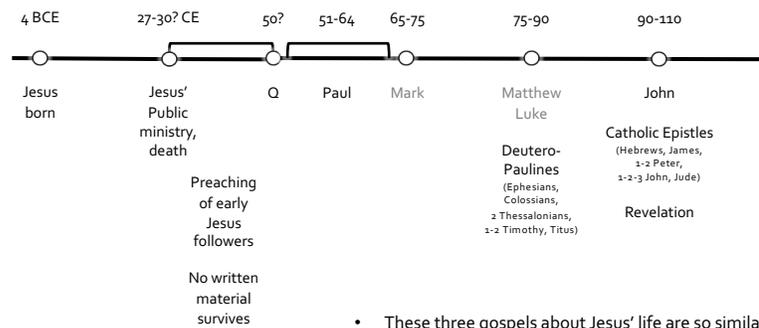


Class 8a

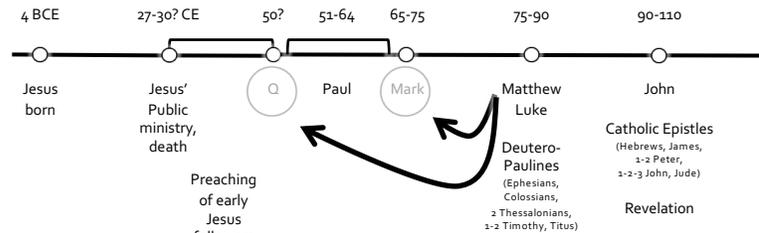
PROBLEMS FOR A "FEMINIST" JESUS: Q & THE CANAANITE WOMAN

Formation of the Gospel Tradition



- These three gospels about Jesus' life are so similar that they are called the "synoptic" gospels (synoptic means "seeing together").
- The problem of explaining how they're related—who copied whom—is called the "synoptic problem."

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Why People Think Q Existed

Case 2

Some material is not in Mark at all, but is identical in Matthew and Luke. This is called the Double Tradition.

Matthew 10:37-38

"He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

Mark

Luke 14:25-26

Now great multitudes accompanied him; and he turned and said to them, "If any one comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

What Is Q?

Matthew and Luke sometimes preserve sayings of Jesus that are almost identical in form and are not found in any other gospel. This material is almost entirely sayings of Jesus. A list of such sayings must have circulated before they wrote their gospels, and both Matthew and Luke used this source (Q stands for Quelle, the German word for source).

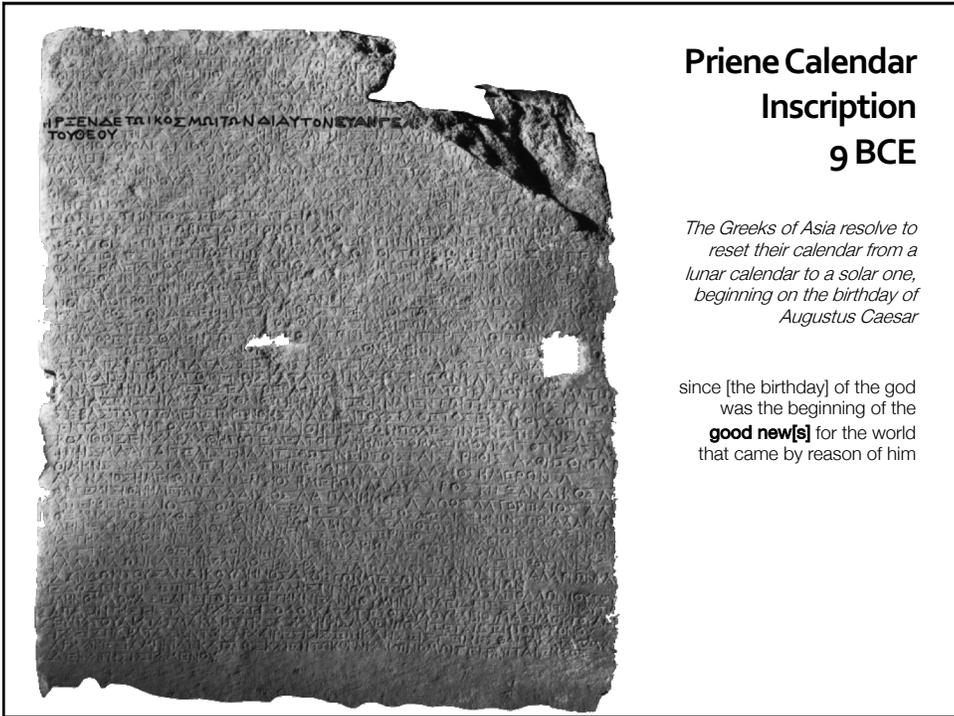
Thus, Q is the earliest available source for the "historical Jesus." If we want to make any claims about what Jesus did, Q will be our most important source. If you're weighing evidence, Q evidence takes priority.

