

# BIBLE INTRODUCTION #4

## NEW TESTAMENT: THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

### II TIMOTHY 3:16-17

“All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

#### DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT<sup>4</sup>

GOSPELS<sup>1</sup>  
HISTORY<sup>1</sup>

PAULINE EPISTLES<sup>2</sup>  
GENERAL EPISTLES<sup>3</sup>  
PROPHECY<sup>3</sup>

MATTHEW-JOHN  
ACTS  
ROMANS-PHILEMON  
HEBREWS-JUDE  
REVELATION

<sup>1</sup>This chart    <sup>2</sup>Chart 5    <sup>3</sup>Chart 6    <sup>4</sup>Old Testament charts 1-3

#### THE GOSPELS

##### MATTHEW

- Author: Matthew
- From: Judea
- Date: Likely A.D. 40s; considered by many to have been the first book written, Matthew was at least written before A.D. 70 (24:4-35) though some time had passed since the crucifixion (27:8; 28:15)
- Audience: Jews
- Purpose: To show the Jews that Jesus was their prophesied King (21:4-5) and Messiah [Christ] (16:16)
- Keys:
  - Words: King, Kingdom, Verily
  - Phrase: “It is written”
  - Verse: 28:18 (All authority)
  - Passages: 5:2-12 (Blessedness); 6:9-13 (The model prayer); 11:28-30 (Jesus’ invitation); 16:21-26 (True profit)
  - Chapters: 1 (Genealogy and prophesied virgin birth); 13 (The kingdom parables); 24 (Contrast between A.D. 70 and the Second Coming)
- Lessons:
  - Jesus is worthy to receive worship (2:2,11; 14:33)
  - Jesus did the Father’s Will (3:15; 6:10; cf. Luke 22:42) and so pleased Him (3:17)
  - God’s Word should be utilized in battling temptation (4:4,7,10)
  - One’s influence must be good and evident (5:13-16)
  - Those acting to be seen of men will only have reward in this life (6:1-6,6:16-18)
  - Ones who will not forgive will not be forgiven (6:14-15)
  - Few will be saved (7:13-14)

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#### THE GOSPELS (continued)

- Those who would be blessed by God must do His Will (7:21; 12:50)
- One must confess Christ, not deny Him (10:32-33)
- One must replace wickedness with righteousness (12:43-45)
- Spiritual family is more important than physical family (12:47-50; cf. 10:35-37)
- Jesus was greater than Moses and Elijah as was His system greater than the law and the prophets (17:1-5)
- Children are not born sinful, but innocent, and must be emulated by those who would be righteous (18:1-6)
- God’s children must always be prepared and willing to forgive (18:21-22; 19:14)
- Marriage is for life (19:1-9)
- One must be prepared and willing to sacrifice all for Christ (19:16-24)
- Even Jesus could not save those who do not want to be saved (23:37)
- No signs will precede the Second Coming (24:36-51); therefore, one must ever be ready (25:1-13)
- Miscellaneous: There is some debate over whether Matthew was written in Hebrew or Greek; in reality it is of no consequence, for the Holy Spirit has known both languages

##### MARK

- Author: John Mark
- From: Perhaps Rome (II Timothy 4:11) or Babylon (I Peter 5:13)
- Date: Likely mid A.D. 60’s, for the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 had yet to occur (13:1-31)
- Audience: Gentiles, specifically Romans
- Purpose: To present Jesus, the Son of God (1:1), as a Man of action who could triumph over death
- Keys:
  - Words: Immediately, Straightway
  - Verse: 1:1 (Son of God)
  - Passage: 12:28-34 (The first and second commandment)
  - Chapter: 16 (Resurrection and appearances)
- Lessons:
  - Even Jesus needed to pray (1:35; 6:46)
  - Jesus could have compassion, literally “suffer with,” those to whom He came (1:41; 5:19; 6:34; 8:2)

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# NEW TESTAMENT: THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

## THE GOSPELS (MARK continued)

- Jesus had power over physical ailment (2:3-12)
- Jesus had power over sin (2:5-12)
- Jesus knew what it was like to feel and suffer as a man (3:5; 6:6; 7:34; 8:12; 10:14; cf. John 11:35; Hebrews 4:15)
- Jesus had power over the spirit world (5:1-13)
- Jesus had power over death (5:22-24,35-42)
- Faith which motivates action is the faith that saves (5:25-34; cf. Hebrews 11)
- Jesus had power over material things (6:34-44)
- Man-made tradition must not be elevated above Divine precept (7:1-13)
- The proper attitude must accompany hearing (7:16)
- Sin starts in the heart (7:18-23)
- The soul is man's most valuable possession (8:34-37)
- Humility, an attribute of the Lord, is expected of His servants (10:35-45)
- Jesus expects fruit from all that are capable of bearing fruit (11:13-14,20-21; cf. John 15:2)
- Jesus expects His followers to pay their taxes (12:14-17)
- God knows the sacrifices men make (12:41-44)
- Honor is not in what one has, but in what that person does with it (14:3-9)
- Some will do anything to be rid of Jesus and the responsibility of obedience that He requires (15:6-15)
- Belief and baptism are equally necessary in obedience (16:16)
- The purpose of miracles was to confirm the Word of God (16:20)
- Miscellaneous: Some suggest that Mark was the young man of 14:51-52

## LUKE

- Author: Luke (1:3; Acts 1:1)
- From: Perhaps Asia or Macedonia (Acts 16:10) or Rome (Colossians 4:14; II Timothy 4:11)
- Date: Late A.D. 40s to early 60s; certainly before Acts (1:1) and Jerusalem's A.D. 70 destruction (21:20)
- Audience: Theophilus (1:3)
- Purpose: To provide an inspired account of what really had taken place in the life of Christ (1:1-4)
- Keys:
  - Word: Lost
  - Verses: 1:4 (Knowing with certainty); 9:27 (Kingdom was soon to come); 19:10 (Jesus' mission)
  - Chapter: 15 (Lost sheep, coin, son)
- Lessons:
  - One can *know* about spiritual matters (1:4; cf. I John 5:13; Isaiah 1:18)

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## THE GOSPELS (continued)

- Sometimes answers to prayers exceed expectations (1:13)
- Jesus grew the same ways that our children do (2:40,52)
- Sometimes the calling of names is necessary (3:7)
- The message and the need to preach it is the same no matter who is the audience or what is the cost (3:19-20)
- No one is above facing temptation (4:1-13)
- Jesus' overcoming temptation is an encouragement to all (4:1-13; cf. Hebrews 2:18)
- Even the devils believed and trembled (4:34,41; James 2:19), but that alone could not save (James 2:20)
- Jesus knows what man's thoughts are (5:22)
- One must actively build upon the foundation of Christ (6:46-49)
- Those in the church have blessings even John and others could only have imagined (7:28; 10:23-24)
- There is power in the Word (8:4-11)
- Attitude promotes or rejects obedience (8:5-8)
- One must treat all equally—with love, mercy, and good will (10:25-37)
- God will answer the prayers of the righteous (11:1-13; cf. James 5:16; Proverbs 15:29; 28:9)
- Covetousness will destroy one's reward (12:13-21)
- Sincerity is not enough (13:24)
- One must be in the right location to enjoy salvation (14:15)
- One can be lost outside or inside of his Father's house (15:11-32)
- One cannot spiritually straddle the fence (16:13; I Kings 18:21)
- One cannot live without expecting difficulties (17:1; cf. II Timothy 3:12)
- One must not lead others to sin (17:2)
- Appreciation should mark the attitude of one who would receive good things (17:11-19)
- Humility is the attitude God rewards (18:9-14)
- God is the God of the living (20:37-38)
- One must be selfless, even in persecution (23:34; cf. Acts 7:60)

