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John and Mark: The Bi-Optic Gos

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Abstract

"The relationship between the Fourth Gospel (FG) and the Synoptic Gospels (SG) has long been a subject of debate, often characterized by the phrase "three against one," evoking distorted perceptions of John and the Synoptics. This article explores the differences between the presentations and contents of these gospels, challenging the flawed assumption that the Synoptics are "historical" while John is "theological." However, if Matthew and Luke indeed used Mark in constructing their gospels, the differences in perspective between the Synoptics and FG may be attributed to differences between the Markan and Johannine traditions. The article examines the contacts between these two traditions, and perhaps some of the differences originated within this contact. Because the Johannine Gospel developed its own autonomous way, parallel to Mark, these two gospels can be viewed as "Bi-Optic Gospels." Evidence for such a thesis presents itself in

development and origin of the Johannine material and the relationship to the Synoptics."

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