

Lesson 1

Introduction to the New Testament

Welcome to this study, *A Journey through the Gospels and Acts*. Over the next 24 lessons, you will study about the life of Christ and His influence on mankind. Meeting Jesus' disciples, who left everything to follow Him, you will discover that Christ dramatically impacted their lives. As you study about the birth of the Christian Church, you will become acquainted with some of the apostles who fervently served God regardless of the consequences.

Throughout this workbook, you will be looking up verses in the Bible. If an (OT) follows the verse, it is found in the Old Testament. If an (NT) follows the verse, it is found in the New Testament. Let's get started!

The first order of business is an overall introduction to the New Testament. The Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. While the Old Testament was written before Jesus' life on earth, the New Testament was written after His life on earth. The New Testament is a compilation of 27 books written by approximately eight men. It is divided into four groups of books, which include five historical books, thirteen Pauline epistles, eight general epistles, and a prophetic book, outlining end-time events.

Open your Bible to the Table of Contents located at the front of the book. There you will find a breakdown of the Old and New Testaments with a listing of the books contained in each. Glancing over the New Testament listing, answer the following question by writing your answer in the spaces provided.

1. List the first five books of the New Testament.

The first four books of the New Testament are known as the Gospels. Gospel means "good news." These books are referred to as such because the writers

described the good news of salvation made possible by Jesus' life, death and victorious resurrection. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote the four Gospels.

The book of Acts contains historical data concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian Church. Additionally, Acts records the work of the apostles after Jesus' ascension back to the Father in heaven.

Luke penned Acts.

2. Turning again to the Table of Contents, list the next thirteen books, which are referred to as the Pauline epistles, contained in the New Testament.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

The apostle Paul wrote the thirteen Pauline epistles. Romans, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and 1st and 2nd Thessalonians were written to churches. First and 2nd Timothy and Titus were letters to pastors. Philemon was a wealthy slave owner to whom Paul wrote regarding forgiveness and restoration. Concerned about the body of Christ, Paul penned his advice and exhortations in order to prevent believers from falling away from God. Paul's story is an exciting transformation from one who persecuted Christians to a man who willingly put his own life on the line countless times in order to further God's kingdom. You will have the opportunity to read about some of Paul's experiences throughout this study.

Take another look at the New Testament Table of Contents. Answer the question that follows.

3. List the next group of epistles, which are referred to as the general epistles. There are eight of them.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	

Hebrews, James, 1st and 2nd Peter, 1st, 2nd and 3rd John and Jude comprise the general epistles. Most biblical scholars agree that Paul wrote the book of Hebrews although there is no solid evidence of this. The remaining books bear the names of their authors. Next to Paul, John, who penned the Gospel of John, 1st, 2nd and 3rd John and Revelation, wrote the greatest number of New Testament books. After taking one last look at the Table of Contents, answer the following question.

4. In the following space, write the last book of the New Testament, which is a prophetic book, outlining end-time events. _____

Considered one of the most difficult books in the New Testament to comprehend, the book of Revelation reveals the three enthronements of Jesus. The first of which is His enthronement in Heaven, where He presently sits at the right-hand of God. His second enthronement will be on the earth during His Millennial reign. This will occur after the Tribulation but before the final judgment of man. Jesus' third enthronement will be in the new heaven and earth, which God will create after the final doom of Satan and the judgment of man.

As you can see, the New Testament is full of good news, excitement and revelation. Is it any wonder that the Bible continually makes the Top 10 best selling book list each year? Over the weeks to come, you are certain to experience Jesus in a way that you have never before experienced Him. As you do, He will prepare you for the exciting calling He has on your life. God bless you as you seek Him.

That's enough for today. Let's review what you've learned:

- The New Testament is a compilation of 27 books written by approximately eight men.
- It is divided into four groups of books: five historical books, thirteen Pauline epistles, eight general epistles and a prophetic book, outlining end-time events.
- The five historical books are Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts.
- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are referred to as the Gospels, and they bear the names of their authors; Luke penned Acts.
- Nine of the thirteen Pauline epistles, which include Romans, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, were written to churches. First and 2nd Timothy and Titus were letters to pastors.
- Addressed to a wealthy slave owner, Philemon was a letter concerning forgiveness and restoration.
- The eight general epistles are Hebrews, James, 1st and 2nd Peter, 1st, 2nd and 3rd John and Jude.
- It is believed that Paul penned Hebrews, and the remaining general epistles bear the names of their authors.
- The prophetic book, which is Revelation, was authored by John.

This week's memory verse is Luke 1:49 (NT). Below, it is written.

“For the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is His name.”

5. Write this week's memory verse in the space provided. To assist you in learning it, repeat it to yourself several times.
