

# ***The Apostles' Creed***



# *The Apostles' Creed*

- *Intro to the Creed Itself*
- *God the Father*
- *God the Son*
  - *Christ's Birth (part 1)*



# Christ's Birth

- “We believe in... Jesus Christ... Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary...”
  - On some levels, this part is a fairly easy lesson
    - We want to start with the orthodox view of the Son—that He was fully God and also fully Human at the same time
      - Even today, we deal with the heresies that Jesus only “seemed” human or that He only “seemed” Divine
      - Not too awfully long ago, someone reiterated to me the idea that Jesus “became” Christ at His baptism (i.e.; that up until that point, He was just a normal, human carpenter—until God “Christified” Him and Jesus “became” the Son of God)  
(so how would *you* respond to that error in thinking?)



# Christ's Birth

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  - On some levels, this part is a fairly easy lesson
    - We want to start with the orthodox view of the Son
    - For that matter, I was reminded two weeks ago that the Mormons technically believe that the fleshly god Elohim came down and had physical, sexual intercourse with Mary in order to produce Jesus

“The Christian denominations believe that Christ was begotten not of God but of the Spirit that overshadowed his mother. This is nonsense... God is a man, a glorious perfected man... Just as the infidel was begotten and born, so was Christ begotten by his Father... The difference between Jesus Christ and other men is this: our fathers in the flesh are mortal men, who are subject unto death; but the Father of Jesus Christ in the flesh is the God of Heaven.”

—*sixth Mormon President Joseph F. Smith*  
(a la the myth of Zeus visiting Alcmena to produce the god-man Heracles)  
(so how would you respond to *that* error in thinking?)



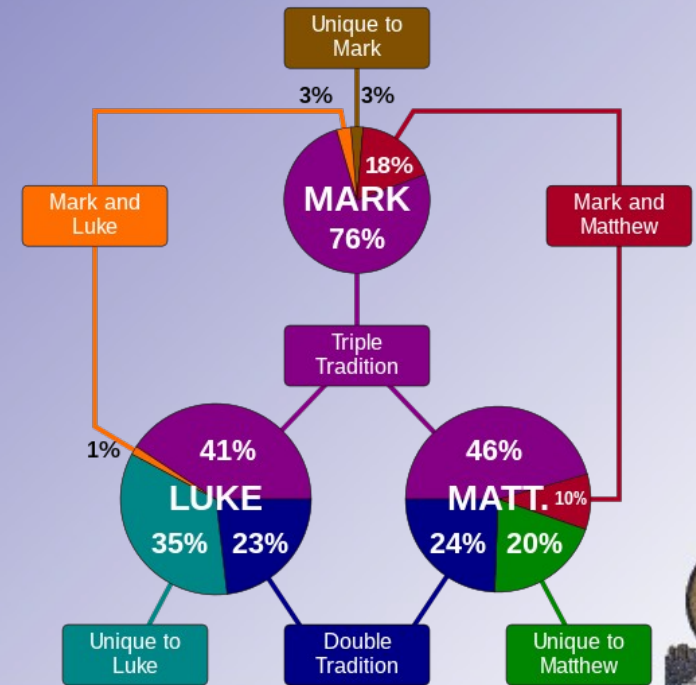
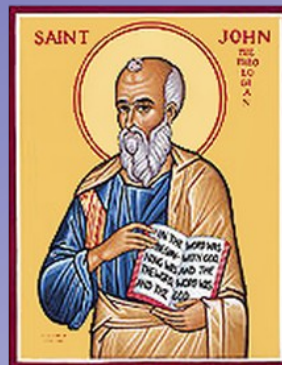
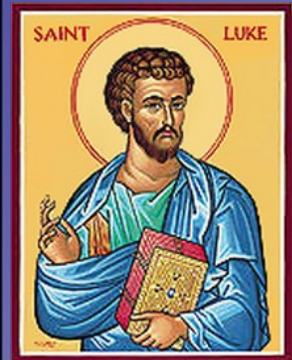
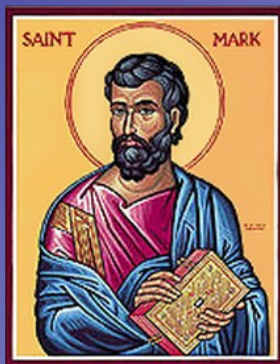
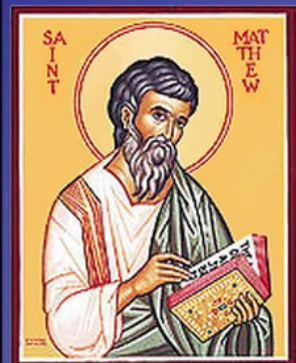
# Christ's Birth



Funky little teaching moment...

- Rather than start with the synoptic Gospels (remind me—what does “synoptic” mean and/or refer to here?)