What Was Going On Politically During Jesus' Time and When Q Was Written



Octavian
63 BCE – 14 CE
from 27 BCE
"Augustus Caesar"





**Priene Calendar
Inscription
9 BCE**

*The Greeks of Asia resolve to
reset their calendar from a
lunar calendar to a solar one,
beginning on the birthday of
Augustus Caesar*

since [the birthday] of the god
was the beginning of the
good new[s] for the world
that came by reason of him

<p>Paul, Mark, Matthew, Luke & John all call their accounts of Jesus by this same term</p>	<p>Priene Calendar Inscription 9 BCE</p>
<p>"Gospel" = ευαγγελιον, Greek for "good news"</p>	<p><i>The Greeks of Asia resolve to reset their calendar from a lunar calendar to a solar one, beginning on the birthday of Augustus Caesar</i></p> <p>since [the birthday] of the god was the beginning of the good new[s] for the world that came by reason of him</p>

Gospel of Luke
75–110 CE

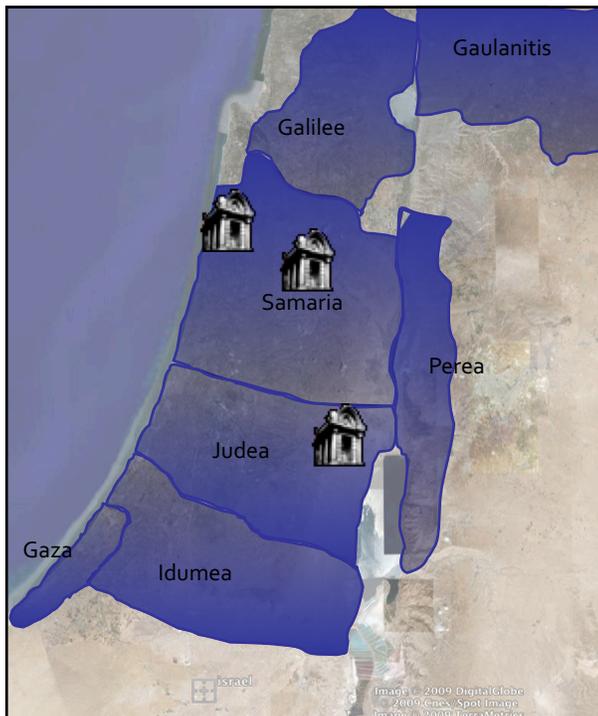
2:1 In those days a decree went out from **Emperor Augustus** that all the world should be registered.... [So Joseph travels from Nazareth down to Bethlehem with his pregnant fiancé Mary.] 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

