

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS AND THEIR MESSAGE

TWO PERIODS COVERED IN NEW TESTAMENT

A. The Period of the Christ

1. This period embraces all the events in Bible study from the birth and coming of John the baptizer to the events of Pentecost to Acts.
2. The scriptures that cover this period are Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts 1:1-12.
3. The Christ is the center of this period.

B. The period of the church

1. This period embraces all the events of Bible study from Acts 2 to close of Revelation
2. This period can be briefly outlined as presented by Dean in "An Outline of Bible History."
 - a. The founding and growth of the church Acts 1:7
 - b. The extension of the church throughout Judea, Samaria, and the transition to the Gentiles. Acts 8-12.
 - c. Paul's missionary tours among the Gentiles. Acts 13:1 - 21:26.
 - d. Paul's four years' imprisonment. Acts 21:27 - 28:31.
 - e. Later Apostolic history.
3. The scriptures that cover this period are Acts of apostles, the epistles, and Revelation.

II. THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS were written to convince men that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

A. Matthew - 28 chapters

1. Matthew was an apostle.
2. Matthew was written sometime between A.D. 50 and A.D. 70, possible around A.D. 60.
3. Matthew wrote appeal to the Jewish mind.
4. Matthew emphasizes Jesus, King of the Jews.
5. Some outstanding events and chapters in Matthew.
 - a. Birth of Jesus. Matthew 2.
 - b. Sermon on Mount. Matthew 5-7.
 - c. Choosing of the 12. Matthew 10.
 - d. The parable chapter. Matthew 13.
 - e. Promise to build the church. Matthew 16.
 - f. Destruction of Jerusalem and second coming. Matthew 24-25.
 - g. Betrayal, trial, crucifixion and resurrection. Matthew 26-28.

B. Mark - 16 chapters.

1. Mark wrote especially for the Romans.
2. Mark wrote to impress the Roman mind with power.
3. Mark was written sometime between A.D. 60 - 70 from Rome.
4. Some outstanding, events and chapters.
 - a. Miracles and demonstration of powers. Mark 5.
 - b. Transfiguration. Mark 9.
 - c. Institution of Lord's Supper. Mark 14.
 - d. The great commission. Mark 16.

C. Luke - 24 chapters.

1. Luke wrote especially for the Greeks.
2. It was probably written about 60 - 62 at Caesarea.
3. Luke emphasizes Jesus as the perfect Son of man.
4. Some outstanding events and chapters in Luke.
 - a. The birth of John the Baptist and Christ. Luke 1, 2.
 - b. The temptation of Jesus. Luke 4.
 - c. Parable of the certain Samaritan. Luke 10.
 - d. The cost of discipleship. Luke 14.
 - e. Parable of the prodigal son. Luke 15.
 - f. Parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Luke 16.

D. John - 21 chapters.

1. He gives emphasis to the divinity of Jesus.
2. He specifically states that he wrote to convince men that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. John 20:30,31.
3. *"In Matthew Christ is King and you are awe; in Mark He is a servant and you are amazed; in Luke He is perfect humanity and you are frightened. In John He is spiritual humanity, real humanity - and you. can do what John did - lay your head upon the bosom of Christ (Charles Hodge)*
4. Some outstanding events and chapters in John.
 - a. Lesson on the new, birth. John 3.
 - b. Acceptable worship. John 4.
 - c. Feeding the 5,000. John 6.
 - d. The good shepherd. John IO.
 - e. The raising of Lazarus. John II.
 - f. The Lord's prayer. John 17.

III. THE BOOK OF ACTS WAS WRITTEN TO CONVERT MEN TO CHRIST.

- A. The book of Acts was written by Luke and has 28 chapters.
- B. Acts was probably written in A.D. 63 or 64.
- C. There are two major divisions of Acts.

1. 1 - 12. Peter is the main person and Jerusalem is the main place.
2. 13 - 28. Paul is the main person and Antioch is the main place.

