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# ***Program***

## ***Study Theme :***

### ***The Four Faces of Christ in the Gospels***

The faces of Christ as painted in the Gospels conform to the cherubic symbols. This series will provide an overview of each gospel and the key themes that help paint these unique portraits of our Lord Jesus Christ and his work. A deeper understanding of Christ, will help us to manifest the faces in our own lives, and thereby glorify the Father.

#### **Introductory Study : Four Gospels and Four Faces**

Reading: Ezekiel 1:4-14

#### **Study 1 : Matthew - The Face of the Lion**

Reading: Matthew 13:33-43

#### **Study 2 : Mark - The Face of the Ox**

Reading: Mark 10:35-45

#### **Study 3 : Luke - The Face of the Man**

Reading: Luke 19:1-10

#### **Study 4 : John - The Face of the Eagle**

Reading: John 5:20-30

#### **Study 5 : Four Faces & Four Commissions**

Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

#### **Study 6 : The Faces and the Kingdom**

Reading: Revelation 7:1-10

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# ***Introductory Study***



Eagle  
Dan  
Daniel  
John



Lion  
Judah  
Isaiah  
Matthew







Man  
Reuben  
Ezekiel  
Luke



Ox  
Ephraim  
Jeremiah  
Mark

## Different Viewpoints on the Four Faces

Faces	Irenaeus	Augustine	Pseudo Athanasius	Jerome	Suggested
	John	Matthew	Luke	Mark	Matthew
	Luke	Luke	Mark	Luke	Mark
	Matthew	Mark	Matthew	Matthew	Luke
	Mark	John	John	John	John



# Study 1

## "Matthew: The Face of the Lion"

### Matthew - Three Aspects of the Face

- ◆ **The Lion in Scripture** .....
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- ◆ **The Lion in the Tribe** .....
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- ◆ **The Lion in the Prophet** .....
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### Matthew – The Opening and the Genealogy

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### Matthew - Three Notable Inclusions

- ◆ The Healing of the Centurion’s Servant  
The King has delegated authority .....
- Matt 8:8-13
- ◆ The Transfiguration of Christ  
The King reveals his majesty.....
- Matt 17:1-8
- ◆ The Future Reward  
The King can promise thrones.....
- Matt 19:27-30

### Matthew - Three Important Omissions

- ◆ The Preparation of the Passover  
The King asks no questions.....
- Mark 14:12-16

- ◆ The Birth of Christ  
The King is no commoner .....  
Luke 2:1-12
- ◆ The Dispute on Sonship  
The king knows his genealogy.....  
John 8:33-59

**Matthew - Three Special Features**

- ◆ The Role of the Angels  
The king commands his angels.....  
Matt 13:39, 16:27, 24:31, 25:31, 26:53
- ◆ The Immanuel Promise  
The King rules for God .....  
Matt 1:23, 18:20, 28:20
- ◆ The Gospel of Speeches  
The King speaks with power .....  
Matt 5-7

**Matthew - Three Old Testament References**

- ◆ Matt 2:5-6 / Micah 5:2-4  
The King is Bethlehem's shepherd .....
- ◆ Matt 4:13-17 / Isa 9:1-2, 6-7  
The King is David's heir .....
- ◆ Matt 21:5 / Zech 9:9  
The king is Judah's Shiloh .....

**Matthew - Three Key Words**

	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
◆ KOH (932, 3772) " <i>basileia ton ouranon</i> " Refers to the divine origin of the king's dominion.....	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
◆ Fulfilled ..... (4137) " <i>pleroo</i> " Proves that Christ was the Messiah, King of the Old Testament	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
◆ Son of David (5207, 1138) " <i>huios Dabid</i> " Indicates the royal status of Christ in his family line Matt 1:1, 20, 9:27, 12:23, 15:22, 20:30- 31, 21:9, 15, 22:42	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

**Matthew – Three Unique Passages**

- ◆ The Visit of the Magi  
The King receives due homage  
Matt 2:1-12
- ◆ The Miracle of the Coin  
The King owes no tribute  
Matt 17:24-27
- ◆ The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats  
The King rewards or punishes  
Matt 25:31-46

## Matthew - Three Major Themes

### Theme 1: The majesty of strong leadership

- ◆ Exceedingly (4970) "*sphroda*"  
References to the powerful impact of the King's words and deeds  
Matt 2:10, 17:6, 23, 18:31, 19:25, 26:22, 27:54
- ◆ Worship (4352) "*proskuneo*"  
References to Christ receiving homage from others  
Matt 2:2, 8, 11, 8:2, 9:18, 14:33, 15:25, 20:20, 28:9, 17

