

Series: A Greater Understanding Of The New Testament

An Overview Of The New Testament

Lesson 1



The Old Testament is all about the coming of the Messiah and the New Testament is the Messiah is here! The New Testament covers a period of about 100 years (4 B.C. to about 96 A.D). This study series is designed to equip the Bible student with greater understanding of the New Testament.

27 Books By Approximately 8 Different Writers

The following are the writers of the New Testaments books accompanied by the books attributed to each respective writer (writers in bold red and books in black).

Matthew: Matthew; **Mark:** Mark; **Luke:** Luke, Acts; **John:** John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Revelation
Paul: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon; Hebrews (maybe Paul)
James: James; **Peter:** 1 Peter, 2 Peter; **Jude:** Jude

The 3 Bible Periods Of The New Testament

1: Life of Christ - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John (4 books)

2: The Early Church - Acts (1 book)

3: Letters To Christians - Romans through Revelation (22 books)



The Gospels Explained

Why do we have four books, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, also known as the Gospels? They are not four different Gospels, but four books, that narrate the life of Jesus with different purposes.

The Gospel According To Matthew written primarily to a Jewish audience. Matthew presents Jesus to the Jews as the Messiah (Matt. 16:13-16). Makes sense since they were waiting for the Messiah.

The Gospel According To Mark written primarily to a Roman audience. Mark presents Jesus to the Romans as a Servant (Mk. 10:45). Logical because Rome wielded such great power.

The Gospel According To Luke written primarily to Gentiles (Greeks). Luke presents Jesus to the Greeks as the Son of Man - speaks to the humanity of Jesus (Lk. 5:24, 22:22). Jesus was real.

The Gospel According To John written primarily to a universal audience. John presents Jesus as the Son of God (Jn. 1:34, 49; 6:69). Jesus is the Son of God, the Son that God the Father sacrificed.

The Book of Acts Explained

The book of Acts (also known as the "The Acts of the Apostles") narrates for us the history of the early church. For the first time in all the Bible we can read about the church being in existence.

A reading of Acts 2:47 reveals, *"praising God and having favor with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church** daily those who were being saved."*

Every time before Acts 2:47, the church or kingdom is always spoke of yet in the future or "at hand."

- *"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is **at hand!**" (Matt. 3:1-2).*
- *"From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17).*
- The New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Mt 4:17.
- Jesus instructed the Apostles saying, "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is **at hand.**'" (Matt. 10:7).

The church or kingdom is in existence following the events of Acts chapter 2. We can read about how fear came upon the church (Acts 5:11) or how the church was persecuted (Acts 8:1). Some were said to have been "...conveyed...into the kingdom..." or church (Col. 1:13).

The book of acts consists of the "Acts of the Apostles." The first half of the book, Acts 1 through 12 focuses primarily on the work of the Apostle Peter, a period of about 15 years. The second half of the book, Acts 13 through 28 focuses primarily on the work of the Apostle Paul (an apostle born out of due time 1 Corinthians 15:8), a period of about 15 years.

The Letters To Christians Explained

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John narrate the life of Christ, the book of Acts narrates the history of the early church, and then from Romans to Revelation (22 books) are books written to Christians. Some of these letters are written to individual Christians, like, Timothy, Titus and Philemon. And others written to churches, like, the church at Corinth or the church at Ephesus. Because the church is made up of Christians, we can simply refer to the last 22 books of the New Testament as "Letters to Christians."

That 22 of the 27 books of the New Testament were written to Christians is telling regarding God's desire or expectation of Christians. Another words, it matters to God how we live. The greater content of these 22 letters deals with Christian living.

A good summary of God's expectation of Christian living could be summed up from Titus 2:12, "teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age..."

Letters To Christians

Romans
1 & 2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 & 2 Thessalonians
1 & 2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 & 2 Peter
1, 2, & 3 John
Jude
Revelation