## ANSWERING CRITICS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Some suggest that similarities in Matthew, Mark, and Luke mean that these were not distinct accounts; but copies of each other or other sources
- This suggestion attacks inspiration and ignores that these accounts would necessarily be similar due to their subject matter and the disposition of the inspired writers



# NEW TESTAMENT: THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

## THE GOSPELS

### JOHN

- Author: John (21:20-24)
- From: Ephesus
- Date: Likely A.D. 96, around the same time as the Revelation
- Audience: All men, especially the church
- Purpose: To show that Jesus was God (1:1; 20:30-31) and that His sacrifice was effectual for all (3:16; 12:32-33)
- Keys:
  - Words: Word, Believe, Life
  - Phrase: "I am"
  - Verse: 1:14 (Word made flesh); 3:16 (God's love); 21:20 (Just the highlights)
  - Passage: 20:30-31 (John's purpose)
  - Chapter: 17 (Jesus' prayer)
- Lessons:
  - Jesus is God (1:1-14), the I am (8:24,58)
  - Jesus knows man (2:24-25)
  - All men have the opportunity to be saved due to the gift of God and sacrifice of Jesus (3:16)
  - Attitude and action are equally important in obeying and worshipping God (4:24)
  - Jesus' commands are authoritative (5:10-11)
  - "Son of" indicates equality with (5:18)
  - Jesus would not be an earthly King (6:15; cf. Matthew 4:8); neither would He have an earthly kingdom (18:36)
  - There is no source for eternal life, save Jesus (6:68)
  - It is not wrong to judge others if one judge righteously (7:24)
  - Satan is powerful (8:44)
  - God does not listen to those who do not listen to Him (9:31)
  - Jesus chose to die (10:15,17-18)
  - The best time to honor someone is before his death (12:3,7-8)
  - The spiritual must be elevated over the physical, the eternal over the temporal (12:25)
  - Love is the means by which God's children are known (John 13:34-35)
  - Genuine love necessarily motivates obedience (14:15)
  - Jesus had to die before the church could be established (16:7; cf. Acts 2:1-4)
  - Those united with Jesus and the Father must be united with each other (17:20-23)
  - Even those close to the Savior can stumble (18:15-18,25-27)
  - Jesus had to return to the Father (20:17)
  - There are not enough words to do justice to the Word's works (21:25; cf. 1:1-3,14)

### John 17:17

**"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."**

## THE EMPTY TOMB

- **ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE RESURRECTION**
  - DISCIPLES STOLE BODY: Four to sixteen alert and well-trained Roman soldiers guarded the tomb; the disciples did not expect the resurrection to occur anyway; and they ultimately died for what they knew was true
  - ENEMIES STOLE BODY: This would be self-defeating, for a stolen body would merely increase belief in the resurrection
  - MARYS WENT TO WRONG TOMB: The right tomb was known to Joseph and the disciples; furthermore, the chief priests, elders, and soldiers gladly would have taken the Marys to the right tomb where the still dead body of Jesus was
  - JESUS DID NOT REALLY DIE: Multiple Roman soldiers, experienced in seeing and ensuring death, recognized Jesus' condition as that of being dead
  - WITNESSES HALLUCINATED: Over 500 individuals in numerous locales over many weeks all had to share similar hallucinations
  - BODY WAS IN A COMMON PIT FOR THE EXECUTED: Joseph of Arimathaea was granted the body (John 19:38-41)
  - MYTH OF THE RESURRECTION WAS STARTED YEARS LATER: An understanding and acknowledgment of the resurrection, by both sides, was immediate
- **EVIDENCES OF THE RESURRECTION**
  - APPEARANCES AFTER THE RESURRECTION: To the Marys near the tomb (Matthew 28:9; Mark 16:9; John 20:14); to Peter in Jerusalem (Luke 24:34; I Corinthians 15:5); to the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:15; Mark 16:12); to the disciples, minus Thomas, in Jerusalem (Luke 24:36; John 20:19); to the disciples eight days later in Jerusalem (Mark 16:14; John 20:26; I Corinthians 15:5); to the disciples as they fished on Galilee (John 21:1); to more than 500 brethren in Galilee (I Corinthians 15:6); to the eleven in Galilee (Matthew 28:17); James (I Corinthians 15:7); to the eleven on Olivet before the ascension (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:50; Acts 1:4); and to Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-5; 22:6-8; Acts 26:12-15; I Corinthians 15:8)
  - FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY AND TYPE: Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:10; Psalms 2:7; 16:10; Hosea 6:2; Jonah 1:17; Matthew 12:39-40; 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 26:61; 27:40, 27:63; and others)
  - TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES: The account and silencing of the guards (Matthew 28:11-15)
  - TESTIMONY OF THOSE WHO WERE INSPIRED: As was spoken (Acts 1:3; 2:24, 2:32; 3:15; 4:10, 4:33; 7:55; 13:37; 17:31); as was written (Romans 6:4-5; 8:11; I Corinthians 15:4; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 2:12; Hebrews 13:20; I Peter 1:3)

# NEW TESTAMENT: THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

## BOOK OF HISTORY

### ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- Author: Luke
- From: Probably Rome (Colossians 4:14; II Timothy 4:11)
- Date: Late A.D. 50s to mid 60s, for the book followed the writing of Luke (1:1), the deputyship of Gallio in Achaia (18:12) which began in A.D. 51, and the beginning of the governorship of Festus (24:27) which dates to A.D. 56; however, the book preceded the burning of Rome by Nero in A.D. 64, the death of Paul between A.D. 66 and 68, and the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (these three events would have merited allusion)
- Audience: Theophilus (1:1)
- Purpose: To provide an accurate account of the history of the early church (cf. Luke 1:1-4)
- Keys:
  - Words: Church, Baptized, Witness
  - Phrase: "What ... do"
  - Verse: 2:47 (Consistent growth)
  - Chapters: 2 (Establishment of the church); 7 (Stephen's martyrdom)
- Lessons:
  - God is not concerned with one's national or ethnical background, only his soul (2; 8; 10; cf. I Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11)
  - Baptism is essential for salvation (2:38,41; 8:12,13,16,36,38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15,33; 18:8; 19:5; 22:16)
  - Christians must care for each other (2:44-46; 6:1-2; 20:34-35; cf. Galatians 6:2)
  - Even the "chief" of sinners can change (8:3; 9; 22; 26; cf. I Timothy 1:15)
  - Some judge themselves unworthy of salvation (13:46)
  - When ones cannot work together, they can still be relied upon to work effectively (15:36-41)
  - It is hard to say goodbye to a faithful co-laborer, especially when there may never be another meeting (20:36-38)—at least on this side of eternity
    - The righteous will face persecution
    - The church must be mission minded
- Miscellaneous: Without the book of Acts, much of the New Testament would border on the enigmatic