	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

## Matthew - Three Major Themes

### Theme 2: The power of public discourse

- ◆ The words of the King carry weight and power to convince and inspire his subjects. cp. Ecc 8:4
- ◆ Matt 5:1-7:29 The official policy speech of the King Designate
- ◆ Matt 10:11-11:1 The duties of the King's Ambassadors
- ◆ Matt 13:1-53 The parables of the Kingdom of Heaven
- ◆ Matt 18:1-19:1 The Spirit of the King's Government
- ◆ Matt 23:1-24:1 The King delivers his great Denunciations
- ◆ Matt 24:3-26:1 The final apocalypse of the King in majesty

### Theme 3: The greatness of tender mercy

- ◆ The mark of a great King is the consideration he shows to those least able to plead his care cp. Prov 16:15, 29:14

- ◆ The theme of Christ's mercy is prominent in Matthew.

- ◆ References to the mercy of Christ in his dealings:  
Matt 9:13, 27, 12:7, 15:22, 17:15, 20:30, 31

- ◆ References on the need to shew the spirit of mercy  
Matt 5:7 (x2), 6:1, 2, 3, 4, 18:33 (x2), 23:23

	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
	7	2	3	0
	9	0	2	0

- ◆ The title "Son of David" is applied to Christ principally in Matthew (x9) and refers not just to David's royal line but to the royal mercy which characterised his reign.  
2 Sam 9:3, 10:2, 16:11, 18:33, Psa 72:2, 4, 12, 13

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## Matthew – The Commission and the Close

◆ Matthew 28:16-20

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### Matthew - Summary

- ◆ The face of the Lion in Matthew is the face of the:  
Perfect King
- ◆ Matthew depicts Christ from the standpoint of his  
royal majesty and tender mercy
- ◆ Summary phrase:  
that mercy which rules
- ◆ Summary passage: Matt 13:33-43



## **Study 2**

### **"Mark: The Face of the Ox"**

#### **Mark - Three Aspects of the Face**

- ◆ **The Ox in Scripture** .....  
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- ◆ **The Ox in the Tribe** .....  
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- ◆ **The Ox in the Prophet** .....  
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#### **Mark – The Opening and the Genealogy**

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#### **Mark - Three Notable Inclusions**

- ◆ The Discussion in Capernaum  
The Servant seeks no pre-eminence  
Mark 9:33-37
- ◆ The Ministration of the Son of Man  
The Servant ministers and suffers  
Mark 10:42-45
- ◆ The Certain Young Man  
The Servant is always faithful  
Mark 14:51-52

#### **Mark - Three Important Omissions**

- ◆ The Visit of the Magi  
The Servant receives no homage  
Matt 2:1-2
- ◆ The Discourse on the Plain  
The Servant frames no laws



Luke 6:17-49

- ◆ The Woman taken in adultery  
The Servant passes no judgments  
John 8:1-11

### Mark - Three Special Features

- ◆ The Six Evenings  
The Servant works to create  
Mark 1:32, 4:35, 6:47, 11:11, 14:17, 15:42
- ◆ The Chapter Openings  
The Servant labours without ceasing  
Mark 2:1, 3:1, 4:1, 5:1, 6:1, 7:1, 9:1, 11:1, 12:1, 13:1, 15:1, 16:1
- ◆ The Gospel of Emotions. The Servant serves with passion

Anger	3:5	Fatigue	4:38	Incredulity	6:6
Care	6:34	Empathy	7:34	Frustration	8:12
Tenderness	9:36	Love	10:21	Resolution	10:32

### Mark - Three Old Testament References

- ◆ Mark 1:35, 16:9 / Jeremiah 25:3-4  
The Servant is always ready
- ◆ Mark 11:9-11 / Psalm 118:26-27  
The Servant comes for sacrifice
- ◆ Mark 12:33 / 1 Sam 15:22  
The Servant renders total obedience

### Mark - Three Key Words

	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
◆ Immediately (2112) " <i>eutheos</i> " Expresses the driving energy of the Servant striving to fulfil his ministry	<b>18</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>
◆ Hands (5495) " <i>cheir</i> " References to Christ laying his hands upon others for healing	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
◆ Unclean (169) " <i>akathartos</i> " The work of the Servant was to confront sin and remove it	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>

### Mark - Three Unique Passages

- ◆ The Parable of the Seed  
The Servant manifests quiet patience  
Mark 4:26-29
- ◆ The Miracle of the Deaf and Dumb Man  
The Servant is completely involved  
Mark 7:31-37
- ◆ The Enquiry of the Scribe  
The Servant understands true sacrifice  
Mark 12:28-34

