

Introduction to the New Testament Survey - Course 1072

New Testament Survey – Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 7, 2024

Intro	Day 1
History	Day 1

Thursday, July 11, 2024

Matthew	Day 2
Mark	Day 2
Luke	Day 2
John	Day 2
Acts	Day 2

Sunday, July 14, 2024

Hebrews	Day 3
James	Day 3
1 Peter	Day 3
2 Peter	Day 3
1 John	Day 3
2 John	Day 3
3 John	Day 3
Jude	Day 3

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Romans	Day 4
1 Corinthians	Day 4
2 Corinthians	Day 4
Galatians	Day 4
Ephesians	Day 4
Philippians	Day 4

Sunday, July 21, 2024

Colossians	Day 5
1 Thessalonians	Day 5
2 Thessalonians	Day 5
1 Timothy	Day 5
2 Timothy	Day 5

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Titus	Day 6
Philemon	Day 6
Revelation Part 1	Day 6

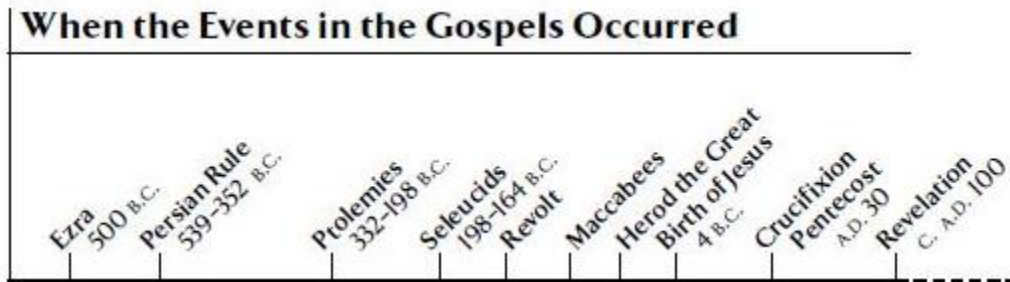
Sunday, July 28, 2024

Revelation Part 2	Day 7
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Conclusion - Overview

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New Testament Timeline Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts, 3rd Edition



Theological Emphases and Order of New Testament Letters

Literary Classification	New Testament Book	Theological Category	Theological Emphasis
Gospels	Matthew		Jesus as King
	Mark		Jesus as Servant
	Luke		Jesus as Son of Man
	John		Jesus as Son of God
History	Acts		Birth and building of the church
Epistles, Pauline	Romans	Salvation	Explanation of the doctrine of salvation
	1 Corinthians	Church	Discussion of various aspects of Christian conduct
	2 Corinthians		Portrayal of the Christian ministry
	Galatians	Salvation	Implications of justification by faith
	Ephesians	Church as the body of Christ	Believer's position "in Christ"
	Philippians		Believer's attitude in Christ
	Colossians		Believer's completeness in Christ
	1 Thess.	Second Coming	Second Coming described
	2 Thess.		Second Coming clarified
	1 Timothy	Church organization	Conduct in house of God elucidated
	2 Timothy		Final charge to servant of God given
	Titus		Need for sound doctrine and good works stated
	Philemon	Personal note	Favor requested for a Christian brother
Epistles, General	Hebrews	Comfort and exhortation	Superiority of Christ and Christian life
	James		Need for good works as evidence of genuine faith
	1 Peter		Conduct and joy of believers in suffering
	2 Peter	Warning concerning false teaching	Gospel's certainty and the Day of the Lord
	1, 2, 3 John		Way of fellowship and genuine faith
	Jude		Warning concerning false teachers
Prophecy-Apocalypse	Revelation		Capstone of God's kingdom and redemptive programs

The base for this chart is from Stanley A. Ellisen, Bible Workbook, Part VI: The Synoptic Gospels (Portland, Ore.: Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, 1969; Stanley A. Ellisen, The Book of Romans: God's Philosophy of Salvation, Progressive Bible Studies (Portland, Ore.: Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, 1971). Adapted by permission.

