

New Testament Survey Class



Part 1 – New Testament Facts and History

Part 2 – Message and Messengers

September 21, 2008 Sunday Night – FBC Dawsonville

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New Testament Survey Part One

Basic Facts and timelines of the NT

Style, Type and Groups of books

How God Moves

As with all studies of this type, it is very difficult to distill the rich information in the New Testament into 2 sessions. By necessity, I will try and cover the basics of the NT tonight and the balance next week.

Tonight we will focus on the basic information about the text, the approximate timelines, and then the various styles, types and groups of books contained with the NT.

Then I will start the discussion for next week by ending tonight with a view of How God Moves in the Bible, particularly the NT. This should set the stage for next weeks discussion.

New Testament Survey Part Two

- Message and messengers
- Links to the past and future
- Key messages w emphasis on 2 examples
 - What does it take to be a Christian?
 - What are the marks of a Christian?
 - What are the marks of a Successful Church?

As I mentioned before, next week we will not talk about basic facts but focus on the message of the NT and the Key Messengers that deliver it. I will try and show the links between the OT and the NT.

In the part of the discussion that focuses on the message of the NT, I will take at least 2 examples that are appropriate to us today in our lives in 2008. We will look at What does it take to be a Christian, and how do we exhibit the marks of a Christian in our lives.

Secondly, we will look at what the marks are of a successful NT Church. These marks will be viewed from the perspective of the Biblical truth about what we call the Church, and not what the world view as a successful church.

The Bible is inspired by God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Peter 1:20-21

First of all, we need to agree on several key items, as Christians. In the beginning study that Max Braddock taught, we learned that both the OT and the NT are God's Word, and inspired by God. This means that "God breathed". There are several references for this:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (New International Version)

New International Version (NIV) Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by [International Bible Society](#)

16All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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2 Peter 1:20-21 (New International Version)

New International Version (NIV) Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by [International Bible Society](#)

20Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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No less a writer of the NT than Paul and Peter confirm that the scriptures are Inspired by God. They are God authored and human written.

New Testament

The New Testament (New Covenant) is:

- Promised in Jeremiah 31:31-32.
- Referred to by Jesus in Luke 22:20.
- Referred to by Paul in 1 Cor. 11:25.
- Referred to in Hebrews (many references).



Jeremiah 31:31-32 (New International Version)

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31 "The time is coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will make a **new covenant**
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.

32 It will not be like the covenant
I made with their forefathers
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,
declares the LORD.

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Luke 22:20 (New International Version)

[New International Version](#) (NIV)

20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the **new covenant** in my blood, which is poured out for you.

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1 Corinthians 11:25 (New International Version)

[New International Version](#) (NIV)

25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the **new covenant** in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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Hebrews 9:15

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new **covenant**, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first **covenant**.

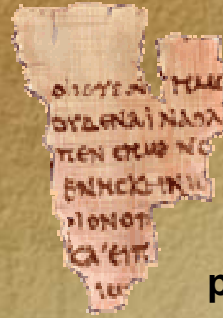
Hebrews 10:16

"This is the **covenant** I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

New Testament:

27 books

Written approximately
AD 55 -100



papyrus

The oldest New Testament fragment (from John 18) that we have today was copied in Greek on a papyrus codex (folded book) around AD 110-130.

So the New Covenant was written in about 60 years, with the earliest book approximately 25 years after the death and

Resurrection of Jesus in approximately 29AD. We have no original manuscripts but we have many early copies of letters. The earliest

Fragment dates from approximately 110AD and is part of the Gospel of John. These were not scrolls but folded and stitched books, called

A Codex.

General NT Facts

- NT books cover time period from 4BC to 100AD
- Written between 55AD and 100AD
- First 30 years of Christ's life virtually unknown
- During the whole of NT times, the only scripture was the OT scripture
- Books gathered about 150AD
- 27 books included in NT
- 3 Synoptic Gospels
 - Matt, Mark, Luke
- 1 Spiritual Gospel
 - John
- History of Early Church and Apostles actions – Acts
- Paul's Letters
 - Pastoral, Church
- General Letters
- Revelation of Jesus Christ

Let's look at some of the facts about the New Testament. Unlike the OT, whose time span is thousands of years, the New Testament

Covers a period of about 105 years, beginning with Jesus birth in about 4BC and ending with the book of Revelation, written about 100AD.

