

# **NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY**

in EASY - to - UNDERSTAND ENGLISH

## **VOLUME 1**

By  
Joseph F. Pope, Jr.

Prepared for  
The Bible School Department  
of the  
Northern Canada Evangelical Mission

Published by the  
NORTHERN CANADA EVANGELICAL MISSION  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Copyright, 1975-, 1979, by Northern Canada Evangelical Mission,  
Box 2244, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada. S6V 6Z1.

First edition - 200 books.

Second edition- 500 books.

2019 - course edited by Helen Pope.

Photographs courtesy of Ben Neufeld, Wayne Pope.

References taken from the NEW LIFE Testament are identified (New Life Testament).  
It is published by the Christian Literature International, Canby, Oregon. Used by  
permission.

Thought quotes from NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY, M.C. Tenny used by permission.  
Copyright Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1961.

“Bible history” and “Footprints of Jesus” maps from the “Thompson Chain Reference  
Bible” used by permission. Copyright by B. B. Kirkbride Bible Co., Inc.

PRINTED IN CANADA

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### LESSON NUMBER

- TABLE OF CONTENTS
- INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY
- NAMES OF BOOKS OF THE BIBLE AND ABBREVIATIONS
- CHART PART ONE
- MAP #1 Roman Empire
- 1. HOW THE PEOPLE LIVED
- 2. JUDAISM
- 3. JUDAISM
- 4. WHERE AND HOW THE PEOPLE LIVED
  - MAP # 2 - Roman Empire
  - MAP # 3 - Israel in the time of Christ
  - MAP # 4
  - MAP # 5 - Israel
- 5. OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS
- 6. HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT IS LAID OUT
- 7. WRITINGS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
- 8. INSPIRATION
  - Mid term exam
- 9. HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT CAME TO US
- 10. COMPARING THE GOSPELS
- 11. MATTHEW
- 12. MARK
- 13. LUKE
- 14. JOHN
  - Final exam
- GLOSSARY
- BIBLIOGRAPHY



## INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

When we want to study a book we should do the following:

1. Look through the book.
2. Look at the pictures and charts in the book.
3. Look at the chapter names and the outlines.

These things will tell us what the book is about.

The words “Bible,” “Scriptures,” and “Word of God” mean the same thing in this course.

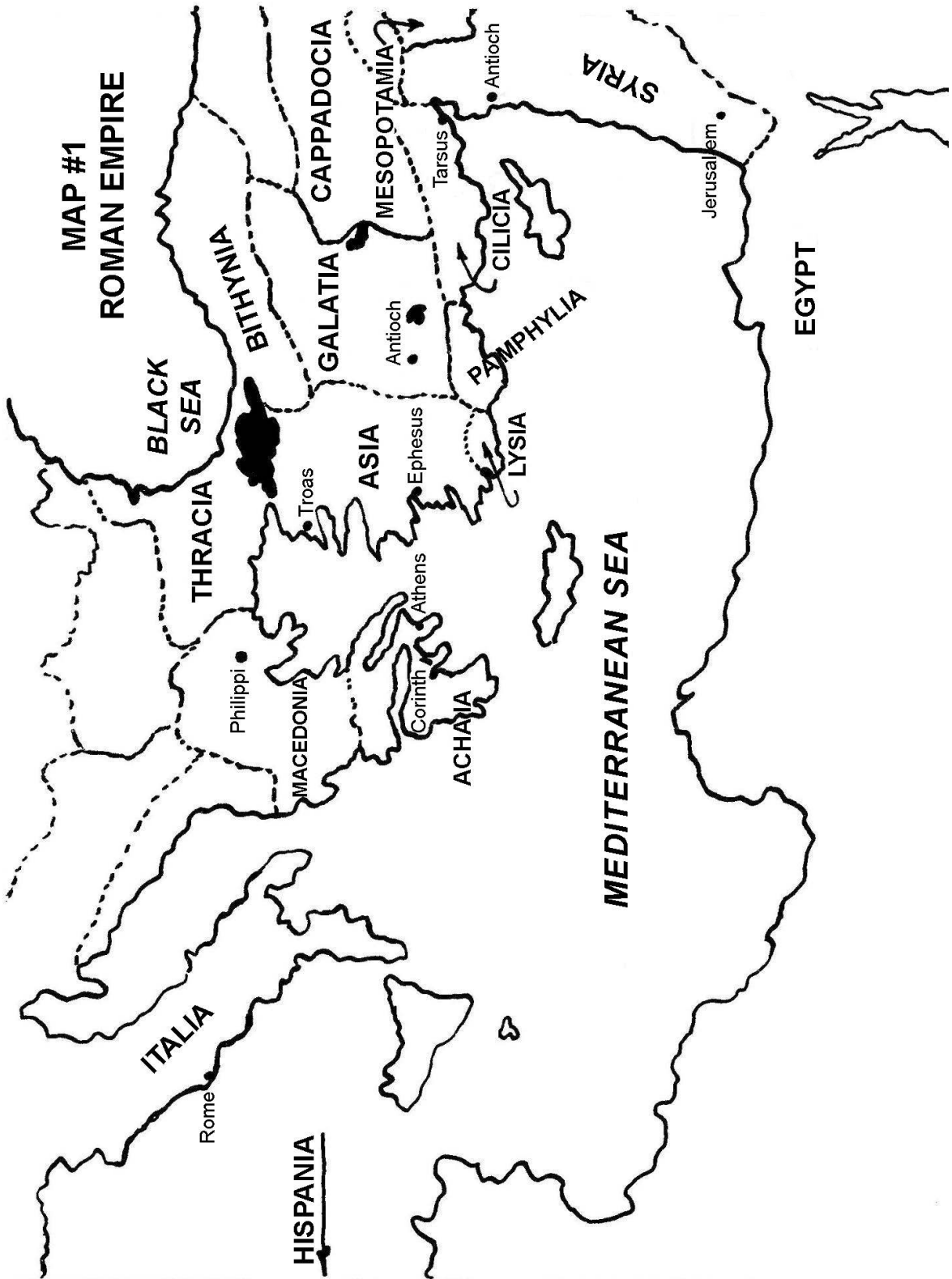
We want to learn the following things in this course:

1. How the people lived from 400 years before Christ to the time Christ died and rose again.
2. How the Old Testament is connected to the New Testament.
3. How the people lived when the New Testament was written.
4. How the New Testament was written and put together.
5. How the New Testament points to Jesus Christ.
6. How the Church was born and how it grew.
7. The outlines of each book in the New Testament. (These outlines need not be memorized.)
8. The main thoughts of each book in the New Testament. (These should be memorized.)
9. The main teachings and doctrines in each New Testament book.

OLD TESTAMENT				
Genesis	Gen.		Proverbs	Prov.
Exodus	Ex.		Ecclesiastes	Eccl.
Leviticus	Lev.		Song of Solomon	S.S.
Numbers	Num.		Isaiah	Isa.
Deuteronomy	Deut.		Jeremiah	Jer.
Joshua	Josh.		Lamentations	Lam.
Judges	Jud.		Ezekiel	Ezek.
Ruth	Ruth		Daniel	Dan.
1 Samuel	1 Sam.		Hosea	Hos.
2 Samuel	2 Sam.		Joel	Joel
1 Kings	1 Kings		Amos	Amos
2 Kings	2 Kings		Obadiah	Obad.
1 Chronicles	1 Chr.		Jonah	Jonah
2 Chronicles	2 Chr.		Micah	Micah
Ezra	Ezra		Nahum	Nah.
Nehemiah	Neh.		Habakkuk	Hab.
Esther	Esth.		Zephaniah	Zeph.
Job	Job		Haggai	Hag.
Psalms	Ps.		Zechariah	Zech.
			Malachi	Mal.
NEW TESTAMENT				
Matthew	Matt.		1 Timothy	1 Tim.
Mark	Mark		2 Timothy	2 Tim.
Luke	Luke		Titus	Tit.
John	John		Philemon	Phile.
Acts	Acts		Hebrews	Heb.
Romans	Rom.		James	Jam.
1 Corinthians	1 Cor.		1 Peter	1 Pet.
2 Corinthians	2 Cor.		2 Peter	2 Pet.
Galatians	Gal.		1 John	1 John
Ephesians	Eph.		2 John	2 John
Philippians	Phil.		3 John	3 John
Colossians	Col.		Jude	Jude
1 Thessalonians	1 Thess.		Revelation	Rev.
2 Thessalonians	2 Thess.			