(from the Greek “συνοπτικός” or “synoptikós,” it literally means, “seeing [it] together”—which is why it can serve as the basis for our English word “synopsis” and as a descriptor of the three Gospel writers who all told the story of Jesus’ life from more or less the same vantage point) (but John is totally doing his own thing)

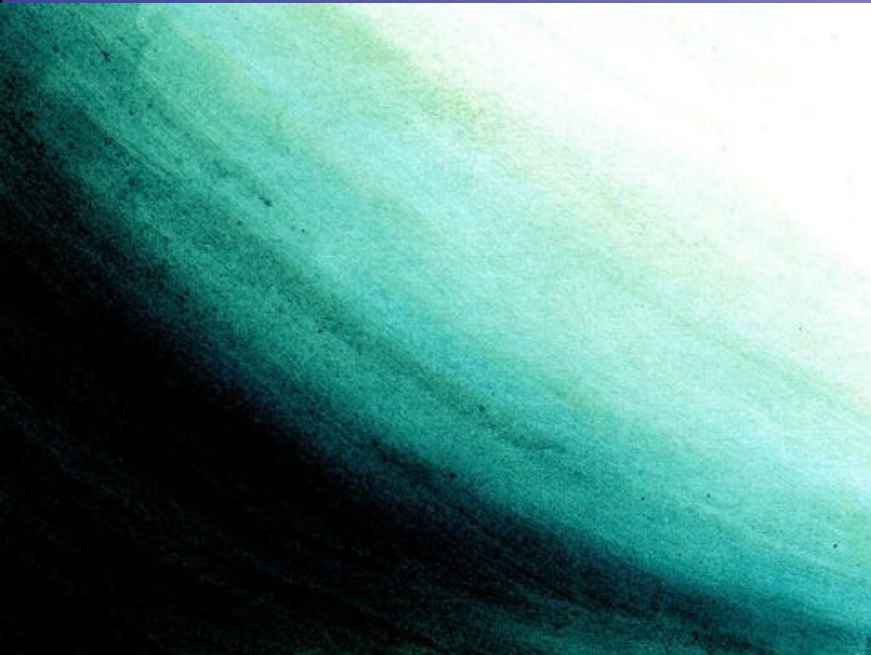


# Christ's Birth



## Funky little teaching moment...

- Rather than start with the synoptic Gospels, let's take a step back and start with John's Gospel
  - Please read John 1:1-2
    - How does this parallel, explain, or contradict what we read in Genesis 1:1-3?
    - How does this parallel, explain, or contradict what we read in Colossians 1:15-17?
    - What is the relationship/interconnection/multifaceted that we see within the Trinity in Genesis and John and Colossians?

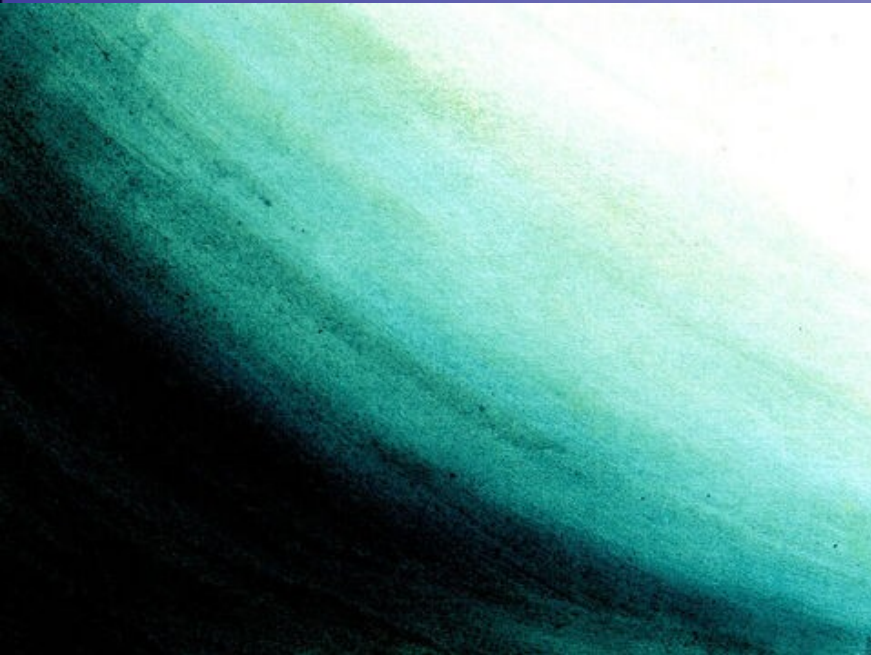


# Christ's Birth



## Funky little teaching moment...

- Rather than start with the synoptic Gospels, let's take a step back and start with John's Gospel
  - Please read John 1:1-2
  - Please read John 1:3-5
    - How does this parallel, explain, or contradict what we read in Genesis 1:1-5?
    - What is the relationship that we see between the Light of the Word and the world which He created?
      - How is this expanded upon in John 1:9-13?



# Christ's Birth



## Funky little teaching moment...

- Rather than start with the synoptic Gospels, let's take a step back and start with John's Gospel
  - Please read John 1:1-2
  - Please read John 1:3-5
  - Please read John 1:14
    - How is this a “perfection” of what we see God doing in Genesis 2:7-8?
    - In all, how is the birth of Jesus a cosmic “re-do” of the original Creation story from Genesis—and why would John present it like that?