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Literary Classification of the New Testament

Gospel	History	Pauline Epistles	General Epistles	Prophecy-Apocalypse
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude	Revelation

H. Wayne House, Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament, ed. 2nd Edition, Zondervan Charts (Zondervan, 2009), 19.

Gospel Main Reflections

Gospel	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Audience	Jews	Romans	Hellenists	Greek World
Portrait of Jesus	Jesus is the Messiah/King who fulfills Old Testament prophecy and expectations	Jesus is the authoritative Son of God	Jesus is the perfect Son of Man who came to save and minister to all people through the power of the Holy Spirit and prayer	Jesus is the fully divine Son of God in whom we should believe to receive eternal life (the "I AM" of God)
Key Verses	Matthew 1:1; 16:16; 20:28	Mark 1:1; 8:27; 10:45; 15:34	Luke 19:10	John 20:31
Key Words	Fulfilled	Immediately	Son of Man	Believe; Eternal Life
Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts ??? 1993 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.				

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Christianity in the Roman Empire

Overview

Christianity developed in the province of Judea out of Jewish tradition in the first century CE, spread through the Roman Empire, and eventually became its official religion.

Christianity was influenced by the historical contexts in which it developed.

Beginnings of Christianity

Christianity developed in Judea in the mid-first century CE, based first on the teachings of Jesus and later on the writings and missionary work of Paul of Tarsus.

Originally, Christianity was a small, unorganized sect that promised personal salvation after death. Salvation was possible through belief in Jesus as the son of God—the same God the Jews believed in. Early Christians debated whether they should only preach to Jews, or if non-Jews could become Christians, too. Eventually, Christianity gained followers not only from Jewish communities, but from throughout the Roman world.

Stop and consider: How might the fact that Christianity developed out of Judaism have affected its spread?

Because it was unclear to early Christians if they were separate from Judaism or not, they questioned whether they should try to convert non-Jews. This would have initially limited the spread of Christianity to areas with Jewish populations. We see that in the long-term Christianity did spread beyond Jewish communities, too.

Christianity and Rome

In the decades after Jesus's death, the Apostle Paul wrote many letters that are now part of the New Testament of the Christian Bible. Paul was a Roman citizen and sent these letters to small communities of Christians living throughout the Roman Empire. The letters show us that Paul and his fellow Christians were still figuring out exactly what being a Christian meant. Issues related to the exact relationship between Judaism and Christianity, and between Christianity and the Roman government, were prominent topics of discussion.

Stop and consider: What do Paul's letters tell us about Christianity in the mid-first century CE?

The fact that Paul's letters dealt with questions of the relationship between Judaism and Christianity implies that these questions were not settled yet. Christianity was still not clearly defined at this time.

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The belief in Jesus as the savior—the Christ—was established as the defining trait of Christians, but other questions about whether this meant Christians were separate from Judaism were not yet settled.

The text says that Paul sent his letters to *small* communities of Christians throughout the empire. Also, it would be unlikely that a religion that had not yet clearly defined itself would be asking the kind of questions Paul's letters asked.

Judaism had received the status of a legal religion in the Roman Empire with formal protections. Although Christianity developed out of Jewish traditions, it had no such legal protections. Christians were occasionally persecuted—formally punished—for their beliefs during the first two centuries CE. But the Roman state's official position was generally to ignore Christians unless they clearly challenged imperial authority.

Rome becomes Christian

In 313 CE, the emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, which granted Christianity—as well as most other religions—legal status. While this was an important development in the history of Christianity, it was not a total replacement of traditional Roman beliefs with Christianity.

In 325, Constantine called the Council of Nicaea, which was a gathering of Christian leaders to determine the formal—or orthodox—beliefs of Christianity. The result of this council was the Nicene Creed, which laid out the agreed upon beliefs of the council.

In 380 CE, the emperor Theodosius issued the Edict of Thessalonica, which made Christianity, specifically Nicene Christianity, the official religion of the Roman Empire. Most other Christian sects were deemed heretical, lost their legal status, and had their properties confiscated by the Roman state.

Stop and consider: How did the Roman Empire shape early Christianity?

