

"It's All about God"

New Testament Introduction

Why Study the New Testament?

1. It contains the "biography" of Jesus.
2. It shows God's power through nearly countless fulfilled prophecies.
3. Hebrews reminds us that the way of Christ is better than the way of Moses.
4. It gives us hope of an abundant life here and eternal life in heaven.

Facts about the New Testament

Major language: _____

Number of writers: _____

Time period covered: _____

(from birth of _____ near the death of _____)

How to Divide the New Testament

Five divisions as we have the New Testament ordered:

1. The four _____ (Matthew-John)
2. One book of _____ (Acts)
3. Letters and Epistles, divided into two groups:
 - A. Those written by _____ (Romans-Philemon)
 - B. "General" epistles (Hebrews-Jude)
4. One book of _____ (Revelation)

After Acts, the New Testament is not chronological, but more of a collection of documents (letters) to the church.

Literary Styles in the New Testament

Narrative prose

The vast majority of the New is prose, either historical (narrative) or literary (letters). While these writings contain figures of speech, it makes studying the New Testament quite easy, since there is much less poetic speech.

Proverbs and Parables

Especially in the ministry of Jesus, there are some figures of speech, where one thing is meant to represent another (e.g., the Parable of the Sower). The key is to not miss the main message in trying to figure out every little detail.

Apocalyptic Prophecy

Revelation contains very poetic language that most scholars call "apocalyptic" (literally "unveiling"). Highly figurative, this language was meant to mean something specific to its original readers that we can understand, but we must do our best not to "stretch" the text to fit what we think it might mean.

Major Themes in the New Testament

The coming of the Messiah
God's plan for redemption through Jesus and the cross
The Church
Hope beyond the grave
The Kingship of Jesus

Many people have said, "The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed." Without a grasp of at least the major themes and people of the Old Testament, the New Testament will not be as rich to the Bible student as possible.

Purpose/Approach of Our Study

Purpose:

1. NOT a textual or in-depth study. (Not verse-by-verse or even chapter-by-chapter)
 2. Purpose is to overview each book quickly to see:
 - (a) Major themes
 - (b) Major people and events
 - (c) Outline of the book
 - (d) Attributes and characteristics of God
 - (e) The unfolding of God's redemptive plan, ultimately brought by Jesus
- *Each week's handout will reflect these five areas, as they apply to the book of study.

Approach:

One book per week is our goal, though we may take 2 weeks for some longer books. Each book will be accompanied with a short handout to help you study further and review.

**If we fail to see God in these books,
we have failed our purpose,
because it's all about God!**