PART ONE - BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS  
 FOUR HUNDRED YEARS WITH NO MESSAGE FROM GOD  
 THESE YEARS ARE CALLED THE SILENT YEARS

Time	400 B.C.	330 B.C.	166 B.C.	63 B.C.
Ruling Countries	PERSIA	GREECE AND SYRIA	PALESTINE	ROME
Important things that happened in their rule.	1. The Jews returned to Palestine. 2. The Jews rebuilt Jerusalem. 3. Malachi was the last prophet of the Old Testament.	1. Alexander the Great from Greece defeated Persia. He ruled all of Persia. 2. All the people under the rule of Alexander were taught to read and to write the Greek language. 3. After the death of Alexander the Great, his generals ruled. These generals were from Syria. 4. 72 men translated the Old Testament into the Greek language. This translation is called the Septuagint.	1. Some men from the priest's family fought the Syrian generals and made Palestine self-governing (ruling). 2. These men were called Maccabees. 3. The Maccabees ruled Palestine until the people from Rome defeated them. 4. There was peace and quiet during the time the Maccabees ruled.	1. The Romans defeated the Greeks. 2. The Romans ruled most of the then known countries. 3. Caesar Augustus also ruled the people of Palestine.





## **NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY**

### **PART I - TIME BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS**

#### **HOW THE PEOPLE LIVED**

##### **LESSON 1**

##### **OUTLINE**

- I. THE JEWS RULED BY PERSIA, 550 B.C. to 330 B.C.
- II. THE JEWS RULED BY GREECE, 330 B.C. to 323 B.C.
- III. THE JEWS RULED BY SYRIAN GENERALS, 323 B.C. to 166 B.C.
- IV. THE JEWS RULED BY THE MACCABEES, 166 B.C. to 63 B.C.
- V. THE JEWS RULED BY THE ROMANS, 63 B.C. to Birth of Christ.
- VI. THINGS TO REMEMBER
- VII. WORDS TO LEARN
- VIII. ASSIGNMENT

#### **HOW THE PEOPLE LIVED**

There were 400 years from the last prophet, Malachi, to the birth of Christ. It seems that God did not speak to men during these years. None of God's Words were written down. These years are called "silent years."

##### **I. THE JEWS RULED BY PERSIA, 550 B.C. to 330 B.C.**

During this time some of the Jews returned to Palestine. Cyrus, the Persian, told them to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem, Ezra 1:1-4. Other Jews stayed in the countries where they were. Some Jews did not want to leave the work they were doing. They sent money to help the Jews who returned to Palestine.

The Persians let the Jewish governors and priests rule over the people in Jerusalem. These governors were Ezra and Nehemiah. The Persians were good to the Jews. They helped them rebuild the temple and Jerusalem. The Persians ruled over the Jews until 330 B.C.

## **II. THE JEWS RULED BY GREECE, 330 B.C. to 323 B.C.**

### **A. Alexander took countries.**

In 330 B.C. Alexander the Great defeated Persia. He was a Greek. He came from the west (see map page 8). Alexander the Great took over all the countries Persia once ruled. This included Palestine. He was a good ruler.

### **B. Alexander had the people learn Greek.**

The Greeks knew much. They were able to teach much to the people of the other countries. When the people from Greece moved into a country, they taught these people to speak Greek. They taught the people how to read and write Greek. In time many people ruled by Greece could use the Greek language.

## **III. THE JEWS RULED BY SYRIAN GENERALS, 323 B.C. to 166 B.C.**

After Alexander the Great died, several of his generals ruled the countries. These generals came from Syria.

A general by the name of Ptolemy ruled Egypt. A general by the name of Antigonus ruled Syria. Both generals wanted to rule Palestine. That is why they often fought over Palestine.

Most of the time the Ptolemies were kind to the people in Palestine. They let the high priest help rule Palestine. The temple was an important place. Many people kept the feasts. Many studied the law. It seems that the people were poor.<sup>1</sup>

### **A. Old Testament translated into Greek.**

Old Testament was translated into the Greek language. They called this translation of the Old Testament the "Septuagint." Many of the people ruled by the Greeks could read the Old Testament.

Some people have copies of the Septuagint today. The men who translated the Bible into English used the "Septuagint."<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>M.C.Tenny, New Testament Survey, pp. 25,26.

