A Comparison of the Four Gospels

	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Writer Traditionally attributed to:	Levi or Matthew Tax Collector & Apostle (Mk. 3:18; Matt. 99; 10:3; Lk, 6:15; Acts 1:13)	John Mark of Jerusalem (Mk. 3:18; Matt 9:9; 10:3; Lk. 6:15; Acts 1;13)	Luke the Beloved Physician. Companion of Paul (Col. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:11; Philemon. 1:24)	John, son of Zebedee Fisherman, One of the 12. (Mk. 1:19; 3:17; cf. Jn. 21:2)
Writer Clues from use of language and cultural awareness:	Multi-lingual (Aramaic & Greek) Shows training as a Scribe. (Note 14:51-52	Bilingual (Aramaic & Greek) living in the midst of Roman culture. (Note young man in Mk.14:51-52	Gentile Christian Convert; well educated Greek "historian"; client of Theophilus. Personal contact with original witnesses	Personal claim to be "the beloved disciple" telling the story but not necessarily writing it out. (Note Jn. 19:35 and 21:20-24)
To Whom Written	Well educated Palestine Jews believers in Jesus but who argue over the law.	Mostly Gentiles living in a Roman environment and culture.	Probably wealthy Gentiles (Some are Christians) in an urban setting.	Very mixed congregation at Ephesus .Mostly Jews in danger of "backsliding"
Christ Portrayed as	*Promised King* Son of David Great Lawgiver (like Moses). Emmanuel. King of the Jews.	*Servant King* Christ/Messiah. Suffering Son of Man. Eschatological Judge.	*Ideal King* The Perfect Man. A great prophet (in word & deed). Great Physician. The friend of sinners and outcasts.	*Shepherd King* The Self-expression of God (The Logos). Passover Lamb. Israel's Shepherd Eternal "I am".
Symbol	The Winged Lion	The Winged Ox	The Winged Man	The Eagle
"Branches" of OT compared to each Gospel	". . to David . . . a Branch . . a King": Zechariah. 9:9	"My Servant the Branch: Zechariah. 3:8.	"The Man . . the Branch": Zechariah. 6:12.	"The Branch of the Lord": Isaiah 4:2.
"Beholds" of OT compared to each Gospel	"Behold your King" Zechariah 9:9	"Behold my Servant". Isaiah 42:1	"Behold a Man" Zechariah 6:12	"Behold the lord God" Isaiah 40:9.
Key Word	"fulfilled"	"immediately"	"Son of Man"	"believe"
Key Verses	Matthew. 1:1; 6:33; and 16:18	Mark 8:27-31 and 10:45	Luke 1:1-14; 5:31-32 and 19:10	John 1:11-14 and 3:16.
Emphasis of the Writer	Sermons of Christ	Miracles of Christ	Parables of Christ	Doctrines of Christ
Writer's Style	Teacher	Preacher	Historian	Theologian
Why Written	To disciple a mainly Jewish congregation	To encourage a group undergoing persecution	To challenge the readers to freshly consider Christ.	To strengthen a group ostracized by other Jews.