



First page of the Gospel of Judas (Page 33 of Codex Tchacos)

EARLY CHRISTIAN GOSPELS

See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Gospels

The central fact of Christian preaching was the intelligence that the Saviour had come into the world (Matt. 4:23; Rom. 10:15); and the first Christian preachers who called their account of the person and mission of Christ by the term evangelion (= good message) were called *evangelistai* (= evangelists) (Eph. 4:11; Acts 21:8). *Egerton's Bible Dictionary*

From quotations of the church fathers, these works seem to have paralleled the canonical Gospels in genre and, at times, in content. There is speculation that they might have originated from a common source—a Hebrew version of Matthew's Gospel that is mentioned by Papias, a church father during the late first century or early second century (in a report by Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, 3.39.16).

Century

1 EGERTON 2 GOSPEL Papyrus ... gospel fragment containing four sections similar to the canonical Gospels. The papyrus contains a miracle story that resembles John's Gospel, mixed with elements from the Synoptic Gospels... There is also a small amount of additional material not paralleled in known gospels. Koester considers the gospel to be more primitive and perhaps earlier than the canonical Gospels.

1 GOSPEL OF CERINTHUS A noncanonical, lost gospel known only through its mention by Epiphanius in the fourth century. A truncated version of Matthew's Gospel
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Cerinthus

1 GOSPEL OF THE EBIONITES Late first or early second century AD. Mentioned by several early church fathers. The Gospel of the Ebionites was never widely authoritative during the early church period and was deemed in retrospect to be heretical by several of the church fathers... It was reported to deny the virgin conception. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_the_Ebionites

1 GOSPEL OF THE HEBREWS from the late first—early second century. It is no longer extant but is mentioned and quoted by several early church fathers. To enhance the role of James, a leader of the Jewish Christians for a time, support a Jewish-Christian orientation. Covers the life of Jesus from birth to resurrection, but includes several unique details. It might have been a Hebrew or Aramaic version of Matthew's Gospel. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_the_Hebrews

2 BOOKS OF JUDAS Dating to the second century AD. Found in the fragmentary Codex Tchacos, which was discovered in 1970 in Egypt. The fragmentary document claims to contain a dialogue between Jesus and Judas Iscariot. Composed in the 2nd century by Gnostic Christians, rather than the historic Judas himself. The gospel advances a Gnostic cosmology and portrays Judas in a positive light as the only apostle who fully understands Jesus' teachings. Although lost for centuries, the only known surviving copy is one that was translated into Coptic in the 4th century and discovered in the 1970s in Middle Egypt. *Wikipedia*

EARLY CHRISTIAN GOSPELS

2 FAYYUM GOSPEL (or Fayyum fragment) contains a terser version of the prophecy of Peter's three denials of Jesus. The Fayyum Gospel was discovered in the Fayyum region of Egypt. At first, it was judged to be a precursor to the canonical Gospels, but closer analysis indicates the Fayyum Gospel may depend on the Synoptic Gospels.

2 GOSPEL OF APELLES A noncanonical, lost gospel known only through its mention by Jerome (fourth century)... Apelles was a disciple of Marcion. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apelles_\(gnostic\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apelles_(gnostic))

2 GOSPEL OF EVE May have been composed in the second century AD. A supposed account of someone (likely Eve) standing on a mountain and seeing a tall man and a smaller man (who are perhaps the same person in two different forms) speak a revelation. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Eve

2 GOSPEL OF JAMES, INFANCY From the second century AD, narrates the birth of Mary and her pious, virginal life up through the birth of Jesus. A number of manuscripts survive, including translations into Syriac and Latin. The oldest manuscript—in Greek—already demonstrates secondary expansions... Presupposes the birth narratives of Matthew and Luke. Because of its ignorance of Palestinian geography and Jewish custom, it was likely written outside of Israel... Mary spends her childhood in service to the temple as a virgin and is entrusted by lot to the widower Joseph. The brothers of Jesus are the sons of Joseph's first marriage, preserving Mary's virginal state even after Jesus' birth. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_James

2 GOSPEL OF MARCION A form of the Gospel of Luke edited by Marcion (ca. AD 100–165)... Marcion produced his gospel by cutting out the parts of Luke's Gospel that he did not think should be included. He considered canonical Luke to have been the most trustworthy of the gospels, but he thought it had still been corrupted by Jewish elements... Marcion's version also lacked the birth narrative, beginning instead at Luke 3.