Conclusion

The Roman Empire did not become Christianized overnight. Roman religious beliefs changed slowly over time. At the time the Western Roman Empire fell in 476 CE, Christianity was still spreading. It is also important to remember that Christianity itself did not appear suddenly or fully formed. Christianity grew out of Jewish traditions and was shaped by Roman cultural and political structures for several centuries.

To take one lasting example, the head of the Roman Catholic Church—the Pope—takes his title from the old Roman office of pontifex maximus—the high priest. Roman culture was

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not wholly replaced but was often repurposed as it came into contact with other peoples and cultures.

Christianity was deeply influenced by both Judaism and Roman cultural institutions. We cannot fully understand the development of the Christian religion without putting it into these contexts!

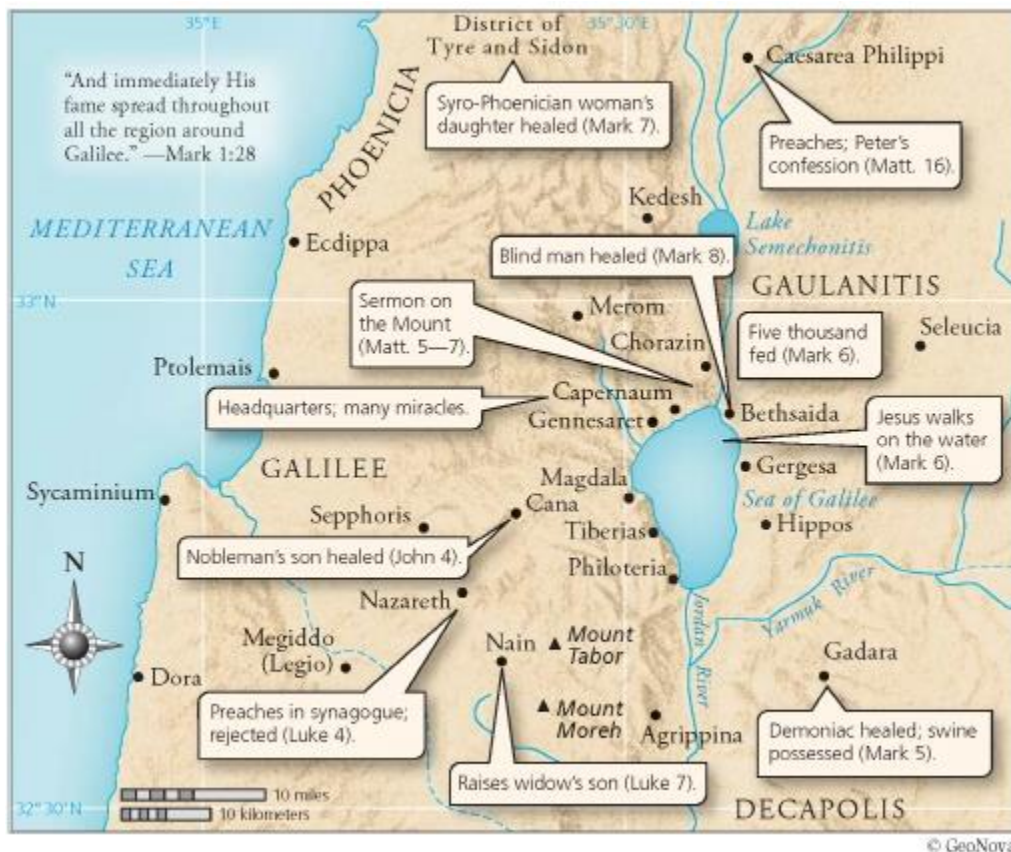
Article by Steven Schroeder. June 30, 2024.

Bibliography:

Boyd, William K. *The Ecclesiastical Edicts of the Theodosian Code* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1905), 47, 50.

