

# THE GOSPELS

WHO WROTE FIRST -- MATTHEW OR MARK ?

**DID YOU KNOW?** ALL the earliest historians recorded that it was Matthew.

**CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA** reported a tradition of the earliest presbyters as:

“...the first written of the gospels were those having the genealogies”.

**And:** “While Peter was publicly preaching ...the audience which was numerous, begged Mark ... to write down the things he had said. And he did so, ...”

**IRENAEUS** had already used his biblical quotes in this Matthew-Luke-Mark order.

**AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO** said that Mark developed the ideas of Matthew and Luke.

When **JEROME** adopted the order of Matthew-Mark-Luke-John for his translation into Latin, he told the Pope that he had not followed the commonly used sequence. Jerome, in his: ‘Of Illustrious Men’, used the Matthew-Luke-Mark order.

**Dom Bernard Orchard OSB**, using modern literary analysis has confirmed that the ancient historians and the early theologians were correct.

**SECTION 7 of DEI VERBUM** says that the Apostles faithfully: “... handed on what they had received from the lips of Christ, from living with Him, and from what he did, ...those Apostles ... who ...committed the message...to writing

**SECTION 18** says “the Apostles preached ...afterwards they themselves and apostolic men, ...handed onto us in writing ... the fourfold Gospel ...”

**SECTION 19** “the church firmly holds to the historical character of the Gospels” [See Vatican web site translations].

**SEE ALSO:** The free: *Authors of the Gospels* at: [www.churchinhistory.org](http://www.churchinhistory.org)

This provides:

A comprehensive list of quotations from the ancient historians (Chapter II).

A list of the use by Rome of Scripture as history since Vatican II (Chapter XIX).

A review of how Markan priority has affected Catechetics (Chapter XX).

The words of Cardinal Ratzinger when he said that the strongest attacks on the Catechism had come from Scripture scholars - Chapter XIX page 99).

**Examples** of where Eastern Liturgies show the influence of Clement’s order (Ch. IV).

Answers offered to: **Why** were the glaring errors of Mark (1: 2 and 2: 26) never corrected? Why does the ‘he’ of Mark(16:9) appear to refer to a young man talking about Jesus (Mark 16:5)? Happy reading.