## Mark - Three Major Themes

### Theme 1: The humility of loyal service

- ◆ A notable idea in Mark is the spirit of concealment in Christ's labours. All classes of people are pledged to keep his works and words a secret - the healed, the leaders, the people, the disciples. Mark 1:34, 44, 3:12, 4:11-12, 5:43, 7:24, 36, 8:26, 30, 9:9, 30
- ◆ The work of the Servant was to be quiet and unobtrusive without popular acclaim or prominence. cp. Isa 42:2-4

- ◆ Number of times Christ is addressed as lord, master (2962) "*kurios*"  
Mark 7:28: means "sir" John 4:11, 12:21  
Mark 9:24 – omitted in Roth, RSV, NASB

	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34</b>

### Theme 2: The exhaustion of faithful labour

- ◆ Such was the tremendous drain on the energies of the servant that periods of activity were balanced with times of withdrawal to renew strength. Mark then is the gospel of exhaustion from a service which reaches out to all.

Here the servant withdraws to:

- ◆ Mark 1:35 the outskirts of Capernaum
- ◆ Mark 1:45 the wilderness place
- ◆ Mark 3:7 the shores of Gennesaret
- ◆ Mark 6:6 the villages of Galilee
- ◆ Mark 6:31 the wilderness of Bethsaida
- ◆ Mark 6:46 the mountains of Gaulanitis
- ◆ Mark 7:24 the borders of Tyre
- ◆ Mark 8:27 the towns of Caesarea Philippi
- ◆ Mark 9:2 the heights of Hermon
- ◆ Mark 11:1 the town of Bethany
- ◆ Mark 14:35 the garden of Gethsemane
- ◆ Mark 16:19 the Father in heaven

### Theme 3: The dedication of the complete sacrifice

- ◆ The section on the journey to the cross in Mark, is the longest (in proportion) of all the Gospels.
- ◆ Three unique references to Christ being "en to hodo" – on the way  
Each of these is linked to a specific prediction of the suffering and the death of Christ. Mark 8:27-32, 9:30-35, 10:32-34  
The way of the Servant then, is the way of sacrifice.
- ◆ Mark 10:32 (cp Prov 7:22) echoes Jeremiah's experience. cp. Jer. 11:19. But Christ knew. The set of of his face indicated the burden of a determined purpose that was frightening in its intensity.
- ◆ Mark 1:10 The way from heaven is torn open to announce the Son of God at the beginning.  
Mark 15:38 The way into heaven is torn open to confirm the Son of God at the end.  
The Son of God in Mark therefore is the suffering Servant who finally hangs upon the cross, as the slain bullock.

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**Mark – The Commission and the Close**

## ◆ Mark 16:15-20

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**Mark - Summary**

- ◆ The face of the Ox in Mark is the face of the:  
Perfect Servant
- ◆ Mark depicts Christ from the standpoint of his  
loyal service and dedicated sacrifice
- ◆ Summary phrase:  
that humility which serves
- ◆ Summary passage: Mark 10:35-45



# Study 3

## "Luke: The Face of the Man"

### Luke - Three Aspects of the Face

- ◆ **The Man in Scripture** .....  
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- ◆ **The Man in the Tribe** .....  
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- ◆ **The Man in the Prophet** .....  
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### Luke – The Opening and the Genealogy

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### Luke - Three Notable Inclusions

- ◆ The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus  
The Priest indicts his counterfeit  
Luke 16:19-31
- ◆ The Conversion of Zaccheus  
The Priest comes with salvation  
Luke 19:1-10
- ◆ The Proclamation over Jerusalem  
The Priest can recognize corruption  
Luke 19:41-48

### Luke - Three Important Omissions

- ◆ The Request of Zebedee’s Sons  
The Priest confers no titles  
Matt 20:20-23
- ◆ The Rendevous in Galilee  
The Priest is at the temple

Mark 14:28  
 ♦ The Debate in the Treasury  
 The Priest does not condemn  
 John 8:12-20

**Luke - Three Special Features**  
 ♦ The Journey to Jerusalem  
 The Priest officiates in Salem  
 Luke 9:31, 51, 53, 13:22, 33, 17:11, 18:31, 19:11, 28  
 ♦ The Extent of Salvation  
 The Priest ministers for all  
 Luke 2:10, 32, 3:6, 4:25-27, 10:1, 13:29, 14:13, 18:14, 24:47  
 ♦ The Gospel of Individuals  
 The Priest seeks every person  
 Luke 10:30, 12:19, 15:16, 16:4, 16:20, 18:2, 18:13