D. Some outstanding events and chapters.

1. Acts 1. The ascension.
2. Acts 2. Pentecost and the beginning of the church.
3. Acts 6. Selection of the seven.
4. Acts 8. Philip at Samaria and conversion of the eunuch.
5. Acts 9. Conversion of Saul.
6. Acts 10. Conversion of Cornelius.
7. Acts 13:1 - 14:28. Paul's first missionary journey.
8. Acts 15. The Jerusalem conference.
9. Acts 15:36 - 18:22. Paul's Second missionary journey.
10. Acts 18:23 - 21:16. Paul's third missionary journey.
11. Acts 24. Paul's defense before Felix.
12. Acts 25. Paul's defense before Festus.
13. Acts 26. Paul's defense before Agrippa.
14. Acts 27, 28. Voyage to Rome.

IV. The Epistles were written to confirm men in Christ.

A. Romans - 16 chapters.

1. Romans was written by Paul at Corinth, possibly 'm the spring of A.D. 58.
2. Romans emphasizes the gospel as God's power to save.
3. It is a book of great themes - sin, righteousness, gospel, law, faith, hope, love, obedience, justification, salvation, adoption,- election.

B. I Corinthians - 16 chapters.

1. Written by Paul at Ephesus in A.D. 57.
2. It was inspired of God and written to combat many of the problems in the church then and now.
3. Some of the outstanding events and chapters are:

a. 1 - 3 Division.	f. 8 - 10 Idols and meats offered.
b. 4 Stewardship.	g. 11 Women's veils and the Lord's supper
c. 5 Church discipline.	h. 12-14 Spiritual gifts.
d. 6 Lawsuits	i. 15 The resurrection.
e. 7 Marriage	j. 16 Giving.

C. II Corinthians - 13 chapters.

1. Written by Paul in Macedonia in A.D. 57.
2. The main message of II Corinthians seems to be an *"attempt to effect right thinking and conduct among the Corinthians in regard to (1) the ministry; (2) giving, and (3) Paul's apostleship. "* (McCord).

D. Galatians - 6 chapters.

1. Written by Paul at Corinth in the winter of A.D. 57.
 2. The main purpose of the book is to show that salvation is by faith, on the one hand, and freedom from the law of Moses on the other.
- E. Ephesians - 6 chapters.
1. Ephesians was written by Paul during his first Roman imprisonment in A.D. 61 or 62.
 2. The theme of Ephesians is "The Unfolding of God's Eternal Purpose" or "The Revelation of God's Plan for the Ages."
- F. Philippians - 4 chapters.
1. Philippians was written by Paul during his first Roman imprisonment in A.D. 61 or 62.
 2. "Philippians was written to express Paul's thanks for their most recent contribution, 4:10 - 11; to tell the news of himself and Epaphroditus, 1:12 ff; 2:25 ff, to encourage them in suffering, 1:27 ff, and appeal for unity, 2:1 ff and 4:1 ff. (Foy Kirkpatrick)
- G. Colossians - 4 chapters.
1. Colossians was written by Paul during his first Roman imprisonment in A.D. 61 or 62.
 2. Colossians and Ephesians are so much alike that they have been called "twin epistles" although there are numbers of differences.
 3. "In Ephesians, Paul is primarily concerned with the exaltation of a sublime truth. In Colossians, he is concerned with the refutation of error." (Warren)
- H. I Thessalonians - 5 chapters.
1. I Thessalonians was written by Paul at Corinth in A.D. 52.
 2. I Thessalonians commends them for the way in which they received the gospel, Paul's manner and motives of preaching given, various admonitions to Christian living, and comfort regarding the dead.
- I. II Thessalonians - 3 chapters.
1. II Thessalonians was written by Paul at Corinth in A.D. 53.
 2. Just as the first epistle was written to praise the steadfastness of the Thessalonians under persecution and to correct certain errors and misunderstandings, so the second message carries on the work of the first, encouraging the fainthearted, rebuking the slackers, clearing points associated with the return of the Lord. (John C. Stevens)
- J. I Timothy - 6 chapters
1. I Timothy was written by Paul in Macedonia between the first and "second Roman imprisonment in A.D.- 67.
 2. I Timothy might be divided into two parts.
 - a. General instructions concerning the doctrine, the worship, and the organization of the church. 1:1 - 3:15.