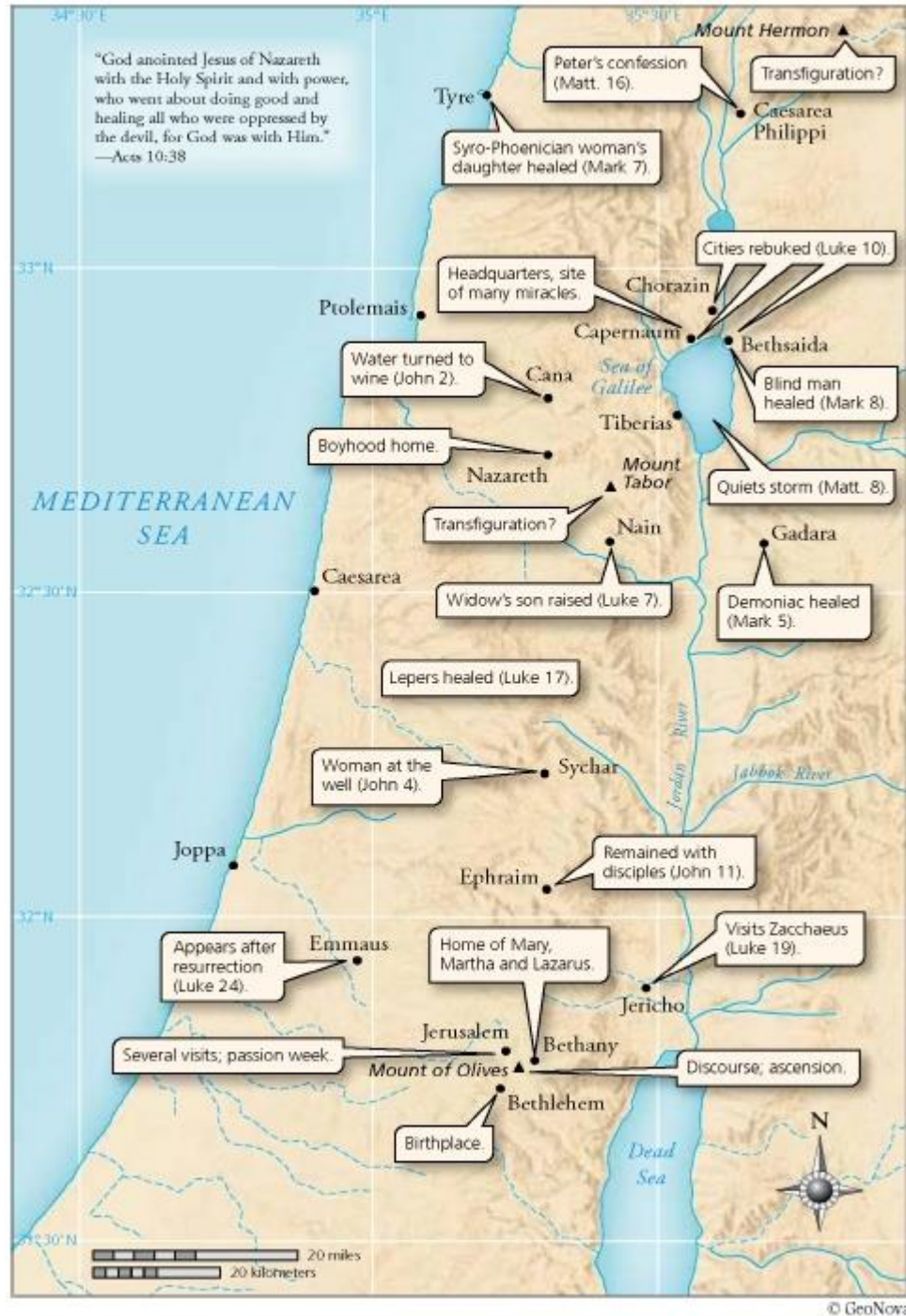
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history/ancient-medieval/christianity/a/roman-culture#:~:text=Beginnings%20of%20Christianity,promised%20personal%20salvation%20after%20death.>

