

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT IS LAID OUT

LESSON 6

OUTLINE

- I. GROUPS OF BOOKS
 1. The Gospels.
 2. History.
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 4. General epistles (letters).
 5. Prophecy.
- II. HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT IS LAID OUT
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- IV. TO WHOM THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS WRITTEN
- V. WORDS TO LEARN
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HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT IS LAID OUT

I. GROUPS OF BOOKS

The books in the New Testament are divided into five groups.

1. The Gospels.

Gospel means good news. The Gospels tell about the life, work, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2. History.

History means the story of that which happened. The history book, Acts, tells about the birth and growth of the Church.

3. Pauline epistles (letters).

Epistle means letter. The Pauline letters were written by Paul to the Churches.

Example: The book of Romans was written to help the Christians in Rome live for Christ. The epistles also explain things the Christians did not understand.

4. General epistles (letters).

The general letters were written by the apostles. These epistles were written to help the Christians. General epistles are letters written to all Christians.

5. Prophecy.

The book of prophecy was written by John to tell what is going to happen in time to come. This book of prophecy is the book of Revelation.

The books of prophecy in the Old Testament were mostly messages written to the people who lived at that time. Some messages told what would happen in time to come.

The only book of prophecy in the New Testament is Revelation. It was written to all the Christians of all times. It tells what will happen to the Church and the world in time to come.

II. HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT IS LAID OUT

The Gospels come first in the New Testament. These are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Next is the book of history, Acts.

After the book of history are the Pauline epistles. Epistles mean letters. These letters of Paul are: Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon and Hebrews. People are not sure if Paul wrote Hebrews.

Then come the general epistles. These are: 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John, James and Jude.

The last book, Revelation, is the book of prophecy. It was written by John.

III. WRITERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

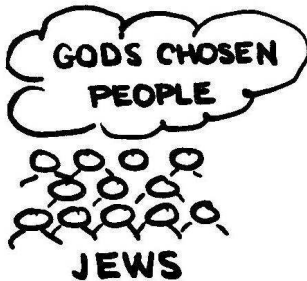
The Old Testament was written by Jews only. Most of the writers were leaders in Israel.

Eight or nine men wrote the New Testament. The New Testament was written by Jews and Gentiles. Luke was a Gentile. It is not known where Luke was born. He spent much of his time travelling with Paul.

The writers of the New Testament were fishermen, workmen, a tax collector and learned people. Examples: Peter was a fisherman. Matthew was a tax collector. Luke was a doctor. Paul was a tentmaker.



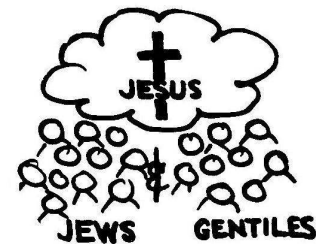
IV. TO WHOM THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS WRITTEN



The Jews are God's chosen people. They came from Abraham and Isaac. They did not mix with other people. They were called Hebrews or Israelites. Today they are called Jews or Israelis.

The Gentiles are all people who are not Jews. They are Black, Chinese, Indian, White people and all others who are not Jews.

The Jews and Gentiles are brought together through the work of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ can bring all people together in love if they will let Him, Romans 10:12; Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11.



The Old Testament was written to the Jews. The Jews were to share the Old Testament with the Gentiles. The New Testament was written to the Jews and the Gentiles.

V. WORDS TO LEARN

1. apostle - one of the 12 followers of Jesus Christ; one of the disciples of Jesus Christ.
2. disciple - a learner, one who learns from his teacher, a follower of Jesus Christ.

- 3. epistle - letter.
- 4. general - to all.
- 5. Gentile - anyone who is not a Jew.
- 6. gospel - good news.
- 7. Pauline - belonging to Paul.

VI. ASSIGNMENT

- 1. MEMORIZE THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.
- 2. Name the four Gospels.

1) 2)

3) 4)

- 3. Name the book of history.

- 4. Name the 14 epistles written by Paul.

1) 2)

3) 4)

5) 6)

7) 8)

9) 10)

11) 12)

13) 14)

- 5. Name the 7 general epistles.

1) 2)

3) 4)

5) 6)

7)

- 6. Name the book of prophecy.

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