**Luke – Three Old Testament References**  
 ♦ Luke 4:18-21 / Isa 61:1-2, 6, 10  
 The Priest promises true deliverance  
 ♦ Luke 7:27 / Mal 3:1-4  
 The Priest purifies the priesthood  
 ♦ Luke 20:41-44 / Psa 110:1-4  
 The Priest is divinely appointed

<b>Luke - Three Key Words</b>	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
♦ People (2992) " <i>laos</i> " Describes those among whom the Priest ministers	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3</b>
♦ Sinners (268) " <i>harmatolos</i> " Indicates the class of people that the Priest seeks to save	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>
♦ Salvation, Save, Saviour (4982, 90- 92) " <i>sozo</i> " describes the essence of the Priest's whole ministration	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8</b>

**Luke - Three Unique Passages**  
 ♦ The Visit to the Temple  
 The Priest understands the law  
 Luke 2:40-52  
 ♦ The Parables of the Lost  
 The Priest seeks to recover  
 Luke 15:1-32  
 ♦ The Miracle of the Lepers  
 The Priest cleanses from sin  
 Luke 17:11-19

**Luke - Three Major Themes**  
**Theme 1:** The power of universal compassion  
 ♦ Luke 7:11-16 The miracle of life  
 for the bereft widow  
 ♦ Luke 7:37-50 The blessing of forgiveness  
 for the sinful woman  
 ♦ Luke 13:11-17 The wonder of release  
 for the despondent cripple  
 ♦ Luke 17:11-19 The joy of cleansing  
 for the despised alien

◆ Luke 19:1-10	The warmth of approval for the social outcast
◆ Luke 22:50-51	The gentleness of care for the smitten enemy
◆ Luke 23:39-43	The promise of hope for the penitent thief

**Luke - Three Major Themes**

**Theme 2:** The blessing of personal fellowship

References to Christ .....	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
◆ Dines at Wedding in Cana			-	2:2
◆ Dines at Matthew's Feast	9:10	2:15	5:29-32	
◆ Dines in Simon's house			7:36-50	
◆ Dines with Mary & Martha			10:38-42	
◆ Dines with a Pharisee			11:37-54	
◆ Dines with some Pharisees			14:1-24	
◆ Dines with Zaccheus			19:1-10	
◆ Dines at Bethany	26:6	14:3	-	12:2
◆ Dines in the Upper Room	26:20	14:17	22:12-23	13:4
◆ Dines with two at Emmaus			24:29-32	
◆ Dines with the disciples			24:36-43	
◆ Dines at the lake			-	21:13
Lev 22:10-16 cp. Gen 14:18-20	3	3	9	4

**Theme 3:** The example of constant prayer

	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
◆ at the river Jordan			3:21	
◆ in a solitary place		1:35	-	
◆ in the wilderness			5:16	
◆ on a mountaintop			6:12	
◆ after feeding 5000	14:23	6:46	-	
◆ near Caesarea Philippi			9:18	
◆ whilst on Hermon			9:29	
◆ before explaining prayer			11:1	
◆ when interceding for Peter			22:32	
◆ after the upper room			-	17:1
◆ in Gethsemane	26:36	14:32	22:41-45	
◆ at Golgotha	27:46	15:34	23:34	
◆ at Golgotha			23:46	
	3	4	10	1

In addition, Luke records two unique parables on:

- ◆ the need for persistence in prayer Luke 18:1-8
- ◆ the need for humility in prayer Luke 18:9-14

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**Luke – The Commission and the Close**

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## ◆ Luke 24:49-53

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**Luke - Summary**

- ◆ The face of the Man in Luke is the face of the:  
Perfect Priest
- ◆ Luke depicts Christ from the standpoint of his  
intercessory spirit and sympathetic care
- ◆ Summary phrase:  
that compassion which saves
- ◆ Summary passage: Luke 19:1-10



# Study 4

## "John: The Face of the Eagle"

### John - Three Aspects of the Face

- ◆ **The Eagle in Scripture** .....
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- ◆ **The Eagle in the Tribe** .....
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- ◆ **The Eagle in the Prophet** .....
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### John – The Opening and the Genealogy

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### John - Three Notable Inclusions

- ◆ The Feeding of the Five Thousand  
The Judge delivers his summary  
John 6:1-58
- ◆ The Exposure of Judas  
The Judge knows the heart  
John 13:18-30
- ◆ The Arrest of Christ  
The Judge commands profound respect  
John 18:1-9

### John - Three Important Omissions

- ◆ The Baptism of Christ  
The Judge allows no weakness  
Matt 3:13-17
- ◆ The Agony in the Garden  
The Judge suffers no uncertainty



