

New Testament Survey

**Objective**

This survey is in no way an exhaustive study but is meant to give an overall view of the New Testament. We will study the books as they are divided into several different categories.

**Course Schedule (Tentative)**

* 1st Session: Why study the New Testament - The Gospels.
* 2nd Session: The early Church (Acts)
* 3rd Session: The placement of the remaining books in the New Testament story.

**Book List**

* Elwell, W. A. & Yarbough, R. W. (2013) *Encountering the New Testament: A historical and theological survey.* Grand Rapids, MI. Baker Publishing.
* Dunnett, Walter M. (2003) *New Testament Survery – Broadening Your Biblical Horizons*

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# Why Study the New Testament?

## 

## When you think of the New Testament, what comes to mind?

### 

## The New Testament continues God’s plan in the Old Testament.

* Starts about 400 Years after the close of the Old Testament.
* Opens with **five** historical books. The four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles.
* Together there at **27 books** in the New Testament.
* Main Divisions: Gospels, Church History, Pauline Epistles, General Epistles and Prophetic
* Books are written from about 45 A.D. to 100 A.D.

## Why study the New Testament?

* It mediates God’s presence - and with it, truth. It is God’s word.
* It is of ultimate personal significance, personal direction.
* It is foundational to cultural literacy. Human society is built on it.
* To avoid the tyranny of personal opinion.
* To avoid misguided reliance on human spirituality.
* To enable historical-theological interpretation.

## Why these 27 books?

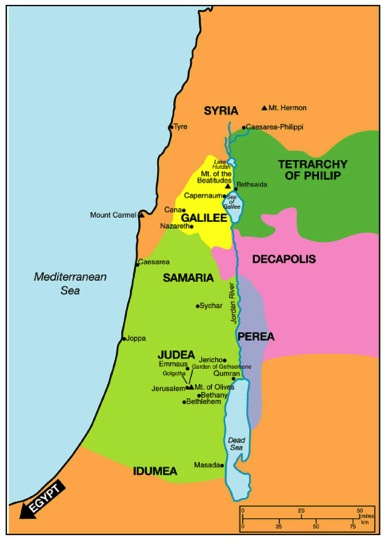
* Old Testament sets the precedent for a canon. “Canon” meaning **the accepted books**.
* The Divine authorship of the New Testament: inspiration.
  + 2 Timothy 3:16-17
* Recognition of the canon in the church.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Gospel (4)** | **History (1)** | **Pauline (14)** | **General (7)** | **Prophetic (1)** |
| Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John | Acts | Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, & Hebrews. | James, I & II Peter, I, II, & III John, & Jude | Revelation |

# The Gospels: Matthew – John

## The Middle - East in Jesus Day.

* The land of Israel.

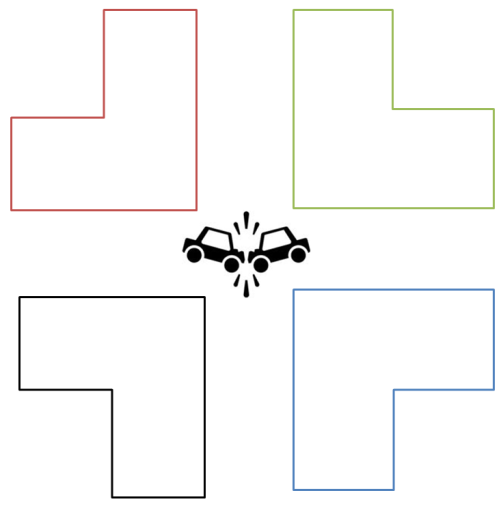


* The domination of Rome took place between 63 B.C. - A.D. 70.
* Jewish religion in this day, second-temple Judaism, was more about a lifestyle than a belief.
* Primary religious groups.
  + **Pharisees** - Extremely influential group of theologically conservative Jews.
  + **Sadducees** - Influential group of aristocrats who made up a majority of the priesthood  
    but were theologically liberal.
  + **Essenes** - A monk-like group who completely separated from the society and withdrew to the wilderness. Possible background for John the Baptist.
  + **Zealots** - Extremist political group responsible for creating riots and assassinations. Jesus’ disciple, Simon, is a zealot. Jesus was crucified between malefactors, or in the original language, zealots. Jesus was crucified as a political extremists.
* Other groups of people.
  + **Herodians** - A political party mentioned a few times associated with Herodian dynasty.
  + **Am ha-Aretz** - the people of the land. The common people.
  + **Samaritans** - A mixed population ethnically and religiously.