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

- Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47
- WHO: The eleven, and in effect all Christians
- WHAT: Make disciples (add people to the kingdom)
- WHEN: Throughout the church age
- WHERE: "All nations"; "all the world"
- TO WHOM: "Every creature"
- WHY: Lead a lost world to the One through Whom salvation comes
- HOW: Teach and baptize
- TO WHAT END: That all that Jesus commanded of the faithful might be observed

## PAUL'S JOURNEYS

- FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY (Acts 13:2-14:27)
  - Antioch and Seleucia in Syria to Salamis and Paphos on Cyprus to Perga in Pamphylia to Antioch in Pisidia to Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe in Lycaonia back through Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia to Perga and Attalia in Pamphylia to Antioch in Syria
- SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (Acts 15:36-18:22)
  - Antioch in Syria to Derbe to Lystra to the regions of Phrygia, Galatia, and Mysia to Troas in Mysia (where he received the "Macedonian Call") to Samothracia in the Aegean to Neapolis and Philippi in Macedonia through Amphipolis and Apollonia in Macedonia to Thessalonica and Berea in Macedonia to Athens, Corinth, and Cenchrea in Greece to Ephesus to Caesarea in Judea to Antioch of Syria
- THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY (Acts 18:23-21:15)
  - From Antioch in Syria to the regions of Galatia and Phrygia to Ephesus in Asia to Macedonia to Greece back to Macedonia to Philippi to Troas to Assos in Mysia and to or by Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Trogyllium Miletus, and Coos on Asia's Aegean coast to Rhodes in the Aegean to Patara in Lycia to Tyre in Phoenicia to Judea's Ptolemais, Caesarea, and Jerusalem
- UNDOCUMENTED JOURNEY
  - Involved preaching as far as Illyricum (Romans 15:19) which evidently included Nicopolis (Titus 3:12)—these were on the eastern side of the Adriatic Sea, northwest of Greece
- JOURNEY TO ROME (Acts 23:11-28:16)
  - From Jerusalem to Caesarea to Sidon in Phoenicia to Myra in Lycia to the Fair Havens and Lasea in Crete to Melita in the Mediterranean to Syracuse in Sicily to Rhegium, Puteoli, Appii Forum, the Three Taverns and Rome

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# BIBLE INTRODUCTION #5

## NEW TESTAMENT: PAULINE EPISTLES

### II TIMOTHY 3:16-17

“All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

#### DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT<sup>4</sup>

GOSPELS<sup>1</sup>  
HISTORY<sup>1</sup>

PAULINE EPISTLES<sup>2</sup>  
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MATTHEW-JOHN  
ACTS  
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REVELATION

<sup>1</sup>Chart 4   <sup>2</sup>This chart   <sup>3</sup>Chart 6   <sup>4</sup>Old Testament charts 1-3

#### THE PAULINE EPISTLES

##### ROMANS

- Author: Paul (1:1; cf. 11:13; 15:15-20; Acts 22:21; 26:17-18); Tertius was Paul's amanuensis [the one who wrote Paul's words] (16:22)
- From: Corinth, for Phebe was from near Corinth (16:1) and Gaius (16:23; I Corinthians 1:14) and Erastus were from Corinth (16:23; II Timothy 4:20)
- Date: Around A.D. 54, for this preceded Paul's return through Macedonia on his way to Jerusalem on his third journey (15:25-26; Acts 19:21; 20:3; cf. I Corinthians 16:1-6)
- Audience: The congregations of the Lord's church in Rome (1:7)
- Purpose: To help the Roman Christians to appreciate the superiority of the new law over the old and thereby to answer the Judaizers threatening them
- Keys:
  - Words: Faith, Law, Flesh, Spirit, Called, Righteousness, Obedience
  - Phrases: "What shall we say then," "God forbid"
  - Verse: 1:16 (Not ashamed)
  - Passages: 1:18-32 (Humanism exemplified); 12:1-2 (Reasonable service), 12:9-21 (Christian behavior)
  - Chapter: 6 (Whom to serve)
- Lessons:
  - A congregation may be known throughout the world for its good works (1:8; 16:19)
  - All owe debts that will never be repaid (1:14)
  - Ingratitude is one of the first steps to apostasy (1:21)
  - One must judge righteous judgment (2:1-3; cf. John 7:24)
  - All need the Gospel (3:23; cf. 1:15)
  - One must not use grace as an occasion to sin (6:1-2)
  - Baptism precedes newness of life (6:3-4)
  - One can be sure of his salvation (8:1)
  - Christians can and must have hope (8:25-26)
  - Providence does exist (8:28)
  - The love of Christ is immeasurable (8:35-39)
  - Works alone are not sufficient to save (9:31-32)
  - Zeal alone is not sufficient to save (10:2-3)
  - Belief and obedience are both necessary for salvation (10:9-17)
  - The wisdom and knowledge of God are immeasurable (11:33)

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#### THE PAULINE EPISTLES (continued)

- There is one body (12:4-5; cf. I Corinthians 12:12,27)
- The Christian must respect authority (13:1-7)
- Peace and edification must be Christian motivators (14:19)
- Though no longer binding, the Old Testament is worthy of study (15:4; cf. Acts 7:2-53; I Corinthians 10:1-12)
- Sometimes opportunity to do good must take precedence over opportunity to do one's own will (15:24-25,28)
- Some who appear to be serving God are serving themselves (16:18)
- Miscellaneous: There were numerous congregations in Rome (16:3-15)

##### I CORINTHIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1); the uninspired postscript credits Stephanas, Fortunatas, Achaicus, and Timothy as the amanuenses, but it is equally likely—perhaps even preferable—to accept Sosthenes in that role (1:1)
- From: Ephesus (16:8), though the uninspired postscript says Philippi
- Date: Around A.D. 54, for Paul would leave Ephesus around April or May of his last year there (16:8), and this was likely later rather than earlier in his time there due to the errors which had to have had time to develop
- Audience: The church at Corinth (1:2)
- Purpose: To help the Corinthians get away from the doctrines of men and back to the Doctrine of Christ
- Keys:
  - Words: Called, Wisdom, Body, Charity
  - Verse: 15:14 (What if no resurrection?)
  - Passages: 1:10-13 (Against division); 2:9-13 (Inspiration); 11:23-26 (The Lord's Supper)
  - Chapters: 13 (Love); 15 (Resurrection's victory)
- Lessons:
  - Division is terrible (1:10-13)
  - Preaching is God's means of reaching the lost (1:18; cf. Titus 1:3)
  - Man is a poor judge of true wisdom (1:19-27)
  - The Message is more important than the messenger (2:1-5)
  - Stewards must be faithful (4:2)
  - Anyone who is righteous is worthy to be followed as an example (4:16; 11:1; cf. Philippians 3:17)
  - Church discipline has its place (5:1-7); and will always be successful when properly practiced (II Corinthians 2:1-11; 7:7-16)
  - The Christian has to be in the world; however, he does not have to be like it (5:9-10; cf. Romans 12:1-2)
  - One can turn from sinfulness (6:9-11)
  - Just because one can do something does not mean he should (6:12; 8:9; 10:33)
  - Those who work for the Lord as evangelists are worthy of pay (9:6-14)
  - Self-discipline is necessary to achieve victory (9:24-27)
  - Temptation can be overcome (10:13; cf. Matthew 4:1-10)
  - Man's every action should glorify God (10:31)

