



Marc Chagall: Exodus, 1952


New Testament: Jesus from Nazareth as the expected messiah of Israel



Four Gospels: Matthew, Marc, Luke + John.
Gospel = εὐαγγέλιον, *eu-angelion* = „good spell“ (news) about Jesus’s resurrection, later turned to be a narration about Jesus’s life, written in 70s– 90s of the 1st century (i.e. 40 – 60 years after Jesus was executed)

- **The Acts of apostles:** a story about the beginnings of the Church
- **Epistles** (of Paul, James, John): the correspondence of the early Church; **the oldest part of the New Testamenet**, written in 50s and 60s.
- **The Revelation** of John (around 95 CE)

Nativity scene in Bethlehem – only in Mathew and Luke

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- The oldest texts in New Testament (e.g. the epistles of Paul or the gospel according to Marc) do not know about it.
 - During his life, Jesus was known as “the one from Nazareth”
 - Bethlehem was the original home of the Davidic dynasty

New Testament: Jesus from Nazareth as the expected messiah of Israel

The false options for messiah or Jesus's temptation in desert

Read Matthew 4:1-11

"If you are the Son of God, command
these stones to become loaves of bread."

"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself
down; for it is written, 'He will give his
angels charge of you'"

"All these I will give you, if you will fall
down and worship me."



New Testament: Jesus from Nazareth as the expected messiah of Israel

The beginning of Jesus's public ministry according to the gospel of Luke

- **Read Luke 4:16-44**

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."* And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."



New Testament: Jesus's commandment of love

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" He said to him, **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

Mathew 22:36-40

New Testament: Jesus's commandment of love as a concise summary of the Old Testament

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD; 5 and **you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.** 6 And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; 7 and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

9 "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field to its very border, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. 10 And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God. 11 "You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. 12 And you shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. 13 "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. 14 You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. 15 "You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. 16 You shall not go up and down as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand forth against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. 17 "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason with your neighbor, lest you bear sin because of him. 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, **but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:** I am the LORD. 19 "You shall keep my statutes. You shall not let your cattle breed with a different kind; you shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed; nor shall there come upon you a garment of cloth made of two kinds of stuff. 20 "If a man lies carnally with a woman who is a slave, betrothed to another man and not yet ransomed or given her freedom, an inquiry shall be held. They shall not be put to death, because she was not free;

Leviticus 19:9-20

Luke 10:25-37 ²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." ²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "**And who is my neighbor?**"

³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, ³⁴ and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ **Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor** to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Matthew 5:27-32 ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, `You shall not commit adultery.'
²⁸ But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already
committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it
out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your
whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off
and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole
body go into hell. ³¹ "It was also said, `Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a
certificate of divorce.'
³² But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except
on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a
divorced woman commits adultery.

John 8:1-12 ^{RSV} **John 8:1** but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the
morning he came again to the temple; all the people came to him, and he sat down
and taught them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been
caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to him, "Teacher, this
woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the law Moses commanded
us to stone such. What do you say about her?" ⁶ This they said to test him, that they
might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his
finger on the ground. ⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to
them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸
And once more he bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁹ But when
they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest, and Jesus was
left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus looked up and said to her,
"Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹ She said, "No one,
Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again."

New Testament: Jesus died, he was buried ... and risen on the third day

- After a short public activity (3 years at most) Jesus was accused by saducees and arrested
- He was crucified by order of Roman governor Pilatus in about 30 CE in Jerusalem
- Soon after that witnesses multiplied of his followers that he was raised from the dead.
- Plurality of witnesses (1Cor 15:1-11; Mar 16:1-8; Luk 24).