<sup>2</sup>M.C.Tenny, New Testament Survey, p. 26.

## **B. Antiochus of Syria.**

Later, about 175 B.C. a ruler from Syria (Antiochus IV) ruled Palestine. He was very mean to the Jews. Some called him a mad man. This ruler from Syria did not let the Jews rule the country like they wanted to rule it.

Antiochus IV wanted the Jews to think and do like the Greeks. He built a gymnasium near the temple. The people who played games in the gymnasium usually did not wear any clothes. This was against the Jewish laws. Many people went to see these games instead of going to the temple to pray.

This ruler from Syria fought a war with Egypt and lost the war. He was angry. On his way home he did many mean things in Jerusalem. Many Jews were sold as slaves. The walls of Jerusalem were broken down. The temple was made into a temple for a heathen god. An idol was set up on the altar in the temple. Many heathen idols were set up in the country. These things were very bad for the Jews.<sup>3</sup>

## **IV. THE JEWS RULED BY THE MACCABEES, 166 B.C. to 63 B.C.**

Some Jews began to fight the ruler from Syria. The men who fought against the Syrian ruler were called Maccabees. These men grew up in the families of the priests.

The Maccabees set Palestine free from the other nations in 166 B.C. The Maccabees ruled the people of Palestine. There was peace in the land.<sup>4</sup>

### **The Apocrypha.**

16 religious books were written during the time of the Maccabees. These books were called the Apocrypha. Apocrypha means "to hide" or "secret." These books were not accepted as part of the Holy Bible. However, the Roman Catholic Church did accept 11 of them. These 11 books were placed between the Old and New Testaments. The newest Roman Catholic version has the Apocrypha placed among the Old Testament prophets. We can find some Protestant Bibles with the Apocrypha between the Testaments.

---

<sup>3</sup>M.C.Tenny, New Testament Survey, p. 28.

<sup>4</sup>M.C.Tenny, New Testament Survey, p. 29.

Here are a few reasons why the Apocrypha is not accepted as the Word of God:

1. The men who wrote the New Testament never told about the Apocrypha. These men told about the Old Testament books and used them.
2. Jesus never used words from the Apocrypha.
3. The early Church fathers did not believe the Apocrypha was inspired.
4. The Apocrypha was never copied with the Hebrew Scriptures.
5. Most of the writings in the Apocrypha were not written very well. They were not good enough to go with the Holy Scriptures.<sup>5</sup>

## **V. THE JEWS RULED BY THE ROMANS, 63 B.C. to Birth of Christ.**

In 63 B.C. Palestine was captured by the Romans who came from Italy. Find Italy (Italia) on the map, page 8. Rome was the leading city of Italia. This is why the men were called Romans. All the countries ruled by the Romans were called the Roman Empire. An empire is all the countries ruled by one man. This man who ruled these countries is called an emperor. The Romans called this ruling man Caesar. The Romans captured Palestine under Pompey.<sup>6</sup>

Caesar Augustus was the first Roman emperor. He was a good ruler. Caesar Augustus lived in Rome. He had men help him rule the countries in his empire. Some of these men ruled as kings. King Herod the Great ruled Judea, a part of Palestine, when Jesus Christ was born.

Palestine was one of many provinces in the Roman empire. These provinces were much like the provinces in Canada. The provinces were divided into smaller parts like counties (municipalities). These counties were ruled by men called tetrarchs. There were times when men called procurators, watched over the provinces. These men were like judges who kept law and order in the provinces.

---

<sup>5</sup>H.Halley, Pocket Bible Handbook, p. 358.

<sup>6</sup>H.Halley, Pocket Bible Handbook, p. 355.

Caesar Augustus was able to stop all the fighting between the different countries. He let the people live the way they wanted. He did not stop their worship.

Caesar Augustus made good laws. These laws protected the people. He made sure the laws were kept. If any of the rulers under him broke the laws they lost their job. The laws in Rome were much like the laws we have today. The citizens of Rome were able to vote for some of their leaders like we do today.

Caesar Augustus built many good roads. This made it very easy to travel throughout the empire. He had good ships to sail the seas. There were schools where the children were taught to read and write. **Because of this the world was ready for the coming of Christ.**

## **VI. THINGS TO REMEMBER**

### **1. Common language.**

During the silent years the people in different countries learned to read and write in the same language (Greek).