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# NEW TESTAMENT: PAULINE EPISTLES

## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (I CORINTHIANS continued)

- o Love is essential (13; 16:14)
- o The Christian has hope in the next life because of the resurrection of Christ (15:19-20)
- o One must choose his relations carefully (15:33)
- o Labor in the Lord is not vain (15:58)
- Miscellaneous: Some have suggested other meanings translation-wise, but it is possible that Paul refers to an earlier letter to the Corinthians (5:9); whether Paul did or did not is inconsequential, the Holy Spirit did not deem it necessary to include it, for if it needed to be in Scripture it would have been

## II CORINTHIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1); perhaps Titus (7:6) was Paul's amanuensis, though the uninspired postscript suggest Lucas, Luke, as well
- From: Macedonia (2:13; 7:5-7; 8:1; 9:2-4)
- Date: Around A.D. 55, for a year after Paul's first letter to Corinth (8:10; 9:2)
- Audience: The church at Corinth (1:1)
- Purpose: To build upon the first, very successful (2:1-11; 7:7-16), epistle and to substantiate Paul's apostolic authority (11:5)
- Keys:
  - o Words: Repent, Comfort
  - o Phrase: "We faint not"
  - o Verse: 2:14 (Triumph is in Christ)
  - o Passage: 7:8-10 (Repentance had taken place)
  - o Chapters: 8-9 (Contribution)
- Lessons:
  - o Consolation is in God (1:3-8)
  - o Satan blinds some to the Truth (4:3-4)
  - o Suffering in this life (4:18-5:8; cf. 11:23-28; 12:7-10) is light compared to the reward of eternity (4:17; cf. Matthew 5:10-12)
  - o All will stand before God in judgment (5:10)
  - o Fear can be a motivator (5:11)
  - o One in Christ is a new creature (5:17; cf. Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:27)
  - o The church must be distinct from the world (6:14-7:1)
  - o Giving starts with self (8:5)
  - o Giving should be liberal and voluntary (9:6-7)
  - o Our giving should be a response to God's giving (9:15)
  - o The church is the bride of Christ (11:2)
  - o Christians must examine and prove themselves (13:5)

## GALATIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1; 5:2); there was no amanuensis (6:11)
- From: Probably Macedonia (e.g. Philippi) or Greece (e.g. Corinth); the uninspired postscript suggests Rome, but that might have been too late for this book
- Date: Probably A.D. 50s, probably earlier rather than later, but it was at least a while after the meeting in Jerusalem of around A.D. 46 or 47 and the events following in Antioch (2:1-14)
- Audience: The churches in the region of Galatia (probably would include the churches in the southern cities of Antioch, Derbe, Iconium, Lystra; perhaps also the churches in the northern cities of Amasela, Ancyra, Parnassus, Seleucia, and Tavium if churches were in those places by this time)
- Purpose: To respond to the work of the Judaizers who quickly threatened the churches in Galatia
- Keys:
  - o Words: Faith, Law, Flesh, Bondage
  - o Verses: 4:4 (Fulness of time); 5:1 (Stand in liberty)
  - o Passage: 4:21-5:6 (Allegory of Hagar and Sarah)
- Lessons:
  - o There is only one effectual Gospel (1:6-9)
  - o The Old Law could not measure up to the New Law in providing righteousness/justification (2:16-21; 3:16-17; 4:21-31)
  - o Christians must be crucified with Christ (2:20)
  - o One can frustrate the grace of God (2:21)

(continued next column)

## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (continued)

- o The blessing promised to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) flowed through Christ (3:29), and is received through being put into Christ (3:28) in baptism (3:27)
- o Jesus came when God had finished preparing for His coming (4:4)
- o One should not blame the messenger for the message that comes from God (4:16)
- o One cannot sin in order for grace to abound (5:13; cf. Romans 6:1)
- o The fruit of the Spirit (5:22-23) is at contradistinction to the works of the flesh (5:19-21)
- o One must humbly help, not hinder, those who are fallen (6:1)
- o One must help others in matters too heavy for them (6:2), and help himself in areas over which he may have control (6:5)
- o What man sows he shall reap (6:7)
- o The reward is for the worker who never retired (6:9)
- o One must aid all men! (6:10)
- o The church is God's nation--He does not need another (6:16; cf. John 18:36)

## EPHESIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1; 3:1); Tychicus was likely Paul's amanuensis (6:21)
- From: A Roman prison (3:1; 4:1; 6:19-20; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Date: Around A.D. 57-59, for Paul was apparently serving his first prison sentence in Rome (3:1; 4:1; 6:19-20; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Audience: The church at Ephesus (1:1), though some feel this was a letter intended for a number of congregations (cf. Colossians 4:16)
- Purpose: Tychicus was on his way to Colossae (6:21), so Paul saw a good opportunity to encourage the Ephesians (6:22)
- Keys:
  - o Words: Walk, Body, Unity, One, Love
  - o Phrases: "In heavenly"
  - o Verse: 1:3 (Blessings in Christ)
  - o Passages: 4:1-6 (Unity); 5:22-33 (Christ and the church); 6:10-17 (Panoply of God)
  - o Chapter: 4 (Unity)
- Lessons:
  - o The church is the body of Christ (1:22-23)
  - o Grace and faith are necessary for salvation (2:8-9) but so are works (2:10)
  - o Men can know the meaning of the mystery (3:3-5): The Gentiles can be fellow-heirs (3:6; I Timothy 3:16)
  - o No one is so great that he need not be humble (3:8)
  - o God had an eternal purpose for His church (3:11)—there have been no contingency plans needed
  - o God only receives glory in the church (3:21)
  - o God is a God of unity (4:1-6, 12-16; cf. John 17:21-23)
  - o The Truth should be preached in love (4:15)
  - o Anger is not sin (4:26)
  - o The Christian must guard his speech (4:29) and his actions (4:31-32)
  - o One can understand the Will of the Lord (5:17)
  - o When singing, one makes the melody in his heart (5:19; cf. Colossians 3:16)
  - o Family relationships must be based on love, understanding ones role, and mutual respect (5:22-6:4); relationships in workplace must be based similarly (6:4-9)
  - o Christians are involved in spiritual warfare (6:10-17; I Thessalonians 5:8; cf. II Corinthians 10:3-5)
- Miscellaneous: One will note that the predestination of 1:5 is not individual but corporate; that is God predestined the group to be saved—those in Christ (1:3-4)—and the Lord adds to that group those who obey (Acts 2:47) thus leaving their sinful state (2:1-2,5)

(continued next page)



# NEW TESTAMENT: PAULINE EPISTLES

## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (continued)

### PHILIPPIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1); Timothy appears to have been Paul's amanuensis (1:1), though Epaphroditus delivered the epistle (2:25-30; 4:18) and may have been the amanuensis
- From: A Roman prison (1:7,13-14; cf. Acts 28:30-31) with access to Caesar's household (4:22)
- Date: Around A.D. 57-59, for Paul was apparently serving his first prison sentence in Rome (1:7,13-14; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Audience: The church at Philippi (1:1; 4:15)
- Purpose: To respond to the kindness of the church in Philippi (4:18) and to reassure them as to the health of Epaphroditus who was from Philippi (2:25-30)
- Keys:
  - Words: Rejoice, Joy
  - Verse: 4:4 (Rejoice)
  - Passage: 1:21-24 (To live or to die)
- Lessons:
  - Christians should pray for their brethren (1:3-4,9-10)
  - A mind of humility ought to exist in Christians (2:5-8)
  - Man must work out his salvation (2:12)
  - Any cost should be paid to be righteous (3:7-9; cf. Matthew 16:26)
  - The Christian's work is never done (3:12-15; cf. Luke 17:10)
  - The Christian is a citizen of heaven (3:20)
  - Christians should always rejoice (4:4)
  - The Christian should be thankful before he makes request of God (4:6)
  - Christians must think on wholesome things (4:8)
  - Christians must be content (4:11; cf. 2:14-16)
  - The Christian's strength is in Christ (4:13)
  - God is the source of all blessings (4:19)
- Miscellaneous: It is interesting that Paul accepted support from Philippi (4:15-16), but not Corinth (I Corinthians 9:11-12; II Corinthians 11:5-9)—the Philippians respected his apostleship, the Corinthians were to some degree suspect

### COLOSSIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1,23; 4:18); Timothy appears to have been Paul's amanuensis (1:1), though Tychicus (4:7) and Onesimus (4:9) delivered the letter and may have been amanuenses
- From: A Roman prison (4:3,18; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Date: Around A.D. 57-59, for Paul was apparently serving his first prison sentence in Rome (4:3,18; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Audience: The church at Colossae (1:2)
- Purpose: To answer Judaizers and Gnostics regarding Jesus' authority
- Keys:
  - Word: "Christ"
  - Phrase: "All fulness"
  - Verse: 3:4 (Christ, our life)
  - Passage: 2:9-10 (Christ is God incarnate and therefore is authoritative)
- Lessons:
  - The kingdom is in existence (1:13)
  - Salvation is connected to the blood of Christ (1:14; cf. I Peter 1:19; Revelation 1:5; Acts 20:28)
  - Christ is the Head of the body (1:16-18; 2:9-10)
  - One who has been saved can so sin as to be lost (2:18)
  - The Christian must live above the world (3:1-8)
  - There are no distinctions regarding the class of Christians (3:11)
  - One must have authority for all he does (3:17)
  - Christians must take heed of their time (4:5)
  - Christians must take heed of their tongues (4:6)

### I THESSALONIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1; 2:18); perhaps Silvanus and/or Timotheus were
- (continued next column)**

## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (continued)

- amanuenses (1:1)
- From: Corinth which was in Achaia (1:7-8; cf. Acts 18:5), although the uninspired postscript suggests Athens
- Date: Around A.D. 49 or 50 (Acts 18:11)
- Audience: The church at Thessalonica (1:1)
- Purpose: Given the opposition the Thessalonians were facing, Paul unable to be their in person sent his epistle to give them strength to withstand the pressure
- Keys:
  - Words: Hope, Comfort, Coming, Walk
  - Phrase: "Without ceasing," "Ye became followers"
  - Verse: 1:9 (Thessalonian repentance)
  - Passages: 4:16-18 (Comfort for those who lose Christian loved ones); 5:15-22 (Christian behavior)
- Lessons:
  - Others know what the faithful accomplish for the Lord (1:8)
  - The Word of God is Truth (2:13)
  - One can fall from grace (4:1-8)
  - Christians must live like Christians (4:11-12)
  - Jesus will never touch this earth again (4:17)
  - Christians should know and esteem those in authority over them (5:12-13)
  - Christians should be aware of spiritual danger at avoid it (5:14)
  - Christians should help any who need help (5:14)
  - God keeps His promises (5:24)
  - Christians should desire the prayers of others (5:25)

### II THESSALONIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1; 3:17); perhaps Silvanus and/or Timotheus were amanuenses (1:1)
- From: Corinth which was in Achaia (Acts 18:5), although the uninspired postscript suggests Athens
- Date: Around A.D. 50 (Acts 18:11), perhaps just months after I Thessalonians
- Audience: The church at Thessalonica (1:1)
- Purpose: To clear up misconceptions some had regarding the Second Coming after receiving I Thessalonians (2:2)
- Keys:
  - Word: Coming
  - Verses: 2:2 (Second coming not necessarily imminent); 3:5 (Patiently wait)
  - Chapter: 3 (Continued responsibility)
- Lessons:
  - Righteous judgment brings reward and punishment—rest or tribulation (1:4-9)
  - Some traditions are good (2:15)
  - One capable of working, must work (3:10)
  - Even through church discipline (3:6), one can handle those who are wrong tactfully (3:14-15)

### I TIMOTHY

- Author: Paul (1:1)
- From: While some suggest Philippi, Corinth, or Laodicea; there is equal possibility that this could have been written from somewhere like Nicopolis in Epirus (Titus 3:12) or like the region of Illyricum where Paul had labored previously (Romans 15:19; cf. II Timothy 4:10)
- Date: Early A.D. 60s, between imprisonments in Rome
- Audience: Timothy (1:2,18; 6:20-21)
- Purpose: To encourage Timothy through reminding him that an apostle sent him (1:1), to guard against the spread of false doctrine (1:3,6,7,18-20; 4:1-5; 6:3-6,20-21), and to show Timothy how to behave in the church (3:15)
- Keys:
  - Words: Worthy, Must
  - Phrase: "This is a true/faithful saying"
  - Verse: 4:12 (Be an example)

**(continued next page)**

# NEW TESTAMENT: PAULINE EPISTLES

## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (I TIMOTHY continued)

- o Chapter: 3 (Church office qualifications)
- Lessons:
  - o Law is not designed to punish the righteous (1:9-10)
  - o Christ came to save sinners (1:15)
  - o Church discipline can help those who are disciplined (1:20) and those who see (5:20)
  - o Christians are to pray for all—even wicked governments (2:1-2)
  - o God wants all to be saved (2:4)
  - o There is one Mediator: Jesus (2:5)
  - o Women are valuable, but are limited (2:8-15)
  - o Qualifications must be met to please God (3)
  - o The church is God's building (3:15)
  - o Some will just do and promote that which is wrong (4:1-3)
  - o Godliness should be the Christian's emphasis (4:8; 6:6)
  - o Men must provide for their own (5:8)
  - o Good elders are worthy of honor (5:17) and financial support (5:18) and the benefit of the doubt (5:19)
  - o Sin will be punished (5:24)
  - o The love of money is dangerous (6:10)
  - o The eternal is superior to the temporal (6:11)
  - o The righteous must fight for God (6:12)
  - o Riches can be destructive or beneficial (6:17-19)