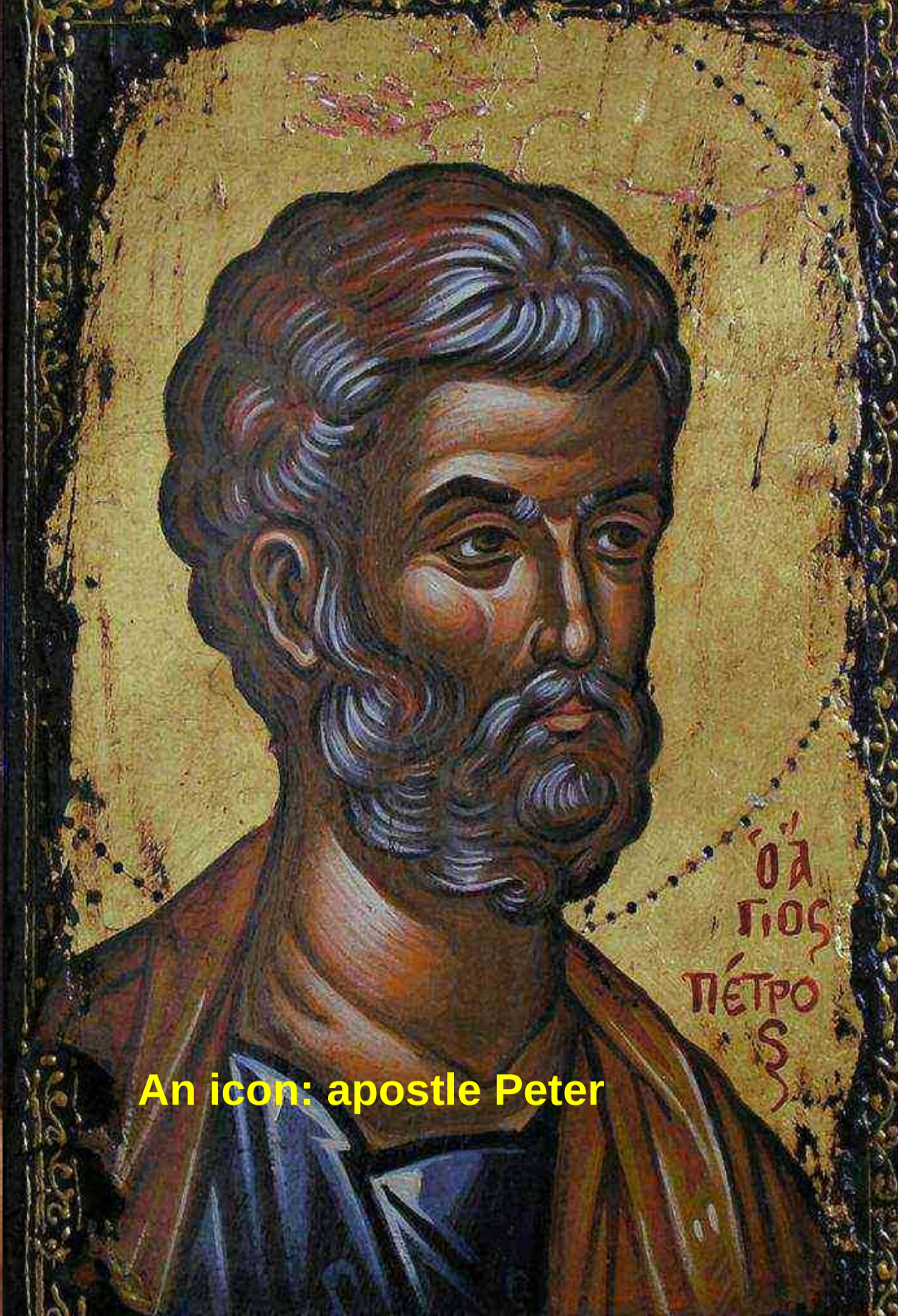




Read the story on the encounter on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13 – 35)



El Greco: apostle Paul



An icon: apostle Peter

New Testament – „apostle“ Paul, the missionary of the (non-Jewish) nations

- Originally called **Saul from Tarsus** (in today's Turkey), studied in Jerusalem, he started as a devotee of Pharisees and a fervent enemy of the Christians.
- About 15 years after Jesus's departure he converted to Christianity (see Acts chap. 9), later he adopted the name **Paul**.
- During his missionary journeys, following the refusal of Diaspora Jews to accept the “Good news” of Jesus's resurrection, he came to the conclusion, that the Gospel is for Non-Jews as well. They are to become God's people (“the new Israel”) without first becoming Jews.
- Some of the pupils and relatives of Jesus did not agree with it. For them, Jesus was the messiah of Israel only (see the letter to Galatians 2: 1-14).
- In the polemic with them, Paul developed his understanding of **God's grace**, according to which God's love is for everybody – and is free.
- The reason of Jesus's mission was his vicarious death on the cross which turned to be a sacrifice by which Jesus paid for the sins of all mankind.