

quite distinct. The authorship, when stated in the title, includes not only David but also Moses, Asaph and others. Although the author is not always named, these writings are part of God's Word and therefore true in whatever they affirm.

Much ingenuity has been expended in seeking to find sources for the first three books of the New Testament. The Gospel of Mark deals primarily with the actions of Christ, and quotes far less of His teachings than the books of Matthew and Luke. Many hold the theory that Mark was the earliest Gospel, and that the other Gospels took material from Mark and also made selections from a supposed compilation of the sayings of Jesus which the critics call "Q." No copy of this "Q" has ever been found nor is there any ancient evidence that such a writing existed. The apostles probably often preached in each other's presence, and it is not at all strange that they should have come to use similar language in speaking of similar incidents.

According to the common theory of the critics regarding the origin of the first three Gospels, wherever a statement is given in two different forms, one must be incorrect. However, such a conclusion is quite unnecessary. The messages quoted in these Gospels must represent only a very small part of the many times Jesus spoke. Probably the same illustrations were presented on various occasions, often in slightly different form. It should also be kept in mind that the great bulk of Jesus' teaching was probably spoken in Aramaic, the language used by the common people of Palestine in His day, though He may have preached occasionally in Greek, the language of the more sophisticated groups.