## The Gospel and the Four Gospels.

* The basic message of the Gospel - Jesus is king!
* Gospel - Ευαγγέλιο - euaggalio - or where we get the word evangelism
  + Basic meaning is, “Good News.”
  + It was used primarily in the Greek for two reasons.
    - To herald that the next heir of the throne had been born.
    - To herald that the new king had ascended to the throne.
* The basic outline of the Gospel message in the four gospels:
  + The Lordship of Jesus.
  + The ministry of John the Baptist.
  + The life of Jesus in Galilee.
  + Jesus’s power, miracles, healings, and exorcisms.
  + The death of Jesus by crucifixion, and his resurrection.
  + His appearance to the believers in full bodily form after his death.
  + The command to preach forgiveness of sins through faith in Christ.
  + The assertion that the Old Testament prophecies pointed to all these things.
* The basic Gospel message as preached in the book of Acts:
  + You killed Him.
  + God raised Him.
  + We are His witnesses.
  + Repent and be baptized.
* Why the four writers to share one Gospel?
  + Each had a unique perspective to share.
  + Think of the eyewitnesses of a case.
* Genealogies
  + Matthew and Luke include.
  + Mark and John exclude.

## Understanding the Unity of the Gospels



## Matthew

* Author - Matthew
* Date - A.D. 40-60
* Place of Writing: - Syria or Antioch.
* Purpose - For new believers needing to understand the connection between Jesus and the Old Testament. Portrays Jesus as the Messiah.
* Basic Outline
  + The birth and preparation of Jesus (1:1-4:16)
  + Jesus’ Public ministry in Galilee (4:17-16:20)
  + Jesus’ Private Ministry in Galilee (16:21-18:35)
  + Jesus’ Ministry in Judea (19:1-25:46)
  + Jesus’ Passion and Resurrection (26:1-28:20)
* Key Characteristics
  + Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s intentions.
  + Jesus the Savior of Israel and the World.
  + Jesus the supreme authority.
  + Jesus the teacher, preacher, and healer.
  + The followers of Jesus and the Church.
  + Sermon on the mount (5:1-7:29)
  + Jesus’ teachings about the future (24:1-25:46)

## Mark

* Author - Mark
* Date - A.D. 40-60
* Place of Writing: - Rome
* Purpose - Portrays Jesus as a servant and so does not include a genealogy. Focuses on the action of Jesus. Very few letters in red.
* Basic Outline
  + The Gospel of Jesus Christ, Son of God (1:1-15)
  + Jesus Invades wilderness and city with Good News (1:16-8:26)
  + Jesus invades the hostile city of Jerusalem (8:27-15:47)
  + Closure (16:1-8)
* Key Characteristics
  + The supernatural nature of Jesus.
  + The unfolding mystery of Jesus’ divine sonship, beginning with the baptism.
  + The ministry of Jesus as servant.
  + Jesus’ commands many to be silent and not disclose the miracles.

## Luke

* Author - Luke
* Date - A.D. 50-64
* Place of Writing: Greece, Caesarea, Alexandria or Rome have all been suggested.
* Purpose - Luke tells us his fundamental purpose in writing. He wants Theophilus to know that faith in Jesus rests on historical facts that stand up under the most severe scrutiny, founded as they are on firsthand testimony.
* Basic Outline
  + A reliable account of salvation history (1:1-4)
  + Preparation for Jesus’ ministry (1:5-4:13)
  + Jesus proclaims salvation in Galilee by the power of the Spirit (4:14-9:50)
  + Galilee to Jerusalem: Discipleship (9:51-19:27)
  + Arrival at destiny: death and resurrection in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53)
* Key Characteristics
  + God’s universal work.
  + Jesus as savior of the world.
  + Events of Jesus’s early life.
  + The place of women in Jesus’ ministry.
  + The ministry of the Holy Spirit.
  + The place of prayer in Jesus’ ministry.

## John

* Author - John
* Date - A.D. 70-90
* Place of Writing: Ephesus
* Purpose - John is writing so that readers might believe that JEsus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing have life in his name (20:31).
* Basic Outline
  + The prologue (1:1-18)
  + The book of signs (1:19-12:50)
  + The book of glory (13:1-20:31)
  + Epilogue (21:1-25)
* Key Characteristics
  + In the beginning was the Word.
  + Jesus’s divine qualities and essence.
  + Jesus as a unique divine messenger.
  + Jesus’ fulfillment of Israel’s and all humanities hopes and needs.
  + The Word became flesh.
  + The principle of faith.
  + The work of the Holy Spirit.
  + The Love of God.