## II TIMOTHY

- Author: Paul (1:1)
- From: A Roman prison (2:9)
- Date: A.D. 67 or 68 during Paul's second imprisonment (2:9), probably A.D. 67 due to Paul's pre-winter request (4:9,13,21)
- Audience: Timothy (1:2)
- Purpose: To again encourage Timothy through reminding him of who had sent him, an apostle (1:1), and of from whence he had come (1:5-6; 3:15)
- Keys:
  - o Words: Faith, Word
  - o Verses: 2:2 (The same commit), 2:15 (Study for approval); 3:16 (All Scripture inspired)
  - o Passage: 4:1-5 (Preach the Word)
- Lessons:
  - o Just because conscience is not the standard does not mean it can be violated (1:3)
  - o The source of miraculous ability was the laying on of an apostle's hands (1:6; cf. Acts 8:18)
  - o God did not originate fear (1:7; cf. I John 4:18)
  - o Man's salvation was purchased and prepared in the eternal past (1:9)
  - o There is no shame in suffering for Christ (1:12)
  - o God's Word provides a pattern for man (1:13)
  - o Even the great need encouragement (1:16-18) and help (4:11)
  - o One can wrongly divide Truth, so he has the responsibility to study (2:15)
  - o One who is faithful need not worry if the Lord will be (2:19)
  - o Being "a little" godly is not enough (3:5)
  - o All righteous will be persecuted to some degree (3:12)
  - o The Scriptures are sufficient to lead one to salvation (3:15-17)
  - o Christians are responsible for spreading the Gospel (4:1-2; cf. II Corinthians 4:5-7)
  - o The righteous will be rewarded (4:7-8)
  - o God will always encourage the righteous (4:17-18)

(continued next column)

## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (continued)

### TITUS

- Author: Paul (1:1)
- From: As with I Timothy, some suggest numerous locales; however, more likely could be Titus' having been written from somewhere like the region of Illyricum where Paul had labored previously (Romans 15:19) and which would be in the vicinity of Nicopolis—in Epirus rather than the Nicopolis in Macedonia/Thrace mentioned in the uninspired postscript—to which Paul headed (3:12)
- Date: Mid A.D. 60s, between imprisonments in Rome; though not at the same time as I Timothy as some reason, for at that time Titus was in Dalmatia (II Timothy 4:10)
- Audience: Titus (1:4)
- Purpose: To give Titus further instruction with regard to appointing elders and general affairs of the church in Crete (1:5,12)
- Keys:
  - o Word: Doctrine
  - o Verse: 3:1 (Put them in mind)
  - o Passage: 1:5-9 (Qualifications of elders)
- Lessons:
  - o Truth is objective (1:1)
  - o False teachers must be silenced (1:11)
  - o Teachers may use outside sources for illustration (1:12; cf. Acts 17:28)
  - o Additions do not aid Truth (1:14)
  - o Lip service is not true service (1:16)
  - o All have responsibilities (2:1-10)
  - o God shed His grace on men through Christ (2:11-15; 3:7)
  - o One can joyfully look for the Second Coming (2:13)
  - o Some would undo the good they teach through the bad they do (2:15)
  - o Even bad governments like Rome's must be obeyed (3:1-2)
  - o Once lost does not mean always lost (3:3)
  - o Washing is required for cleansing (3:5; cf. Acts 22:16; Ephesians 5:26)
  - o The best way to solve problems is to avoid them (3:8)
  - o Some things are better left alone (3:9)
  - o One who is disfellowshipped has already disfellowshipped himself (3:10-11)

### PHILEMON

- Author: Paul (1,9,19), perhaps Onesimus was an amanuensis as the uninspired postscript says—that would depend upon the exact meaning of "written it" in 19
- From: A Roman prison (1,9,10,13,23)
- Date: Around A.D. 57-59, the same time as Colossians which was carried by Tychichus and Onesimus to Colossae, for Paul was apparently serving his first prison sentence in Rome (1,9,10,13,23; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Audience: Philemon (1)
- Purpose: To urge Philemon to treat his runaway slave, Onesimus, as a brother (16)
- Keys:
  - o Words: Receive, Beloved, Bowels
  - o Verse: 11 (Unprofitable to profitable)
- Lessons:
  - o Sometimes it is more effective to ask than to demand (8-10)
  - o One never knows how providence may play a role (15)

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# BIBLE INTRODUCTION #6

## NEW TESTAMENT: EPISTLES AND THE REVELATION

### II TIMOTHY 3:16-17

**“All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”**

#### DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT<sup>4</sup>

**GOSPELS<sup>1</sup>  
HISTORY<sup>1</sup>**

**PAULINE EPISTLES<sup>2</sup>  
GENERAL EPISTLES<sup>3</sup>  
PROPHECY<sup>3</sup>**

**MATTHEW-JOHN  
ACTS  
ROMANS-PHILEMON  
HEBREWS-JUDE  
REVELATION**

<sup>1</sup>Chart 4   <sup>2</sup>Chart 5   <sup>3</sup>This chart   <sup>4</sup>Old Testament charts 1-3

#### THE AUTHORSHIP-DISPUTED EPISTLE

##### HEBREWS

- Author:
  - There is much discussion regarding the authorship of this book; it is probable that Paul wrote the book due to, among other reasons, <sup>1st</sup>the early credit given him as the author, <sup>2nd</sup>the situation of the book's being written by someone who was in Italy (13:24) had been and may still have been in prison (10:34; 13:3,19) and who was a close associate of Timothy (13:23), <sup>3rd</sup>the writer's great concern for his national brethren, <sup>4th</sup>and the fact that Peter said Paul had written to this audience (II Peter 3:15)
  - It is not out of the realm of possibility that another penned the epistle (for example, Barnabas, Silas, Luke, Apollos, Aquila, Mark, et al; though not Clement of Rome for he would have been too late, and not Timothy—as the uninspired postscript supposed—for he was mentioned in the third person in 13:23); the best argument against Pauline authorship has been the lack of his claiming authorship (which could have been motivated by humility or the fear that some might never open the book knowing it was penned by him), which would have included his penning the salutation in his own hand (II Thessalonians 3:17)—though who would know whether he did or not, for he did not claim to have penned the salutation in most books
  - The similarity or dissimilarity of language to Paul's writing is an argument used by both schools of thought; this very fact reveals the difficulty of using that argument at all either way (though were this writer given no alternative but to answer, it would seem to him that the style favored Paul in theme, structure, language, and form of benediction)
  - Regardless, in reality who penned the book is not important, for God wrote it (II Timothy 3:16)!
- From: A Roman prison (10:34; 13:3,19; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Date: Around A.D. 57-59, for Paul was apparently

(continued next column)

#### THE AUTHORSHIP-DISPUTED EPISTLE (continued)

- serving his first prison sentence in Rome (4:3,18; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Audience: Jewish Christians (1:1-2; cf. Acts 13:32 which was spoken by Paul to “Men of Israel” [Acts 13:16] in Pisidian Antioch [Acts 13:14])
- Purpose: To show the superiority of Jesus over the angels, old law, priests, sacrifices, etc.
- Keys:
  - Words: Faith, Better, Perfect, Promise
  - Phrases: “By faith,” “Let us”
  - Verses: 8:1 (The sum); 9:16 (Death of Testator necessary); 9:22 (Blood must have been shed); 10:9 (Jesus' mission), 10:14 (One offering)
  - Passages: 5:8-9 (Jesus' obedience); 12:1-3 (Supporters and a goal)
  - Chapter: 11 (Faith)
- Lessons:
  - Jesus is better than the angels (1:4)
  - Man has value (2:6-8)
  - The Father and Son suit man's needs (2:10; 7:26)
  - Jesus knows what man has faced and so can comfort man (2:18; 4:15)
  - Anything built must have a builder (3:4)
  - The Bible is active (4:12)
  - No one can hide and nothing can be hid from God (4:13)
  - Christians can approach God confidently (4:16; cf. I John 5:14-15)
  - There is not one greater than God (6:13)
  - God is true to His Word and the hope in Him is sure (6:18-19)
  - Jesus provides a better hope (7:19)
  - Jesus made a better testament (7:22)
  - Jesus makes better promises (8:6)
  - Jesus offers a better sacrifice (9:23-28)
  - Jesus cannot die more than once (9:27-28; cf. 10:26)
  - One should be faithful for himself and his brethren (10:22-26)
  - Sin is a serious thing (10:28-31)
  - Faith is the victory (11; I John 5:4-5)
  - Chastening can be good (12:5-11)
  - One should help others physically, emotionally, and spiritually (12:12-17; 13:1-3)
  - Marriage is an honorable institution which must not be forsaken (13:4)
  - The righteous should remember and obey those over them (13:7,17)