### **2. Written language.**

The Old Testament was translated into the Greek language. This made it possible for more people to read it.

### **3. Peace.**

Caesar Augustus brought law and order to the countries around Palestine. This made it easier to take the Gospel to others.

### **4. Transportation.**

Caesar Augustus built good roads and had good ships. This also made it easier for the Gospel to spread.

## VII. WORDS TO LEARN

1. Apocrypha - books which were written during the time of the Maccabees but are not included in most Bibles.
2. Caesar - the ruler of Rome.
3. capture - to take in battle.
4. defeat - to overcome an enemy.
5. emperor - the man who rules an empire.
6. doctrine - teaching.
7. empire - the country ruled by one man.
8. general - leader of warriors under the king or tribal chief.
9. governor - ruler of a province.
10. included - also, this one too.
11. inspired - God breathed. The words spoken or written were God breathed.
12. Maccabees - men from a priest's family who ruled Palestine for some time before Christ was born.
13. procurators - local judges (magistrates).
14. prophet - one who speaks or writes in the name of God.
15. self-governing - self ruling.
16. silent - quiet - there is no message during this time.
17. tetrarchs - local leaders (like band chiefs).
18. translate - change into a language or words the people understand.
19. transportation - ways of travelling.

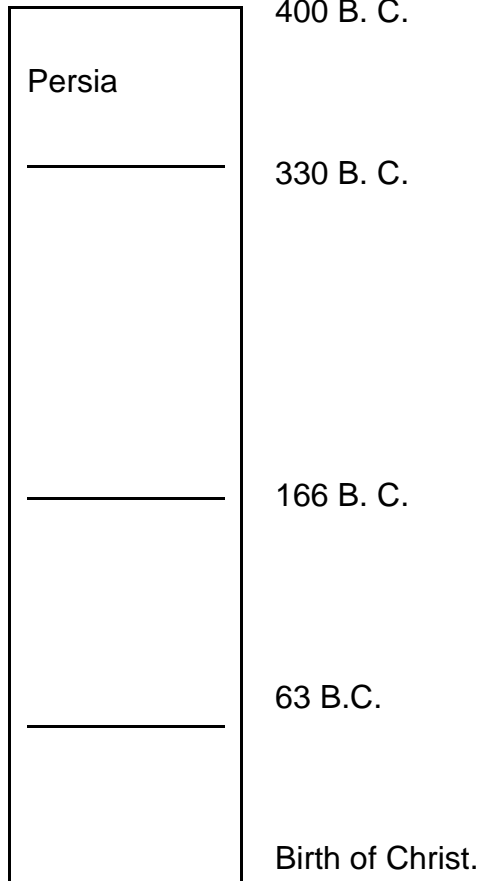
## VIII. ASSIGNMENT

### 1. Fill in the blanks.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ was caesar when Jesus Christ was born. (Luke 2:1).
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ was ruler of Judea when Jesus Christ was born, (Matthew 2:3).
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ was caesar when John the Baptist preached, Luke 3:1.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ was tetrarch of Galilee when John the Baptist preached, Luke 3:1.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ was governor of Judea when John the Baptist preached, Luke 3:1.

2. What is the Apocrypha?

3. Fill in the ruling country. Say some things about each ruling country.



4. What is meant by the silent years?

5. Who were the Maccabees?

6. What is the name of the first translation of the Old Testament into the Greek language?

7. Why do you think it was important that there was peace in the world when Jesus was born?
  
8. Write down 4 things that prepared the world for the spreading of the Gospel.
  - a.
  
  - b.
  
  - c.
  
  - d.

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY by Joseph F. Pope. Copyright, 1989 by Northern Canada Evangelical Mission, Inc., Box 3030, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada, S6V 7V4. Edited 2019 by Helen Pope.

References taken from the NEW LIFE Testament are identified (New Life Testament). It is published by the Christian Literature International, Canby, Oregon. Used by permission. Thought quotes from NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY, M.C. Tenny used by permission. Copyright Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1961. "Bible history" and "Footprints of Jesus" maps from the "Thompson Chain Reference Bible" used by permission. Copyright by B. B. Kirkbride Bible Co., Inc