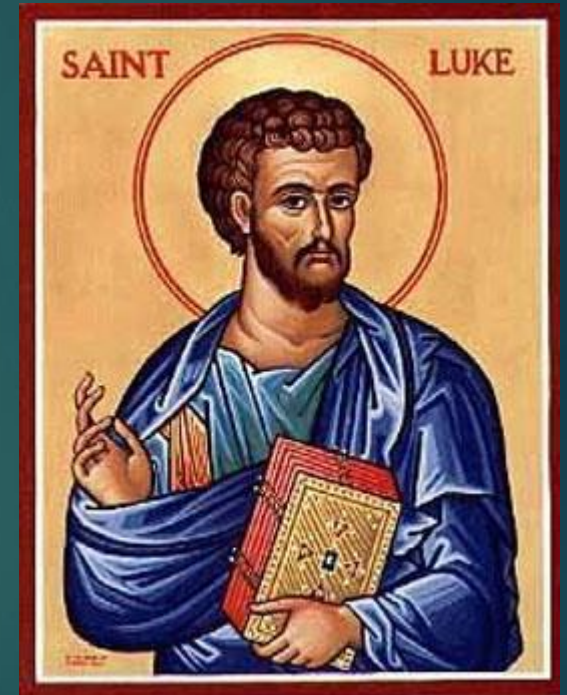
What Sources did they use?

- Eyewitness accounts
- Other written accounts
- The Old Testament



What Sources did they use?

- Eyewitness accounts
- Other written accounts
- The Old Testament
- Prodding Inspiration of the Holy Spirit



Solutions for the Synoptic Problem

- Tatian: the Diatessaron (about AD 170)

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- St. Augustine (about AD 400) “Matthean Priority”

Solutions for the Synoptic Problem

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Modern Solution to the Synoptic Problem

	Mark	Matthew	Luke
Total Verses	661	1068	1149
Verses Paralleled in Mark		500	380
Verses Paralleled in Matthew	606		250 (not in Mark)
Verses Paralleled in Luke	380	250 (not in Mark)	
Unique Verses	31	300	520