#### HEBREWS 4:12

**“For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”**

# NEW TESTAMENT: EPISTLES AND THE REVELATION

## THE GENERAL EPISTLES

### JAMES

- Author: James, half-brother of Jesus (1:1), who was in a good spot to reach out to those scattered in all directions (Galatians 1:18-19; Acts 8:1)
- From: Jerusalem
- Date: Around A.D. 50s to 60s, for the Jerusalem Christians had scattered (1:1; Acts 8:1) and the name Christian had likely already been given (2:7; Acts 11:26), but before A.D. 70 (5:8-9; Matthew 24:30)
- Audience: Jewish Christians scattered by persecution (1:1; Acts 8:1)
- Purpose: To encourage the scattered brethren to remain faithful in spite of persecution
- Keys:
  - Words: Works, Faith, Wisdom, Patience
  - Phrase: "Faith without works is dead"
  - Verse: 1:22 (Hear and do)
- Lessons:
  - Trials can be beneficial (1:2-4,12; 5:7-8,10-11; Matthew 5:10-12)
  - True wisdom is from God (1:5)
  - Man brings temptations upon himself (1:13-15; 4:1-3,5)
  - All good gifts come from God (1:17)
  - The Word saves when obeyed (1:21-22)
  - Seeming to be religious is not sufficient (1:26)
  - Though most religion is a corrupt pretender, there is religion which is pure and undefiled (1:27)
  - One must not be a respecter of persons (2:1-9)
  - One sin is all that is necessary to destroy a soul (2:10)
  - Works are necessary for salvation (2:14-26)
  - With greater ability come greater responsibilities (3:1; cf. 4:17)
  - One must control his tongue (3:2-12)
  - Heavenly wisdom surpasses earthly wisdom (3:15-17)
  - Christians must seek peace (3:18; cf. Matthew 5:9)
  - Man must be the friend of God (4:4; cf. 2:23)
  - God rewards humility and punishes pride (4:6-10,16)
  - One should not take tomorrow for granted (4:14-15)
  - Christians should be honest, period (5:12)
  - The prayers of the righteous are heard of God (5:16; cf. I Peter 3:12; Psalm 34:15; Proverbs 10:24; 28:9)
  - To save the lost is excellent (5:19-20; cf. Proverbs 11:30; Jude 23)

### I PETER

- Author: Peter (1:1)
- From: Babylon (5:13), literally the one on the Euphrates, for the context is not figurative, neither is there any need to use figurative language—some would have this figuratively represent Rome (thus putting Peter there to establish Roman Catholicism; to be fair, one must admit that in Colossians 4:10 Mark was in Rome, and now he is with Peter in I Peter 5:13 [this is not a great difficulty, for it is conceivable that the better part of a decade separated these two writings and the early missionaries moved quickly!])
- Date: Mid A.D. 60s, for a persecution has recently begun, perhaps Nero's of A.D. 64 (there were other

(continued next column)

## THE GENERAL EPISTLES (continued)

- persecutions which would fit, including persecutions by Jews/Judaizers and even Caligula who died in A.D. 41) and the name Christian has been given (4:16; Acts 11:26)
- Audience: Scattered Gentile Christians (1:1)
- Purpose: Persecution was on its way, so encouragement and grounding were needed
- Keys:
  - Word: Suffer
  - Verses: 1:3 (Lively hope); 3:15 (Sanctify the Lord in the heart); 4:14 (Happy if reproached)
  - Chapter: 4 (Stand through suffering)
- Lessons:
  - Trial can be beneficial (1:6-9; 2:21-23; 3:14-17; 4:12-16; 5:10)
  - Honor must at time be paid to the dishonorable (2:17; cf. 13-14)
  - A godly example can win souls (3:1-2)
  - Baptism saves (3:20-21)
  - One must have the mind of Christ (4:1)
  - One must have the proper authority (4:11)
  - Elders must feed, not fleece, the flock (5:2-3; cf. Ezekiel 34:1-6)
  - Christians can cast their cares upon Christ (5:7)
  - Christians have an active and powerful enemy who must be resisted (5:8-9)
- Miscellaneous: One wonders if the letter were to have been circulated in the order the regions are listed in 1:1

### II PETER

- Author: Peter (1:1)
- From: Likely also from Babylon (I Peter 5:13)
- Date: Mid A.D. 60s, perhaps not too long after I Peter
- Audience: Scattered Gentile Persons (3:1)
- Purpose: To encourage growth and resistance to false teachers and false doctrines
- Keys:
  - Word: Knowledge
  - Verse: 1:10 (Making calling and election sure)
  - Passage: 1:3-4 (Life, godliness, and promises are through the knowledge of God)
  - Chapter: 2 (Threat from false teachers)
- Lessons:
  - Growth precedes fruitfulness (1:5-8)
  - Prophecy was effectual because it was inspired (1:20-21)
  - False teaching is unfruitful (2:17-19)
  - One can fall after he has been saved (2:20-22)
  - Some error springs from willful ignorance (3:5)
  - God wants all to be saved (3:9), but they must act to live (3:10-12)
  - Those who twist Scripture do so to their own destruction (3:16)

### I JOHN

- Author: John, for his students Polycarp and Papias credited him with authorship and the beginning, 1:1-3, is similar to John 1:1,14
- From: Probably Ephesus
- Date: Probably around the A.D. 80s, for this appears to have been between persecutions
- Audience: Churches of Asia

(continued next page)



# NEW TESTAMENT: EPISTLES AND THE REVELATION

## THE GENERAL EPISTLES (I JOHN continued)

- Purpose: To answer Gnosticism
- Keys:
  - Words: Know, Light, Word, Beloved
  - Verses: 1:1 (The Word: genuine and unique); 3:18 (Love in deed and truth); 5:4 (Faith is the victory)
  - Passages: 1:6-10 (Assurance for the faithful); 4:7-8 (Love is of God; God is love)
- Lessons:
  - The Christian and Christ work together to keep the Christian saved (1:6-9)
  - Calvinism just misses it (1:7-10; 2:1; 3:4)
  - It is not enough to just profess Jesus as propitiation, must obey (2:3-5)
  - One must “walk the walk” (2:6)
  - One must be in accord with his brethren to be in accord with his God (2:9-11; 4:20-21)
  - One must not have an inordinate love of the world (2:15-17)
  - The antichrist is anyone who denies the Christ (2:22)
  - The world hates the Christian (3:1,13)
  - One must help the helpless (3:17-18)
  - The prayers of the righteous are answered (3:22), so he can ask in confidence (5:14-15; cf. Hebrews 4:16)
  - Christians must try the spirits of teachers to see if they are genuine (4:1)
  - One must love his brethren to know his God (4:7-8)
  - The Christian has no reason to fear (4:18)
  - God’s commands are able to be obeyed (5:3)
  - One has eternal life—in prospect—if he is righteous (5:11); therefore, one can know he is saved (5:13)
  - The righteous will strive to sin not (5:18)
  - The Christian must put nothing else in the place of God (5:21)
- Miscellaneous: 5:7 is in no Greek manuscripts; it is an interpolation which first appeared in A.D. 895