2 GOSPEL OF MATTHIAS A noncanonical, lost gospel known only through its condemnation as heretical by early church fathers such as Origen and Eusebius. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Matthias

2 GOSPEL OF PETER A portion of the trial, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus that differs in many respects from the canonical texts... A dialogue between Peter and Jesus is extant in another papyrus fragments... Responsibility for Jesus' death is transferred to Herod, completely relieving Pilate of responsibility. Jesus' last words are "My power, my power, why have you forsaken me?" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Peter

2 GOSPEL OF THE EGYPTIANS, GNOSTIC Found in the Coptic Nag Hammadi codices is a text centered around Seth, offering its own viewpoint on salvation history from the beginning of the world. ... It is Seth who comes from heaven to enter the world—taking on the form of Jesus—whom Seth claims in the work is one of his "fellow lights" in "incorruptibility." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Book_of_the_Great_Invisible_Spirit

2 GOSPEL OF THE EGYPTIANS, GREEK Appears to have been written in the late second century AD and may have been accepted by some Egyptian communities... It also seems to share some viewpoints with Gnostic writings. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Gospel_of_the_Egyptians

EARLY CHRISTIAN GOSPELS

2 GOSPEL OF THE FOUR HEAVENLY REALMS Also known as Gospel of the Four Corners of the World. A noncanonical, lost gospel known only from its mention by Maruta, bishop of Maiperkat. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_the_Four_Heavenly_Realm

2 GOSPEL OF THE NAZARENES (Or Gospel of the Nazoraeans). A hypothetical Jewish-Christian text which, along with the Gospel of the Ebionites, appears to be a variation of the now-lost Gospel of the Hebrews—which itself is associated with the canonical Gospel of Matthew. There are no extant manuscripts of the Gospel of the Nazarenes. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_the_Nazarenes

2 GOSPEL OF THOMAS A noncanonical, pseudonymous early Coptic writing deemed heretical, unapproved, or false by early church fathers... Thomas contains 114 supposed sayings (known as *logia*), most of which the work attributes to Jesus. This work was never widely authoritative in the early church period... three Oxyrhynchus fragments contained the Greek text of the newly discovered Coptic text, though with many differences. Survives in two small Greek fragments and a full Coptic version. It does not depict Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, but some of the sayings reflect knowledge of Jesus' death on the cross. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Thomas

2 GOSPEL OF TRUTH A Valentinian gnostic treatise that reflects on the work and person of Jesus. Unlike the canonical Gospels, it is not structured as a continuous narrative of the acts, teachings, passion, and resurrection of Jesus. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Truth

2 SHEPHERD OF HERMAS Was originally written in Rome in Koine Greek, translated into many languages and included in some Bible versions. The book consists of five visions granted to Hermas, a former slave. This is followed by twelve mandates or commandments, and ten similitudes (parables), which are explained by the angel. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Shepherd_of_Hermas

2 GOSPEL/ACTS OF ANDREW A lost gospel known only through its condemnation in the sixth-century Gelasian Decree. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acts_of_Andrew

3 GOSPEL OF BARDESANES There are no extant remains. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bardaisan>

3 GOSPEL OF BARTHOLOMEW A noncanonical, pseudonymous work associated with the apostle Bartholomew. This work was never widely authoritative in the early church period... no known copies of the work exist—Jerome (AD 347–420) mentions it. Mentioned in several early sources. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Bartholomew

3 GOSPEL OF MANI, LIVING A lost gospel thought to have been a summary of the gnostic teachings of the founder of the Manichaean religion. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Mani

3 GOSPEL OF PHILIP A second or third century dialogue containing disparate sayings only loosely connected together... The words of Jesus take the form of short sayings, parables, and theological treatises... Teaches salvation as the reunification of male and female into androgyny... It also proposes that people [must] be resurrected before dying in order to attain salvation. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Philip

3 GOSPEL OF SCYTHIANUS A noncanonical, lost gospel known only from its mention in the fourth century by Cyril of Jerusalem ... and Epiphanius in his treatise against heresies. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scythianus>

EARLY CHRISTIAN GOSPELS

3 GOSPEL OF THE SEVENTY A noncanonical, lost gospel known only through its mention by the eleventh-century Persian scholar, al-Biruni... An extant Uighur fragment is possibly from the *Gospel of the Seventy*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_the_Seventy

4 FREER LOGION An addition to the text of the gospel of Mark (at 16:14) in the 4th or 5th-century Codex Washingtonensis.

4 GOSPEL OF NICODEMUS The entire (possibly composite) work that includes the Acts of Pilate and Christ's Descent Into Hell. In the second and third century AD, the Gospel of Nicodemus was translated into many languages. It begins with the trial before Pilate, who pronounces Jesus innocent... Jesus is accused of being born to unwed parents and being the cause of the slaughter of the innocents... Joseph is sentenced to death and miraculously escapes while Jesus is resurrected. Also included is the descent of Christ into hell. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Nicodemus

4 GOSPEL OF PERFECTION Gospel of Perfection. A noncanonical, lost gospel that is only known through two explicit mentions: one by church father Epiphanius..., who calls it "a fabricated work rather like a love charm," and the other in the Arabic Gospel of the Infancy of the Savior. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Perfection

4 MEMORIA APOSTOLORUM Before mid-fourth century ... which appears to have been gnostic in its form and content... apparently contains both erotic myth and an esoteric interpretation of the parable of the Sower. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memoria_Apostolorum

5 BOOK OF THE RESURRECTION Written in Coptic, likely around the fifth or sixth century... Contains a narrative about Matthias killing a rooster... a motive for Judas' betrayal of Jesus... that Ananias ran ahead of Jesus and implored that he be crucified instead.

