

JULY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Which Gospel is considered the first and earliest one to be written?

B. Mark. Most scholars would agree that Mark was the first of the Gospels to be written, and that it was the basis of both Matthew and Luke. There are 661 verses in Mark. Of these 661 verses, Matthew reproduces 606 and Luke reproduces 320. Of Mark's 661 verses there are only 31 which do not appear somewhere in Matthew or Luke.

2. The writer of which Gospel takes up more than a quarter of the pages, or 27% of the entire New Testament?

C. Luke. In the printed RSV New Testament there are 552 pages. Luke's Gospel takes up 78 pages and Acts, the other book which Luke wrote, takes up 71 pages; that is, 149 pages in all. This means that Luke wrote more than a quarter, 27 per cent of the New Testament. Paul's letters take up only 121 pages, so Luke wrote even more of the New Testament than Paul did.

3. Which Gospel writer was considered the 'interpreter of St Peter the Apostle'?

B. Mark. A man called Papias was Bishop of Hierapolis in South Phrygia in the first half of the second century. He collected a great deal of information about the Gospels, and he tells us that Mark's Gospel is in fact the preaching material of Peter. He says that Mark was Peter's 'interpreter', and that he accurately set down the things that Peter used to preach about Jesus.

4. Which Gospel book is considered 'the bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament'?

A. Matthew. The New Testament books do not appear in the same order all the ancient manuscripts, e.g. in *Codex Bezae*, one of the most famous manuscripts, the Gospels appear in the order of Matthew, John, Luke, Mark. But one thing remains constant: in every manuscript of the New Testament, Matthew comes first. That is not because it was the first book to be written. Some of Paul's letters were written 40 years before Matthew. Of all the books of the New Testament, Matthew is the book which draws the two Testaments together. Why? One reason is that Matthew sees Jesus as the fulfillment of the hopes and dreams of the Jewish nation, and the fulfillment of God's promises to his people.

5. Which is the symbol of St John's Gospel and why?

A. An eagle. St Jerome said that the man who wrote the Fourth Gospel was 'saturated with revelation'. The eagle flies higher than any other bird, and the eagle is said to be the only living creature which can look straight into the sun, and not be dazzled. The John of the Fourth Gospel is the eagle of New Testament thought.