## II JOHN

- Author: John
- From: Probably Ephesus
- Date: Probably around the A.D. 80s, for this appears to have been between persecutions
- Audience: The elect lady and her children (1)
- Purpose: To encourage their faithfulness and to warn of false teachers
- Keys:
  - Words: Truth, Love, Commandment
  - Phrase: “In truth”
  - Verses: 4 (Reason to rejoice), 7 (Gnosticism identified)
  - Passage: 9-11 (Beware false teachers)
- Lessons:
  - Faithful children are a blessing (4; cf. III John 4)
  - Love, manifested in obedience, has always been expected (5-6)
  - One must reject error and those promoting it (9-11)

(continued next column)

## THE GENERAL EPISTLES (continued)

### III JOHN

- Author: John
- From: Probably Ephesus
- Date: Probably around the A.D. 80s, for this appears to have been between persecutions
- Audience: Gaius (1)
- Purpose: To encourage Gaius, denounce Diotrephes, and promote Demetrius
- Keys:
  - Words: Truth, Good
  - Phrase: “In truth”
  - Verse: 11 (Follow good)
- Lessons:
  - Faithful children are a blessing (4; cf. II John 4)
  - Must be kind, gentle, and hospitable to all, even strangers (5; cf. Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:1-2)
  - One can influence the lost through benevolence (6)
  - Some Christians run more people away from the church than they lead to it (9-10)
  - Evil should not be imitated (11)

### JUDE

- Author: Jude (1:1)
- From: Perhaps Jerusalem alongside his brother, James (1)
- Date: Mid A.D. 60s, certainly pre-A.D. 70 with no mention of the destruction of Jerusalem
- Audience: The church in general (1)
- Purpose: To denounce false teachers
- Keys:
  - Word: Keep, Ungodly
  - Phrase: “Once for all”
  - Verse: 3 (Contend for the faith)
- Lessons:
  - The system of faith has been once for all delivered (3)
  - False teachers do not typically advertize that they are such (4)
  - The same God who blesses will punish those whom He has blessed if they forsake Him (5)
  - Even the angels could apostatize (6)
  - Evil has been and, therefore, will be punished (7,11,15)
  - False teachers are motivated by selfishness, not godliness (16,18)
  - Hell is a real terror! (23)
- Miscellaneous: Some wonder if Jude quoted the apocryphal works Assumption of Moses (9) and Enoch (14); likely, the writers of these saw what Jude had written and recognized opportunities to capitalize on an inspired work which made reference to things that the Holy Spirit knew had been taken place and/or been said—it should be remembered that Jude was writing this being inspired (II Timothy 3:16); however, even if these books were quoted, their use was illustrative not doctrinal just as the use of the sayings/writings of Aratus (Acts 17:28), Meander (I Corinthians 15:33), Euripides, and Epimenides (Titus 1:12-13) by the equally-inspired Paul

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# NEW TESTAMENT: EPISTLES AND THE REVELATION

## THE BOOK OF PROPHECY

### THE REVELATION

- Author: John (1:1,4,9; 21:2; 22:8)
- From: Patmos (1:9)
- Date: A.D. 95 or 96, as Irenaeus indicated around the end of Domitian's reign
- Audience: The seven churches of Asia (1:4,10,11; 2; 3) which represented the whole of the church in that persecution-threatened province
- Purpose: To encourage Christians in Asia to remain faithful in the face of terrible persecution which was soon to come to pass (1:1)
- Keys:
  - Words: Revelation, Blessed
  - Phrases: "I Am," "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches"
  - Verses: 1:1 (How inspiration works); 14:13 (Blessed are the dead)
  - Chapters: 2-3 (Letters to the churches); 4 (A glimpse into the throne room of God); 21 (A glimpse into heaven)
- Lessons:
  - God's Word must be read and kept (1:3)
  - God has control over the kingdoms of men (11:15; cf. Daniel 4:32)
  - Jesus knew He would have to die before the world even existed (13:8)
  - God's Word is not subject to revision (22:18-19)
  - GOD WINS—SO DOES HIS CHURCH! (20:11-15; cf. 2:10)

## SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDYING THE BIBLE

- Appreciate that Scripture is from God (II Timothy 3:16-17) and so must be shared (II Timothy 4:1-5)
- Rightly divide the Word (II Timothy 2:15)
- Appreciate other Biblical accounts which are parallel and/or supplementary
- Be consistent
  - Keep literal contexts literal
  - Keep figurative contexts figurative
- Respect the silence of the Scriptures
- Know that Scripture must not be manipulated in any way (Revelation 22:18-19; II Peter 3:16)
- Understand that an explicit New Testament command is binding even if some passages may be skewed as to appear to be at odds with it
- Know that something can be said just once and be authoritative
- Study daily
  - The Bereans did so to confirm that what they were being taught was Truth (Acts 17:10-11)

## THE BIBLICAL PICTURE OF THE ONE JUDGMENT

### THE JUDGE

The Son of Man (Matthew 25:31)  
The King (Matthew 25:40)  
Jesus the Christ (John 5:30; Acts 10:42; II Timothy 4:1)  
The Word spoken by Jesus (John 12:48)  
God (Acts 17:31; Hebrews 12:23; 13:4)  
God by Jesus Christ (Romans 2:16)  
The Righteous Judge (II Timothy 4:8)  
The Lord (Hebrews 10:30)  
He is ready (I Peter 4:5)  
Faithful and True (Revelation 19:11)

### THE JUDGED

All Nations (Matthew 25:32)  
Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:32-33)

### THE SAVED (ON THE JUDGE'S RIGHT HAND)

The Sheep (Matthew 25:32-33; John 10:1-38; Romans 8:35-37; Hebrews 13:20; I Peter 2:25)  
The Righteous (Matthew 25:37; I Peter 3:12; 4:18)  
Would Inherit the Kingdom (Matthew 25:34)  
Would Go into Life Eternal (Matthew 25:46)

### THE LOST (ON THE JUDGE'S LEFT HAND)

The Goats (Matthew 25:32-33; John 10:26)  
The Cursed (Matthew 25:41)  
Would Depart into Everlasting Fire (Matthew 25:41)  
Would Go Away into Everlasting Punishment (Matthew 25:46)

*Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not (Malachi 3:18)*

**"Watch** therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have **watched**, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up" (Matthew 24:42-43)

**"Watch** therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 25:13)

**"Watch** ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch**" (Mark 13:35-37)

**"Therefore watch**, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31)

**"Watch** ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (I Corinthians 16:13)

"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;" (Colossians 4:2)

**"Therefore let us not sleep**, as do others; but let us **watch** and be sober" (I Thessalonians 5:6)

**"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard**, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not **watch**, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee" (Revelation 3:3)

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