- b. Various instructions concerning proper attitudes toward the: church and individual members. 3:14 - 6:19.

K. II Timothy - 4 chapters

1. II Timothy was written by Paul during' his second Roman imprisonment in A.D. 68.
2. II Timothy contains Paul's admonition to Timothy -to keep clinging to the sound doctrine and to defend it unceasingly, He also warned of evil times that were coming and explained his personal affairs.

L. Titus - 3 chapters

1. Titus was written by Paul at Ephesus between his first and second Roman imprisonment.
2. *"The purpose of the epistle was to give Titus further instructions for the performing of the work in Crete that Paul had left him there to do."* (Kelcy).

M. Philemon - 1 chapter

1. Philemon was written by Paul during his first Roman imprisonment in A.D. 61 or 62.
2. "The main message of this brief epistle by the peerless apostle is clearly a plea for the reconciliation of two children of God, one of them a slave, the other his master. " (Alex Humphery, Jr.)

N. Hebrews - 13 chapters.

1. Hebrews was probably written between A.D. 65 and 70, but as Origin of the third century said, ". . . who wrote the Epistle God only knows certainly.
2. The book of Hebrews divides itself into two unequal parts:
 - a. The supremacy of Christ over all other things. 1:1 -10:18.
 - b. Warning against apostasy and encouragement to faithfulness. 10:19 - 13:25.

O. James - 5 chapters.

1. James was written by James the Lord's brother, probably between A.D. 44 and 65.
2. "If any man among you seem to be religious" might well serve as a title to the book.
3. "If any man among you seem to be religious:
 - a. Let that man's religion be put to the test. (chapter 1)
 - b. Let that man's religion show for his faith. (chapter 2)
 - c. Let that man's whole body be harnessed for God's use. (chapter 3:1-12)
 - d. Let that man be guided from above (chapter 3:13 - chapter 5:6)
 - e. Let that man go as far as he can and leave the rest to God. (chapter 5: 7-20)." (G. Bailey)

P. I Peter - 5 chapters.

1. The apostle Peter wrote I Peter about A.D. 65.

2. Written to people who were then passing through a 'fiery trial' of persecution, the purpose of this epistle was to confirm them in the faith of the gospel; strengthen them to greater endurance in the conflicts in which they struggled; and to comfort them with the assurance that in being "partakers of Christ's suffering", they would, "at the revelation of his glory, be privileged to rejoice with exceeding joy."

Q. II Peter - 3 chapters

1. The apostle Peter wrote II Peter soon after I Peter in A.D. 65.
2. The second epistle, was designed to guard Christians against false doctrines being propagated by false teachers.

R. I John - 5 chapters.

1. John, the apostle wrote I John about A.D. 80 to 90.
2. Its purpose is to supply the evidence essential to faith, to quicken the readers to greater activity in the service of the Lord, and to provide assurance of God's approval upon all those who believe on the name of the Son of God. (Guy Woods)
3. It is an epistle of victory.
 - a. Victory over sin. (chapter 1)
 - b. Victory over the evil one (chapter 2)
 - c. Victory of righteousness (chapter 3)
 - d. Victory of love (chapter 4)
 - e. Victory of faith (chapter 5)

S. II John - 1 chapter

1. John the apostle wrote II John about A.D. 85 to 90.
2. II John was written to rejoice with those walking in truth, to admonish them to continue in the same way, and to guard against false teachers.

T. III John - 1 chapter.

1. John the apostle wrote III John near A.D. 90.
2. III John was written for the purpose of:
 - a. Commending Gaius for his faithfulness and hospitality.
 - b. Rebuking Diotrephes for his arrogance and love of power.
 - c. Commending Demetrius for his faithfulness.

U. Jude - 1 chapter.

1. Jude, the Lord's brother, wrote this epistle during the latter half of the first century.
2. It is an epistle with universal appeal and was written to refute false doctrines that arise from time to time.

V. Revelation - 22 chapters.

1. Revelation was written by the apostle John on the isle of Patmos in A.D. 96.
2. Victory is the theme of Revelation and the church is assured again and again that she will be victorious in her struggle against errors and sin.