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# History – Acts

## Encountering the World of the Early Church

**The Roman Emperors of the First Century**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Years** | **Names** | **Events** | **References** |
| 30 BC - AD 14 | Augustus | Birth of Christ | Luke 2:1 |
| AD  14 -37 | Tiberius | Ministry and Death of Christ | Luke 3:1 |
| AD 37 - 41 | Caligula |  |  |
| AD 41 - 54 | Claudius | Famine | Acts 11:28 |
|  |  | Expulsion of Jews from Rome | Acts 18:2 |
| AD 54 - 68 | Nero | Trial of Paul | Acts 25:10-12; 27:24 |
|  |  | Persecution at Rome | 2 Timothy 4:16, 17; Revelation 13:1-10 |
| AD 68 | Galba |  |  |
| AD 69 | Otho |  |  |
| AD 69 | Vitellius |  |  |
| AD 69-79 | Vespasian | Destruction of Jerusalem | Matthew 24:1-2 |
| AD 79 -81 | Titus |  |  |
| AD 81-96 | Domitian | Persecution | Revelation 6:9; 7:14; 12:11; 20:4 |
| AD 96-98 | Nerva |  |  |
| AD 98 - 117 | Trajan |  |  |

* Hellenistic civilization.
  + Language
  + Infrastructure
  + Syncretism
* Religions and Philosophies of Rome
  + Greek and Roman Mythologies.
  + Occult
  + Stoics - philosophy teaching that stressed fate. Salvation by forsaking pleasure and to be unmoved emotionally.
  + Cynics - philosophy of radical personal of act and speech against societal standards.
  + Skepticism - Philosophy of no truth outside of person’s experience and not affected by others.
* The majority of early Christians remained in Jerusalem and worshipped there for many years before dispersing.
* Early Christian viewed themselves as the people of God and inheritors of Old Testament promises.
* Early Christians held a variety of distinctive beliefs, but the critical common beliefs were Jesus’s divine uniqueness and his saving death and resurrection.

## The Acts of Jesus through the Holy Spirit in the Apostles.

* Author - Luke
* Date - A.D. 40-60
* Place of Writing: - Rome
* Purpose - This is the second volume of Luke’s writings and is best read directly after his Gospel. He writes to share the reliable eyewitness accounts of the church.
* Basic Outline
  + The witness to Christ in and around Jerusalem (1:1-7:60)
  + The witness to Christ in Judea and Samaria (8:1-12:25)
  + The witness to Christ to the ends of the Earth (13:1-28:31)
* Key Characteristics
  + Ascension
  + Pentecost
  + The life of the Church
  + Christian Community with conflict and blessing.
  + Steven’s Council Speech.
  + The ethiopian eunuch.
  + Paul’s Conversion
  + Peter and Cornelius
  + First missionary journeys of Paul.
  + The Jerusalem council.
  + Second and third missionary journeys of Paul.
  + Ministry in Rome.
* **History – Acts – The Church**
  + Power and progress of the Church
  + Ephesians 3:1-6; Not known in the Old Testament
  + Matt. 16:18; Building a house upon a rock.
  + Acts 1:1; Continuation of Christ
  + Promise of Power
  + They had 11, which, is a sign on confusion, and needed twelve to have logic.
  + Replace Judas with Matthias.
  + Day of Pentecost
  + Tongues
  + 3,000 saved
  + 2:42-47. Breaking bread house to house.
  + Peter, along with John, preach to many in Jerusalem, and perform many miracles such as healings, the [casting out of evil spirits](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exorcism), and the raising of the dead. As a result, thousands convert to [Early Christianity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Christianity) and are baptized.
  + Not under Mosaic Law but under Grace
  + Holy Spirit
  + Paul
  + Church
    - Universal/local
    - Pastor – Acts 20:28
      * 1 Timothy 3:1-7
    - Deacon – Acts 6:3
      * 1 Timothy 3:8-13
    - Elders – Acts 15:2-6; Acts 15:22
      * 1 Timothy 5:1-19
  + Government