5 GOSPEL OF MARY Likely dates to the second-century AD, is not mentioned by any early church fathers, but it survives in three fragmentary manuscripts. It contains a dialogue with the disciples and then one with Mary—probably Magdalene... Gnostic mythology in its description of the ascent of the soul and the naming of the powers that need to be overcome by passwords... The disciples as a group are informed that sin is due to the mixing of the material and the spiritual. Mary receives special revelation from Jesus in a vision. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Mary

5 GOSPEL OF THE INFANCY OF THE SAVIOR, ARABIC Compiles at least three different accounts to narrate the infancy and childhood of Jesus. Based on a translation of a lost Syriac or Coptic version from as early as the fifth or sixth century AD. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syriac_Infancy_Gospel

5 GOSPEL OF THE TWELVE, KUKEAN Associated with the Kukean sect of Edessa, known only from its mention by Maruta, an early fifth-century bishop of Maiperkat, in his catalog of heresies.

5 INFANCY GOSPEL OF THOMAS Relates the boyhood deeds of an arrogant, crude young Jesus. It is preserved in Greek only in a few 15th–16th century manuscripts, but is preserved in Syriac and Latin from the 5th–6th centuries... The story depicts Jesus' life as a child prodigy from age five to his presence in the temple at age twelve (as in Luke 2:41–50), where it concludes. Jesus ... demonstrates his superiority to his teacher. Jesus' miraculous feats often result in him being temperamental and dangerous—he miraculously kills and resurrects playmates and instructors. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infancy_Gospel_of_Thomas

EARLY CHRISTIAN GOSPELS

5 STRASBOURG COPTIC PAPYRUS Contains a farewell speech of Jesus set in ... Gethsemane. It is told from the perspective of the apostles as a group, which has led some to associate it with the lost Gospel of the Twelve. It is dependent on New Testament texts, including elements of John 17 and 1 Cor 15.

6 ACTS OF THADDEUS Claims to record a written correspondence between Jesus [or his brother] and Abgar V, king of Edessa. [Greek, 6th century; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acts_of_Thaddeus; text: <https://rejectedscriptures.weebly.com/the-gospel-of-thaddeus.html>]

6 BERLIN GOSPEL Papyrus Berlin 22220 [6th century] contains part of a passion narrative describing the suffering Jesus before his crucifixion. It includes an antiphonal song about his imminent crucifixion punctuated with the refrain "amen." The gospel appears to be dependent on the Gospel of Peter. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_the_Saviour;

6 GOSPEL OF GAMALIEL preserved in sixth-century Coptic fragments, interspersed with narrative on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in the pseudonymous, first-person voice of Gamaliel... Also known as the *Lament of the Virgin* and the *Martyrdom of Pilate*.

7 GOSPEL OF PSEUDO-MATTHEW A noncanonical, early seventh century (AD 600–625) infancy gospel that claims to narrate the conception, birth, and early childhoods of Mary and Jesus. Includes a series of miracle stories performed by the infant Jesus, an emphasis on living the ideal monastic lifestyle. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Pseudo-Matthew

7 GOSPEL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES A noncanonical text that is not extant in any manuscripts. Mentioned by church father Origen when he contrasts the church's four Gospels with the "many" used by the heretics. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_the_Twelve_Apostles

8 GOSPEL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES, MANICHAEAN A noncanonical work that is only known from a single eighth-century mention by Theodore Abu Qurrah, Melchite bishop of Harran. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manichaeism>

9 GOSPEL OF THE BIRTH OF MARY Also known as the Gospel of the Nativity of Mary. A noncanonical, ninth-century, abbreviated, edited form of the Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew that focuses solely on the life of Mary before Jesus' birth. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libellus_de_Nativitate_Sanctae_Mariae

16 GOSPEL OF BARNABAS A 16th century Italian forgery, propagated by Pakistani Muslims, containing Islamic doctrines, claiming it to be the 'original' gospel descended from heaven upon Jesus.

20 GOSPEL OF JESUS' WIFE An eight-line Coptic text fragment that appears to mention Jesus' having a wife. It is almost certainly a modern forgery. Even if the work were not a modern forgery, it is certainly noncanonical and was never widely authoritative in the early church period. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Jesus%27_Wife