New Testament Map – Miracles of Jesus



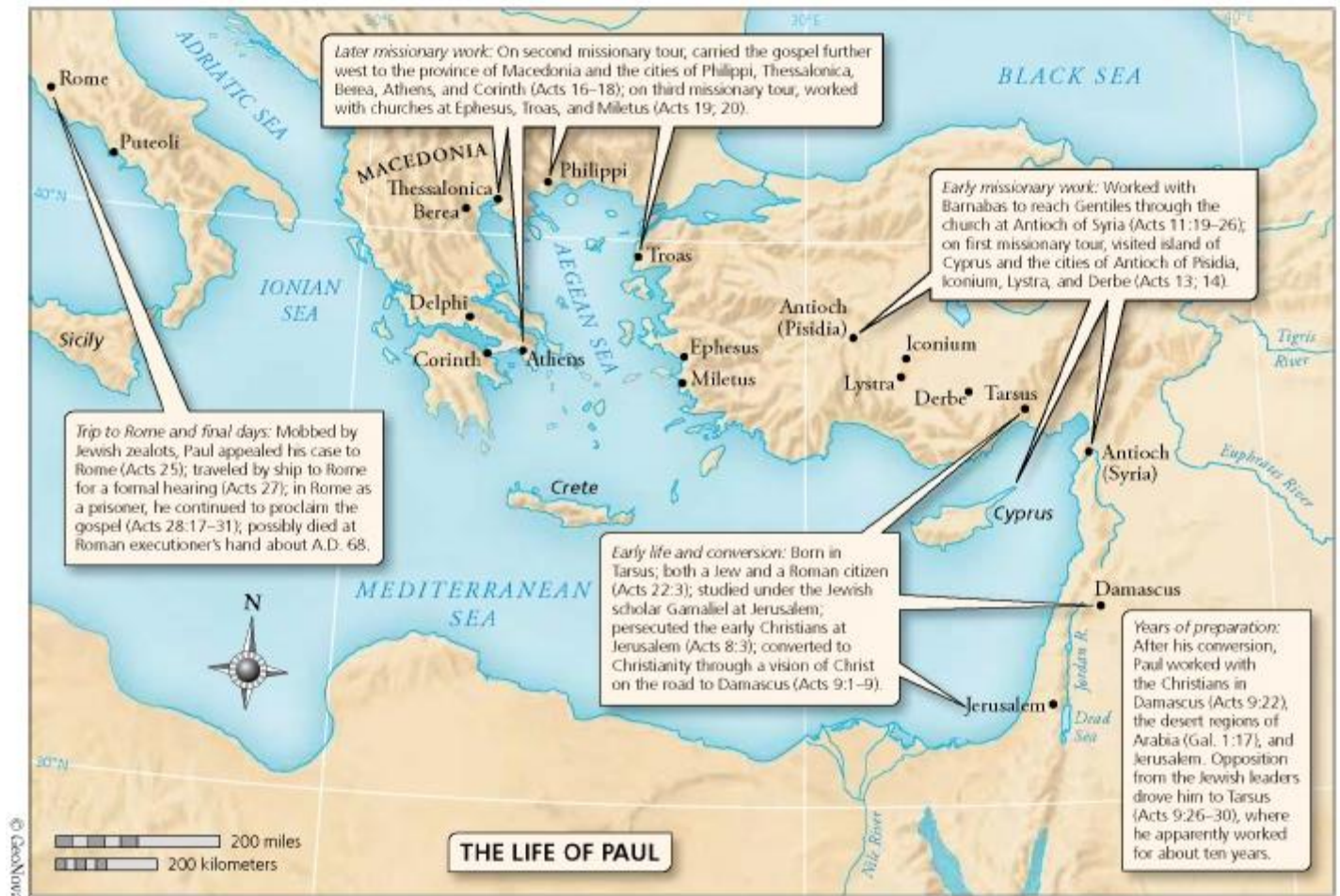
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New Testament Map – Jesus life & Ministry



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New Testament Map – Journeys of Paul



Mark at a Glance

Focus	To Serve			To Sacrifice	
Reference	1:1 ————— 2:13 ————— 8:27 ————— 11:1 ————— 16:1 ————— 16:20				
Division	Presentation Of The Servant	Opposition To The Servant	Instruction By The Servant	Rejection Of The Servant	Resurrection Of The Servant
Topic	Sayings And Signs			Sufferings	
	c. 3 Years		c. 6 Months	8 Days	
Location	Galilee And Perea			Judea And Jerusalem	
Time	c. A.D. 29–33				

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