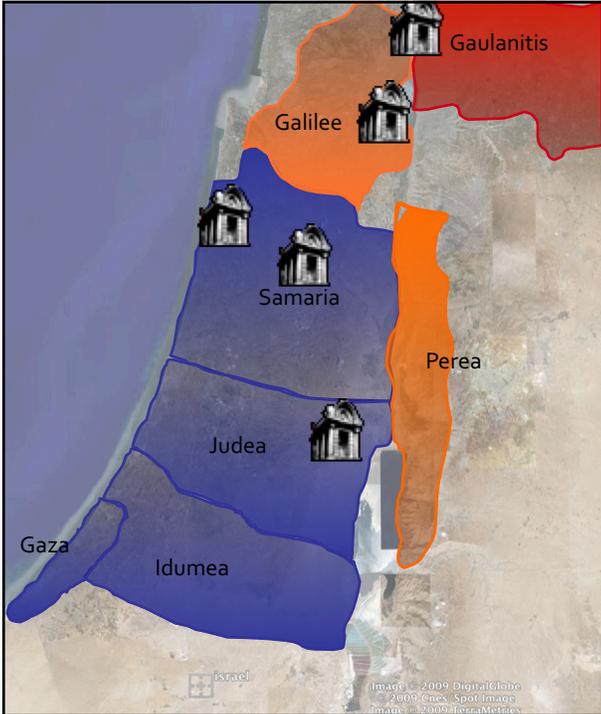
Priene Calendar Inscription
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- 63 BCE
Pompey takes region for Rome
- 40 BCE
Roman senate appoints Herod “King of the Jews”
- 37 BCE
Herod secures control
- 37 - 4 BCE
Launches a huge building and infrastructure program, honoring the Emperor wherever he can



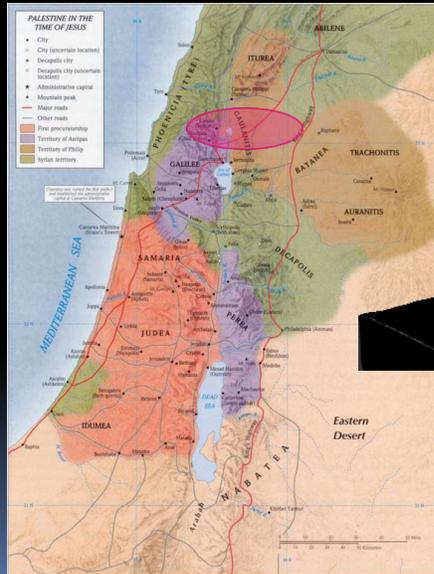
4 BCE
 Herod dies, and 3 sons split his kingdom; Philip builds Caesarea Philippi

6 CE
 Herod Archelaus can't control the south, so the Romans take over direct administration



Herod Antipas builds the city of Tiberias to honor the new emperor in 20 CE

The Q Communities



- The Herod in Galilee before Jesus' time
- Tensions

- ✓ mo
- ✓ P

- tenancy
- Village scribes were adversely affected
- Q¹ - Rhetoric of uprootedness and inversion; ethos of communalism



An Early Prayer

In Q (reconstructed)

Father—
 may your name be kept holy!
 let your reign come:

 our day's bread give us today;
 and cancel our debts for us,
 as we too have cancelled for
 those in debt to us;
 and do not put us to the
 test!

In Matthew

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come.
 Your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts,
 as we also have forgiven our
 debtors.
 And do not bring us to the
 time of trial,
 but rescue us from the evil
 one.

The Evidence of Q

WAS THE EARLY JESUS MOVEMENT GENDER EGALITARIAN?

Was that Communal Ethos Gender-Egalitarian? Was Jesus a Feminist?

Second-wave feminist biblical scholars argued in the 1970s that women are prominent in Q, and therefore must have been prominent in the Jesus movement. They pointed out four features of Q:

1. Jesus mentions women his teachings
2. Male and female characters are often paired in his stories
3. Sophia is prominent in Q
4. Q appears to dismantle the traditional, patriarchal family

Amy-Jill Levine disagrees.
She doesn't think any of these 4 show a feminist Jesus.
Why?

JESUS & THE CANAANITE WOMAN

Third-Wave Feminist Interpretation

- People experience various layers of oppression; gender *intersects* with race, class, and other relations of power
 - Our hermeneutic of suspicion needs to expand to include attention to the various interests a text or its interpretation may serve
 - Musa Dube is from Botswana, a country colonized by the British; she looks to the intersections of
 - gender
 - ethnicity/nationality
 - experience of empire/colonization
- } in biblical texts
& in their
interpretation

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

A Foreign Woman Begs for Help (Handout)