

Peer Review

Review of: "A Statistical Investigation of the Synoptic Problem"

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This manuscript presents an interesting and original statistical approach to the Synoptic Problem by applying likelihood-based methods to vocabulary frequency data from the Synoptic Concordance. The work is clearly structured, the statistical methodology is presented in a generally accessible manner, and the conclusions are carefully related to the broader scholarly debate. The attempt to bridge quantitative analysis and biblical scholarship is a notable strength of the paper.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the authors on this research. The manuscript is quite interesting and has some value. I would just like to make a few observations and suggestions for the authors to consider:

1. A brief discussion of the limitations of the Poisson modeling assumptions and the sensitivity of the results to alternative count models would be valuable.
2. Some readers from biblical studies may benefit from a slightly more intuitive explanation of the likelihood ratio testing procedure before the formal statistical presentation.
3. The final literary example from Luke 14 could be more explicitly connected to the quantitative findings, clarifying how it serves as an illustration rather than as additional statistical evidence.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this research, and addressing the abovementioned aspects can strengthen this investigation.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.