Modern Solution to the Synoptic Problem



Mark

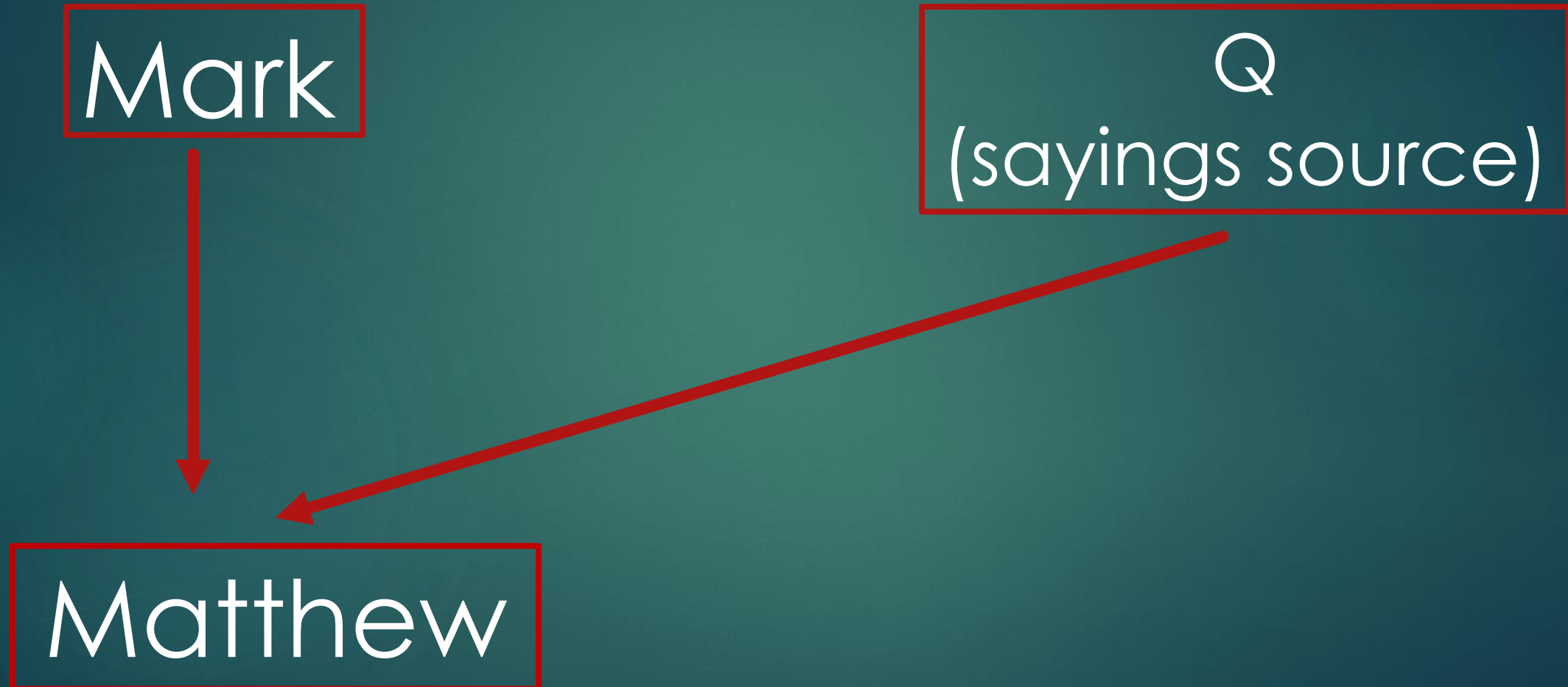
Modern Solution to the Synoptic Problem

Mark

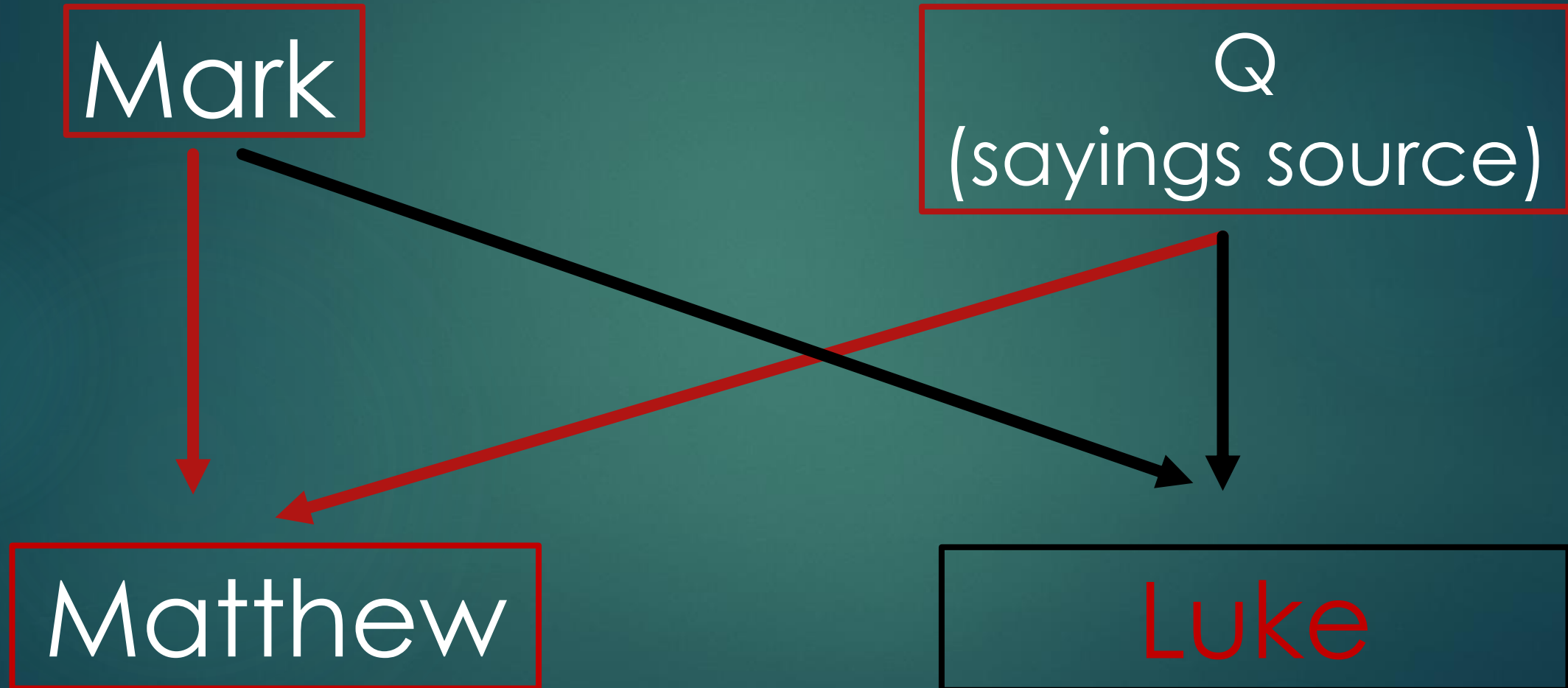
Q
(sayings source)

Q = quelle

Modern Solution to the Synoptic Problem



Modern Solution to the Synoptic Problem



Result

Marcan Priority

Result

- Mark wrote first

Result

- Mark wrote first
- Matthew wrote second

Result

- Mark wrote first
- Matthew wrote second
- Luke wrote third

Result



- Mark wrote first
- Matthew wrote second
- Luke wrote third
- John wrote fourth, much later

Principles to Consider

Remember, they are just theories

Whatever theories scholars advance about how the written texts developed, they remain merely theories.

Principles to Consider



Do not fear questions.

Never fear honest inquiry into the sources, for this study can increase our appreciation of the Gospel records.

Principles to Consider



Do not miss what is most important.

If we concentrate too much on source questions, we allow their focus to detract from the content – what God says in and through His Son. Strive to maintain balance.

Principles to Consider

Consider the true Source.

The Bible in its entirety is God's inspired Word, which He had disclosed to us through the revelation of the Holy Spirit so that we may honor His purposes for us (2 Peter 1:21)

Principles to Consider

2 Peter 1:21

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.