The actual texts were written in about 45 years. With the exception of Matthew and Luke, there is little known or written about the first

30 years of Jesus life. The key things we know about His ministry are from the last 3 years of His life.

Since none of the NT books were written until 25 years after Jesus earthly ministry was over, the only scripture they had was the OT scripture. Jesus was born under the old Covenant and until His resurrection, there was no new covenant. It was foretold, but until the resurrection it was not in effect.

The NT as we know it, began to be gathered in about 150AD and placed in a format like the one we use today, although there were some big arguments

About some books being included, with James and Hebrews, being some of the last included.

There is **ONE GOSPEL** – in 4 views presented in the first 4 books of the NT.

Matthew – written to the Jews to show Jesus as the Messiah. It details the prophecy and fulfillment all through it

Mark – written from Peters notes, is the earliest and fastest moving of the Gospels. It was also written to show the Jews who Jesus

Was, but is more sequential narrative than Matthew.

Luke – written to the Greeks and Gentiles to detail who Jesus is and lay out the Gospel without much Jewish reference. It is an ideal

Book that shows the most complete historical narrative of Jesus' life

John – a spiritual Gospel, less concerned about historical detail, and more concerned with the spiritual side of who Jesus is and why He came.

All four of them present a single Gospel, with different goals and audiences.

New Testament Book Types

Gospels	History	Letters to Churches	Pastoral Letters	General Letters	Apocalyptic
Matthew		Romans	1 Timothy	Hebrews	Revelation
Mark		1 Corinthians	2 Timothy	James	
Luke	Acts	2 Corinthians	Titus	1 Peter	
John		Galatians	Philemon	2 Peter	
		Ephesians		1 John	
		Colossians		2 John	
		1 Thess		3 John	
		2 Thess		Jude	
		Philippians			

As you can see, there are several types of books that make up the NT. Of course the predominant type are Gospels and Letters. The letters are letters to

Churches, mostly written to address specific problems the churches were having in their fellowships, letters to individuals on either pastoral advice or specific requests (Philemon). The last type of letter is the General letter or Epistle and there are 6 of them pertaining to subjects the writer was compelled to address.

Acts and Revelation are in some ways both history books. Acts is a moving history that goes along with the companion letters that speaks of the

Early church growth, and the Apostles acts in the new church. This book is an ideal follow on to the book of Luke, which details the life and early ministry of

Jesus, then picks up in Acts to lay out the early church and all its details. Revelation is a book that is like no other in the NT. It is a book that lays out the future of the Church at the end times.

Revelation comes from the Greek name of the book "Apokalupsis" which means a "revealing" or an "uncovering". This book is not a book that is intended

That we not understand, but is written so we CAN understand and be confident in the future. The first sentence of the book lays this out"

Revelation 1

Prologue

1The revelation of Jesus Christ, which *God gave him* to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

In Genesis, we have the story of God and Creation, Heavens, Animals, Man, Earth, plants. Who created it, why and how it was created, and the story of Man

Rebelling against God and beginning the whole process of Sin, Evil, decay, and Suffering we live with today. In Revelation, we see God, through Jesus Christ defeat Evil, Satan, and world problems, restore a new Heaven and a New Earth ridding us of Death and decay, and bringing us back to direct worship of Him. These two books are the book-ends of the whole Bible Story.

Between the time of the New Covenant, and the New Earth and the New Heaven, the NT books provide us with instructions on how to live the Christian life, and how to deal with problems we will face. In very real terms, the NT is the handbook for Christians to live their life in accordance with Gods will and Gods Plan.

The Gospels

Book

Written By

Gospel of Matthew

Matthew

Gospel of Mark

Mark

Gospel of Luke

Luke

Gospel of John

John

History

Book

Acts

Written By

Luke

Pauline Letters

Letters Written by Paul to Various Churches

Romans *

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians*

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

*** Paul never visited these Churches**

Pastoral Letters

Letters Written by Paul to Pastors and Individuals

**Philemon
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus**

General Letters

Book

Written By

Hebrews

Unknown

James

James

1 Peter

Peter

2 Peter

Peter

1 John

John

2 John

John

3 John

John

Jude

Jude

Apocalyptic

Book

Revelation

Written By

John



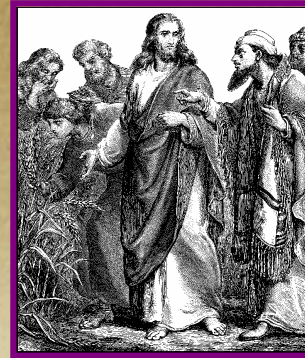
Key Point

There is much evidence that the Bible we have today is remarkably true to the original writings. Of the thousands of copies made by hand before AD 1500, more than 5,300 Greek manuscripts from the New Testament alone still exist today. The text of the Bible is better preserved than the writings of Caesar, Plato, or Aristotle.