# Pauline Epistles – Romans – Philemon

## All things to All People

* Focus of Paul’s writings
  + God’s Glory
  + Evil and the human dilemma
  + Paul and the law.
  + Children of Abraham, Children of God
  + Revelation and Scripture
  + Messiah
  + Redemption
  + The Cross
  + Resurrection
  + The Church
  + Ethics
  + Last things
* Paul’s typically included two parts to each letter.
  + Part 1 - Theology
  + Part 2 - Ethics

## Romans

* Date - A.D. 57-58
* Place of Writing: During a three-month stay at Corinth.
* Purpose - The purpose of Romans is one of the most disputed topics in modern New Testament scholarship. Everyone agrees that Paul was writing in part to rally support for the upcoming mission to Spain that he hoped to undertake (Rom. 15:24). Two other options are open to debate. Paul could be writing to demonstrate his theology as some have slandered him (Rom. 3:7-8). Or, with the so much talk about Jews and Gentiles, Paul could be addressing some form of ethnic division in the Roman church. Or, perhaps all three.
* Basic Outline
  + The King and His Gospel (1:1-18)
  + The Sinful fall of humanity (1:19-3:20)
  + Justified by faith in Jesus Christ (3:21-8:39)
  + Israel place in all of this Church talk (9:1-11:36)
  + Faithful Servants in action (12:1-15:13)
  + Conclusion (15:14-16:1-27)
* Key Characteristics
  + Romans was the book that changed the course of the early church through Augustine, the medieval church through Luther, and the eighteenth century church in England through Wesley.
  + Romans is about the good news of Jesus Christ.
  + Sinful people receive the salvation made possible by Christ by grace through faith alone.
  + Sharing Abraham’s faith does not require sharing his ethnicity.
  + Paul provides a clear prescription for Christian living in this epistle, which addresses worship, the use of gifts, acts of service and hospitality, the role of government, loving one’s neighbor, living in the day, and pursuing peace.
  + Israel’s relationship to the Gospel and God.

## I & II Corinthians

* Date - A.D. 55
* Place of Writing: -During his two-to-three year stay at Ephesus.
* Purpose - The Corinthians congregation was being torn apart by quarreling over several issues. Paul needed to give pastoral care. Both for discipline and later on for spiritual grieving.
* Basic Outline
  + 1 Corinthians
    - Introduction (1:1-9)
    - Paul’s response to reports about the community (1:10-6:20)
    - Paul’s response to questions (7:1-16:9)
    - Closing (16:10-24).
  + 2 Corinthians
    - Introduction (1:1-11)
    - Paul’s explanation of his conduct in recent matters (1:12-2:13)
    - Paul’s reflection on his ministry (2:14-5:21).
    - Paul’s appeal to the corinthians (6:1-13:10).
    - Conclusion (13:11-13)
* Key Characteristics
  + The Corinthian church was full of dissent and confusion, and as a result the Corinthian epistles provide helpful guidance for those in similar settings today.
  + Corinth, the largest city in Greece, was noted for its immorality.
  + Paul founded the church at Corinth on his second missionary journey.
  + In 1 Corinthians Paul addresses issues related to sexual misconduct, marriage, celibacy, idolatry, personal Christian freedom, worship, spiritual gifts, congregational order, the resurrection, and the age to come.
  + Paul wrote 2 Corinthians to praise the church at Corinth for its progress, warn it of new threats, and to prepare it for his next visit.

## Galatians

* Date - A.D. 40-60
* Place of Writing: - Rome
* Purpose - To call the church back to the true gospel that Paul had preached and from which some of them had recently departed.
* Basic Outline
  + Introduction (1:1-10)
  + Paul and the nature of his apostleship (1:11-2:21)
  + The efficacy of grace over law (3:1-4:7)
  + An appeal to the Galatians (4:8-31)
  + Freedom in Christ (5:1-6:10)
  + Conclusion with Personal appeal (6:11-18)
* Key Characteristics
  + Galatians was written to the church at Perga, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe.
  + Paul clarifies the true nature of the gospel, centered on Christ’s atoning death foretold by the Old Testament Prophets.
  + At the center of the Galatian epistle is the truth that salvation is God’s free gift.
  + Paul makes clear to the Galatians that the gospel of grace rules out the use of mere rules or a code of conduct as a means of self-justification.

