

Similarities in Matthew and Luke

- ☞ Both in the time of Herod
- ☞ Mary is a virgin
- ☞ Jesus is conceived through the Holy Spirit
- ☞ Jesus is identified as the Son of David
- ☞ Name of Jesus given by heaven
- ☞ Jesus is a Saviour (Hebrew name, Joshua = Yahweh Saves)
- ☞ Jesus born in Bethlehem, after Mary and Joseph have been living together as man and wife
- ☞ Joseph, Mary and Jesus settle in Nazareth

Differences in Matthew and Luke

LUKE

- ☞ Angel appears to Mary to tell her of impending birth of Jesus (1:26)
- ☞ Jesus born in a manger (2:7)
- ☞ Angels appear to shepherds in the fields (2:9-16)
- ☞ Mary & Joseph go to Bethlehem for the census before the birth of Jesus (2:4-5)
- ☞ Jesus had fulfilled what the Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon (prophet outside the Temple)

MATTHEW

- ☞ Angel appears to Joseph to tell him of Mary's impending birth of Jesus (1:20)
- ☞ Jesus born in a house (1:10)
- ☞ Magi from the East follow a star (2:1)
- ☞ Angel appears to Joseph, after Jesus is born, & tells them to flee to Egypt (2:13-15)
- ☞ Jesus' birth is fulfilling Old Testament prophecies

Jesus is compared to Moses:

- ☞ Matthew models his account on the birth of Moses - the most important religious authority in Judaism
- ☞ Jesus escapes the massacre of the infants (Mt 2:16) as Moses did (Ex 2:3)
- ☞ They both travel to Egypt (compare Ex 4:19 and Mt 2:19)
- ☞ Moses leads the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt saving them (Ex 12 & 13)Jesus will save his people from their sins (Mt 1:21)
- ☞ Moses is seen as the teacher and Law-giver in Judaism - he receives the Law of God (10 Commandments) on Mount Sinai, and teaches the people of Israel....Jesus is shown as a teacher and Law-giver - he teaches from a mountain (Mt ch. 5)

Jesus is compared to Moses: Purpose

- ☞ By paralleling Jesus with Moses Matthew is emphasising Jesus' great importance for the Jewish people
- ☞ Matthew presents Jesus as the "New Moses" - teacher and Law-giver who has authority from God. He is the "fulfilment" of the law and therefore the messiah the Jews have been waiting for.

Luke compares the Birth of Jesus to the birth of John the Baptist:

- ☞ Read 1:5-25, 57-80
- ☞ Both births are foretold by the angel Gabriel; both are born under the influence of the Holy Spirit, both are named through divine inspiration, both will do God's work.

Luke compares the Birth of Jesus to the birth of John the Baptist: Purpose

- ☞ To demonstrate the transition of one epoch (period of history) - the Epoch of Israel - represented by John the Baptist to a new epoch - the Christian Epoch - represented by Jesus.
- ☞ Luke wishes the reader to recognise that Jesus and John are "twin agents of God's salvation."
- ☞ John is great in the sight of the Lord (1:15), Jesus will be called the Lord (2:11); John will be filled with the Holy Spirit (1:15), Jesus is born in the Holy Spirit (1:35)
- ☞ John is a Prophet of the Most High (1:76), Jesus is the Son of the Most High (1:32)