Here is the final portion of my proposal for the Graphic Textbook of the New Testament.
The earlier part described the sections on the Gospels. Here I map out the basic coverage
of the historical Jesus. The book will be extremely brief in comparison with my full-blown
NT textbook, which comes in at 572 pages. This one is projected to be 150 pages, and most
of it art work. Yikes! The challenge is kinda obvious.... But hey, if you can summarize the
NT in one sentence (and you can) (in fact a very very short sentence: It’s about the life and
teachings of Jesus and his followers....), you can surely do it in 150 pages!

At the end of the prospectus I include a couple of things that always go into this kind of
proposal: marketing ideas; what other books it will be competing with; and when I plan
(well, hope) to have it finished.

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The Historical Jesus (8 pages)

I will shift gears in the final chapter, away from explaining how Jesus is portrayed in each of
the Gospels to asking what he was really like, what he actually said, did, and experienced.
The chapter will begin by explaining the problems the Gospels pose as historical sources for
what really happened. We will have already seen numerous differences among the Gospels.
Some of these are direct contradictions. So how can we know which is right? Moreover, all
the Gospels were written decades after Jesus’ death by anonymous authors who did not
know him or even speak his same language (they wrote in Greek; he spoke Aramaic). They
received most of their stories through oral traditions, as they had been passed along by
word of mouth for years and decades.

Given these problems, how can historians know what really happened in Jesus’ life? After
explaining ...

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entirely to charity. Could anything be better???