Mark 14:32-42  
 ♦ The Genealogy  
 The Judge needs no lineage  
 Luke 3:23-38

**John - Three Special Features**  
 ♦ The Nine Signs of John  
 The Judge authenticates his words  
 John 20:31  
 ♦ The Seven (I Am) titles  
 The Judge pronounces his standards  
 John 6:35, 8:12, 10:7, 11, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1  
 ♦ The Gospel of Truth  
 The Judge speaks only truth  
 John 1:14, 8:16, 14:6, 18:37

**John – Three Old Testament References**  
 ♦ John 7:24 / Deut 1:16-17  
 The Judge is completely impartial  
 ♦ John 10:34-36 cp. Psalm 82:1-8  
 The Judge upholds divine principle  
 ♦ John 12:47-50 / Deut 18:18-19  
 The Judge speaks God’s mind

<b>John - Three Key Words</b>	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
♦ Jews (2453) " <i>Ioudaios</i> " Refers to the rulers of the Sanhedrin known as Beth Dan	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>71</b>
♦ Sent (649, 3992) " <i>apostello, pempo</i> " References especially concerning Christ. He represents God’s judgments	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>41</b>
♦ Verily, verily (281) " <i>amen, amen</i> " Expresses the solemn pronouncements of the Judge	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>

**John - Three Unique Passages**  
 ♦ The Discourse on Judgment  
 The Judge possesses moral authority  
 John 5:19-30  
 ♦ The Woman taken in adultery  
 The Judge discerns inward motive  
 John 8:1-11  
 ♦ The Miracle of the Blind Man  
 The Judge condemns sinful pride  
 John 9:1-41

**John - Three Major Themes**  
**Theme 1:** The spirit of unerring discernment  
 ♦ John 1:48 precise understanding of the personal thoughts of Nathaniel  
 ♦ John 2:25 intimate certainty of the character of human nature  
 ♦ John 4:18 detailed knowledge of the marital state of a woman  
 ♦ John 6:61 particular appreciation of the private murmurings of the disciples

◆ John 11:11	inner prescience of the actual death of Lazarus
◆ John 13:11	painful foresight of the impending treachery of Judas
◆ John 20:27	specific awareness of the doubtful heart of Thomas

## John - Three Major Themes

### Theme 2: The clarity of divine judgment

◆ The theme of Christ as Judge is prominent in John	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
◆ Total number of occurrences of: krino (judge) and krisis (judgment)	18	2	10	30
◆ Total number of these references relating to Christ as Judge and exercising judgment	0	0	0	9
◆ Christ appears in John as the one who is able to exhibit the principles of divine judgment with impartiality and resolve. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ John 3:1-12 The discussion with Nicodemus</li> <li>◆ John 4:7-26 The interview with the Samaritan</li> <li>◆ John 8:1-11 The arraignment of the woman</li> <li>◆ John 19:1-12 The trial of Pilate</li> <li>◆ John 21:15-19 The examination of Peter</li> </ul>				

### Theme 3: The excellence of personal integrity

- ◆ A notable theme in John is the personal integrity of Christ. This was the specific requirement for a judge. His own character needed to be beyond reproach, of outstanding integrity, meticulous in honesty, scrupulously fair, an exemplar of truth. cp. Exo. 18:21-22, Deut. 1:13-17, Deut. 16:18-20
- ◆ This was Christ's own example, both claimed by himself, John 8:45-46, and testified by others, John 18:38, 19:4, 6 cp. Daniel 6:4
- ◆ Christ is so clear on personal moral principles that he perceives each virtue in the context of its antithesis.
  - ◆ John 3:6 spirit vs flesh
  - ◆ John 3:18 belief vs unbelief
  - ◆ John 3:31 heaven vs earth
  - ◆ John 5:24 life vs death
  - ◆ John 8:12 light vs darkness
  - ◆ John 8:23 above vs beneath
  - ◆ John 8:44 truth vs lie
  - ◆ John 15:19 love vs hate

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**John – The Commission and the Close**

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## ◆ John 20:19-23

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**John - Summary**

- ◆ The face of the Eagle in John is the face of the:  
Perfect Judge
- ◆ John depicts Christ from the standpoint of his  
spiritual insight and divine judgment
- ◆ Summary phrase:  
that spirit which discerns
- ◆ Summary passage: John 5:20-30



# Study 5 (Exhortation)



## "Four Faces & Four Writers"



### Manifesting the Faces of Christ

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### Matthew – The Face of the Lion

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### Mark – The Face of the Ox

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**Luke – The Face of the Man**

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**John – The Face of the Eagle**

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