## Ephesians

* Date - A.D. 60-70
* Place of Writing: - Rome while under house arrest.
* Purpose - Paul focuses on the church and the metaphors for its organization and unity.
* Basic Outline
  + Introduction (1:1-2)
  + Recreating the human family: What God has done (1:3-3:21)
  + Recreating the human family: What God is doing (4:1-6:20)
  + Closing (3:20-21)
* Key Characteristics
  + Ephesus was noted as a center of emperor worship, the occult, idolatry, and spiritism.
  + Ephesians consists of a series of statements about God, Christ, and salvation, followed by exhortations uring readers to reflect God’s truth and will in their lives.
  + Critical Issues raised concerning Ephesians involve the authorship and destination of the lterr, the relation of Ephesians to Colossians, parallels with the Dead Sea Scrolls, the presence of gnostic ideas, and the nature of various doctrinal emphases.

## Philippians

* Date - A.D. 60-70
* Place of Writing: - Rome while under house arrest.
* Purpose - Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians to express his pastoral concern over their current situation, to let them know about his circumstances, and to prepare them for a visit from Timothy and possibly himself.
* Basic Outline
  + Introduction (1:1-11)
  + Paul’s present circumstances in serving the Gospel (1:12-26).
  + Exhortations to a lifestyle worthy of the Gospel (1:27-2:30)
  + Warnings against false teaching contrary to the Gospel (3:1-4:1)
  + Further exhortations to application of earlier themes (4:2-9).
  + Personal Epilogue (4:10-20)
  + Closing (4:21-23)
* Key Characteristics
  + The church at Philippi was founded by Paul and Silas on the second missionary journey.
  + In Philippians Paul identifies three groups hindering the gospel message: a group in the Christian community in Rome, a group not preaching the authentic gospel, and the self-centered individuals in the Philippian church.

## Colossians

* Date - A.D. 40-60
* Place of Writing - Rome while under house arrest.
* Purpose - Paul gives a twofold reason for writing. One is to assure the Colossians of his interest and care. The second reason involves false teaching and teachers who may be misleading some in the church.
* Basic Outline
  + Salutation (1:1-2)
  + Thanksgiving and Prayer (1:3-14)
  + Theology (1:15-3:4)
  + Ethics (3:5-4:6)
  + Closing (4:7-18)
* Key Characteristics
  + The basic message of Colossians is the uniqueness and preeminence of Christ.
  + Paul spoke against legalism and asceticism in his Epistle to the Colossians.

## I & II Thessalonians

* Date - A.D. 40-60
* Place of Writing: - Corinth
* Purpose - Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians to encourage new believers by confirming that hard times are part of God’s plan for his people, by commending their faith and love, by giving further instructions, and by providing insight into the last things. In 2 Thessalonians Paul continues the encouragement he began in 1 Thessalonians as well as emphasizing that believers must not be misled, providing instruction on handling wayward brothers, and assuring believers of eventual victory, reward, and justice.
* Basic Outline
  + 1 Thessalonians
    - Greeting (1:1)
    - Personal reminiscences (1:2-10)
    - The nature of the apostles ministry (2:1-12)
    - The reception of the Gospel (2:13-16)
    - Paul’s concern for the Thessalonians (2:17-3:13)
    - Exhortations to Christian living (4:1-12)
    - Problems related to Christ’s coming (4:13-5:11)
    - The internal life of the Church (5:12-24)
    - Closing (5:25-28)
  + 2 Thessalonians
    - Greetings (1:1-2)
    - The judgement at Christ’s coming (1:3-12)
    - Events surrounding Christ’s coming (2:1-12)
    - Right attitudes encouraged (2:13-17)
    - Intercessory prayer (3:1-5)
    - Instruction in faith and life (3:6-15)
    - Closing (3:16-18)
* Key Characteristics
  + In 1 Thessalonians Paul places the emphasis on God and not on self.
  + Christ’s appearing and eternal consequences

## I, II Timothy, & Titus

* Date - A.D. 62
* Place of Writing - Rom or after house arrest
* Purpose - First and Second Timothy and Titus are called Pastoral Epistles because they show pastoral concern for their recipients and deal with pastoral matters involving care of souls and orderly conduct in the church.
* Basic Outline
  + 1 Timothy
  + 2 Timothy
  + Titus
* Key Characteristics
  + Paul wrote 1 Timothy to encourage Timothy to persevere with the church at Ephesus in spite of opposition.
  + In 1 Timothy Paul reminds Timothy to focus on prayer and worship, to hold high standards for filling church offices, to avoid heresy by maintaining sound teaching, to take proper care of widows, to have slaves show godly respect for their masters, to guard against false teachers, and to avoid love of money.
  + In 2 Timothy Paul focuses on the hardship to be endured by the servant of God.
  + The purpose of Paul’s letter to Titus is to give him practical direction for his work in Crete until others can join him.
  + In Titus special instructions are given for different groups, including older men, older and younger women, young men, and Titus, and slaves.