Followers of Jesus

Followers of Jesus write eye-witness reports (Gospels), history, letters to other believers, and the Revelation.

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John
- Paul
- James
- Peter
- Jude



AD 200-300

Early Translations

Earliest Translations:

- Latin
- Coptic (Egypt)
- Syriac (Syria)



Early Coptic Translation



AD 200-300

Church Fathers

Church fathers accept the writings of the Gospels and Paul's letters as *canonical*.

- Canonical: from a Greek word referring to the *rule* of faith and truth

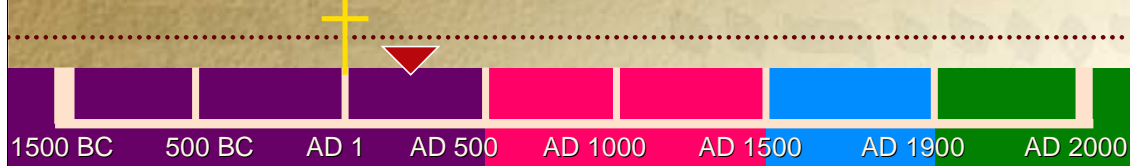


1500 BC 500 BC AD 1 AD 500 AD 1000 AD 1500 AD 1900 AD 2000

AD 200-300

The Canon

The Canon refers to the authoritative books that are officially accepted and approved as Holy Scripture. These books are based on a standard or “rule of faith.” Some of these standards include: divine inspiration, accuracy, doctrinal truth, consistency, power, and acceptance by the people of God.



AD 313

The Canon

The New Testament books are collected and circulated throughout the Mediterranean about the time of Constantine, the Roman Emperor, who legalizes Christianity in AD 313.



Constantine



AD 397

The Canon

The 27 books of the New Testament are formally confirmed as canonical by the Synod of Carthage in AD 397, thus recognizing three centuries of use by followers of Christ.



AD 400

The Canon

By AD 400, the standard of 27 New Testament books is accepted in the East and West as confirmed by:

- Athanasius
- Jerome
- Augustine
- Three church councils



Augustine



God Moves...

- The OT shows God stepping into our world to keep His plan moving
 - Abraham selected for his faith
 - Isaac selected as the child of Promise
 - Moses selected and empowered to change the course of the Hebrew people
 - Passover, Exodus, 40 years in the Wilderness, the 10 Commandments, the promised land
 - Joshua to bring the people to the Promised Land
 - Faith walk into the Jordan river with the Ark
 - David, Solomon, Prophets, Punishment, etc.

We can look at hundreds of examples of how God stepped into our world the change the course of events and nations. He came and He left. When He left, the people went back to their old ways and did not follow Him.

God Moves in the NT

- In the NT, God comes in the form of His Son, Jesus Christ
- He is physically with the people, but is limited by time and space since
- He intervenes to accomplish His plan
 - Miracles, healings, association with “sinners”
 - He lives a perfect life, under the old covenant, and dies as the perfect Lamb for our sins.
 - He is resurrected to demonstrate His power, and his authority to do what He claimed
 - He selects ordinary men and makes them extraordinary
 - These extraordinary men begin the NT Church
 - He does what only He can do to accomplish the New Covenant

God Moves in us...

- At Pentecost – the Holy Spirit comes to the people
 - Now God lives not as a spirit from on high, not as a person physically with us, but God lives IN us
 - We become a new creature in Christ, with the laws of God written on our hearts
 - We are transformed from creatures on earth to Sons and Daughters of God. We are part of a heavenly kingdom

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit –John 14: 15-17

15 If you love me, you will obey what I command.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you *forever*—

17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. *But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

Next Week

- Message and Messengers
- Links to the past and future
- Key messages w emphasis on 2 examples
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