

*The law  
of four*

#4

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Discovering the birth of Jesus  
in *St Paul* & the 4 Gospels

*Q: What would we know about Jesus  
if we only had the letters of St Paul?*

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*We learn very little about the historical Jesus through Paul*

1. he was “*born of a woman*” (Galatians 4:4)
2. he was Jewish, “*born under the law*” (Galatians 4:4)
3. a biological descendant of David (Romans 1:3)
4. he had brothers (1 Corinthians 9:5)
5. he was crucified (1 Corinthians 1:22) and he died (1 Corinthians 15:3)

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## *Gospel of Mark*

Tells us nothing of the birth of Jesus  
*(begins with the public ministry of Jesus)*

Called a 'narrative of omission'

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## *Gospel of John*

Begins with spiritual and divine prologue

Jn 1:14 –

*“And the word became flesh and dwelt among us”*

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## *Gospel of Matthew*

2 chapters

Elaborate genealogy of 42 generations

Joseph's perspective as 'just man'

Centred on the holy family's home in Bethlehem

Includes Magoi & escape to Egypt

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## *Gospel of Luke*

2 chapters

Gentile audience – marginalised and neglected

Emphasises poor family on the move

Shepherds are key witnesses