## Philemon

* Date - A.D. 40-60
* Place of Writing: - Rome under house arrest.
* Purpose - Philemon was a personal acquaintance of Paul and apparently a man of means. Paul writes to Philemon, urging him to treat Onesimus, Philemon’s slave, with mercy because Onesimus has found Christ.
* Basic Outline
  + Greeting (1-3)
  + Commendation of Philemon (4-7)
  + Intercession for Onesimus (8-22)
  + Salutations and Benediction (23-25)
* Key Characteristics
  + Paul’s letter to Philemon, a personal friend, dealt with a runaway slave named Onesimus.
  + Because a large percentage of the population in this era consisted of slaves, Onesimus’s situation was an important matter for Paul to bring to Philemon’s attention.
  + In his treatment of Onesiums, Paul admonishes Philemon to go beyond the legal customs of the day and to consider standards of justice and love that rooted in the character of God.

## Hebrews

* Author - Paul. However, many debate who wrote this book. Apollos, Luke, Barnabas, and many others have been suggested. However, it may just be appropriate to call the author, “The Pastor.”
* Date - A.D. 40-60
* Place of Writing: - Unknown
* Purpose - Most indications point toward a Jewish Christian audience. It seems that the Pastor wrote to warn his readers not to turn back to Judaism and to encourage them to stay true to faith in Jesus Christ.
* Basic Outline
  + The superiority of the Christian faith (1:1-10:18)
  + Exhortations to persevere in Christian faith (10:19-12:29)
  + Concluding exhortations (13:1:19)
  + Benediction (13:20-25)
* Key Characteristics
  + Written more like a sermon attachment to a letter. Perhaps the reason why it could be Paul’s message, although it lack his typical greeting.
  + Hebrews emphasizes the superiority of the Christian faith and teaches that Jesus is superior to the prophets, angels, Moses, and Aaron.
  + Hebrews can be viewed as a book of exhortations because it repeatedly exhorts its readers to courageously reaffirm their Christian faith.
  + The major practical concern of Hebrews is that Christian not be intimidated by the difficult circumstances they face.

# General Epistles – James – Jude

## General Epistles

* There are seven General Epistles, James through Jude. Though some would include Hebrews as a General Epistle.
* Like Paul’s letters, they come in order of approximate length, not date or importance.
* They are called *general* because they appeal either to no specific audience or to an audience whose exact identity is somewhat broad or vague to us.

## James

* Author - James, most likely the half-brother of Jesus (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3, 21; John 7:3-5; Acts 15; Gal. 2)
* Date - A.D. 35-50
* Place of Writing: - Jerusalem
* Purpose - James may have intended his letter to Jewish Christians scattered in a variety of communities - he refers to them as the “twelve tribes scattered.” It parallels the Old Testament Wisdom book of Proverbs.
* Basic Outline
  + Greeting (1:1)
  + Trials and temptations (1:2-18)
  + Putting the Word into practice (1:19-26)
  + Worldliness in the Church (3:1-4:12)
  + Looking at life from a Christian perspective (4:13-5:11)
  + Concluding exhortations (5:12-20)
* Key Characteristics
  + James emphasize the importance of practicing the Christ faith, not merely “believing” it.
  + Some people place James’ stance on works against Paul’s stance on grace.

## I & II Peter

* Author - Peter
* Date - A.D. 40-60
* Place of Writing: - Unknown
* Purpose - The themes of 1 Peter is salvation in the midst of suffering. Second Peter focus on sanctification, Scripture, warnings against false teachers, and the end of the age.
* Basic Outline
  + 1 Peter
    - Suffering as a Christian (1:1-2:10)
    - At home, but not in this world (2:11-3:12)
    - Suffering - The road to glory (3:13-4:19)
    - Final exhortations and greetings (5:1-14)
  + 2 Peter
    - Greeting (1:1-2)
    - Concern for sanctification (1:3-11)
    - Confidence in the Scripture (1:12-21)
    - Caution toward false teachers (2:1-22)
    - Constancy in light of the last days (3:1-16)
    - Conclusing (3:17-18)
* Key Characteristics
  + The comfort and encouragement of Christ.
  + The glory of salvation.
  + Following Christ.
  + The believer as a pilgrim.
  + Warnings against False teachers

## I, II, & III John

* Author - John
* Date - A.D. 40-60
* Place of Writing: - Ephesus
* Purpose - In 1 John Christians were exhorted to love one another. Second John was written to “the Chosen lady” and her children and emphasizes the same matters as 1 John. Third John was written to Gaius, whom John commends for being faithful and walking in the truth.
* Basic Outline
  + 1 John
    - The incarnation makes fellowship possible (1:1-4)
    - Fellowship with God is based on truth and love (1:5-5:17)
    - Fellowship comprises three certainties (5:18-21).
  + 2 John
    - The elder greets the elect lady and her children (1-3)
    - Abiding in the truth is the basis for walking in love (4-11)
    - The truth is the basis of Christian fellowship (12-13).
  + 3 John
    - The elder addresses Gaius in love (1)
    - Love must prevail in the circle of the truth (2-12)
    - Peace should prevail among friends (13-15)d
* Key Characteristics
  + Joy can be full.
  + It is possible to sin but also to repent.
  + Love one another.
  + Victory in Christ.

## Jude

* Author - Jude
* Date - A.D. 40-60
* Place of Writing: - Jerusalem
* Purpose - Jude was written to urge the Christians to contend for the faith.
* Basic Outline
  + Greeting (1-2)
  + Reason for writing (3-4)
  + God’s judgement in the past (5-7)
  + Warning against false teachers (8-16)
  + A call to persevere (17-23)
  + Closing (24-25)
* Key Characteristics
  + Jude lists the sins of evildoers, whom he urges Christians to resist.

# Prophetic – Revelations

## The Revelation of Jesus Christ

**Interpretive Schools of Thought and Eschatology**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Historicist** | Revelation is the history of the Christian Church from its beginning to end. Typically Pre-millennial. |
| **Idealist** | The symbolic character of the apocalyptic limits the meaning of the book to universal abstract principles for all times and places. Typically amillennial. |
| **Preterist** | Argues that all of the events are completed in the time frame of the original reader in the first-century church. Primarily post-millennial, few pre-millennial. |
| **Futurist** | The bulk of Revelation is about the end of the world. Gives little attention to how the original readers would have understood the book. Primarily pre-millennial, few post-millennial. |

**Eschatology - study of end things**

Pre-millennial

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Christ | The Church Age | Rapture | Tribulation | Second-Coming | Millennium | Eternity |

Post-millennial

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Christ | The Church Age | Tribulation | Second-Coming | Millennium | Eternity |

Amillennial

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Christ | The Church Age | Second-Coming | Eternity |

**Discussion: How should we interpret the Book of Revelation and Why?**

* Author - John
* Date - A.D. 90-100
* Place of Writing: - Isle of Patmos
* Purpose - Portrays Jesus as a servant and so does not include a genealogy. Focuses on the action of Jesus. Very few letters in red.
* Basic Outline
  + Introductory vision of Christ (1:1-20)
  + Letters to the seven asian churches (2:1-3:22)
  + Vision of God on his throne (4:1-5:14)
  + Opening of the seals on destiny’s scroll (6:1-17)
  + Interlude before the seventh seal (7:1-17)
  + The seventh seal and the seven trumpets (8:1-9:21)
  + Interlude and the seventh trumpet (10:1-11:19)
  + The cosmic conflict of good and evil (12:1-13:1)
  + The beasts, the believers, and the judgement of Earth (13:1-14:20)
  + The seven last bowls of the wrath of God (15:1-16:21)
  + The fall of Rome predicted (17:1-18:24)
  + The return of Christ in glory (19:1-21)
  + The millennial reign of Christ (20:1-15)
  + The eternal new order (21:1-22:6)
  + The promise of Jesus’ return (22:7-21)
* Key Characteristics
  + The central themes of Revelation are that God exists and is guiding the course of history, that he has overcome evil, and that he will bring everything to a triumphant conclusion in his time.
  + One key to understanding Revelation is to grasp God’s relation to the world.
  + The major theological teaching of Revelation focuses on God, the son of God, the people of God, and eschatology.
  + Symbolism is used through the book of Revelation.