

TVC STUDY NOTES

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

This course is an introduction to—a “Survey” of—the New Testament. In this course you will learn who wrote the books of the New Testament (NT), when and to whom they were written, why they were written and what they were about, etc.

A survey of the NT is a powerful and rewarding study.

1. The NT tells us of Jesus' death on the cross on our behalf and His victorious resurrection from death - and what our response should be to His life and death.
2. The NT gives us much wonderful information about the God of this universe, and about how to live according to His laws, to enjoy a personal relationship with Him, in a way that pleases Him.

When was it written?

The NT was written _____ the life of Jesus, from approximately 45 to 95A.D. It was originally written in _____ (fellowship) Greek, the common Greek of that time.

The five sections of the New Testament:

1. _____ give us four different, yet not conflicting, accounts of the birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Gospels demonstrate how Jesus was the promised Messiah of the Old Testament and lay the foundation for the teaching of the rest of the NT.
2. _____: The book of Acts records the deeds of Jesus' apostles, the men Jesus sent out into the world to proclaim the Gospel of salvation. Acts tells us of the beginning of the church and its rapid growth in the first century.
3. _____, written by the Apostle Paul, are letters to specific churches giving official Christian doctrine and truth.
4. The _____ Epistles compliment the Pauline Epistles with additional teaching and application.

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5. _____: The book of Revelation prophesies the events that will occur in the end times.

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GOD'S GOOD NEWS – Lesson 2

The Bible is the inspired Word of God.

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. This means that God divinely influenced the human authors of the Scriptures in such a way that what they wrote was the very Word of God.

2. The word “inspiration” simply means _____;” God’s breath makes the Bible unique among all other books. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

3. Even though God used men with their distinctive personalities and writing styles, God divinely inspired the very words they wrote. 2 Peter 1:21

The Bible is alive and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. Hebrews 4:12

1. The word of God has a life-force that is unlike any merely human book.

It is not only alive; it gives life to those who are spiritually dead.

2. It renews the heart by giving spiritual life to the spiritually dead, and changes our character in an essential, fundamental transformation of the heart.

3. Reading the Bible will cause our motives and desires to become changed; it cleanses and renews us thoroughly; and it brings about a total moral overhaul such as no human literature could ever hope to accomplish.

4. In biblical terms, it sanctifies us—something no other book could ever claim.

5. There is no human instrument or worldly technique more effective than the Word of God to penetrate the human heart.

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The Bible teaches us Who God is:

God is the eternal, changeless, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, holy, righteous, loving God.

BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS – Lesson 3

Introduction: _____ elapsed from when the last books of the Old Testament were written until the birth and life of Jesus Christ. This 400 years is called the intertestamental period, or, because there was no prophetic word from God during this period, as the _____

From Persian dominance to Roman dominance:

1. The political, religious, and social atmosphere of Palestine changed significantly during this period.

2. In the last days of the OT, Israel was under the control of the _____
 - a. The Persians allowed the Jews to practice their religion and even allowed them to rebuild and worship at the temple. Ezra 1:1-4
 - b. This period included the last 100 years of the Old Testament period and about the first 100 years of the intertestamental period. It was a time of relative peace and contentment.

3. Alexander the Great defeated Persia, bringing Greek rule to the region.
 - a. Greece required that their culture be promoted in every land they conquered.
 - b. As a result, the Hebrew Old Testament was translated into Greek, becoming the translation known as the Septuagint. Most of the NT references to OT Scripture use the Septuagint phrasing.
 - c. Though Greece allowed religious freedom, Greek culture was very worldly, humanistic, and ungodly.

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4. After Alexander died, Judea was ruled by a series of successors, culminating in Antiochus Epiphanes.

a. Antiochus did far more than refuse religious freedom to the Jews. Around 167 B.C.,

he overthrew the rightful line of the priesthood and desecrated the temple, defiling it with unclean animals and a pagan altar.

b. Eventually, Jewish resistance to Antiochus restored the rightful priests and rescued the temple.

c. The period that followed was one of war, violence, and infighting.

5. Around 63 B.C., Rome conquered Palestine.

a. This eventually led to Herod being made king of Judea by Rome.

b. This was the power that taxed and controlled the Jews, and eventually executed the Messiah on a Roman cross.

6. Roman, Greek, and Hebrew cultures were now mixed together in Judea.

Who were the Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes?

1. During the span of the Greek and Roman occupations, two important political/religious groups emerged in Palestine, the Pharisees and Sadducees. Many Pharisees were also Scribes.

2. The Pharisees _____ through oral tradition and eventually considered their own laws more important than God's. While Christ's teachings often agreed with the Pharisees, He railed against their hollow legalism and lack of compassion.

3. The Sadducees represented the aristocrats and the wealthy.

a. The Sadducees, who wielded power through the _____ rejected all but the Mosaic books of the Old Testament.

b. They refused to believe in resurrection and were generally shadows of the Greeks, whom they greatly admired.

4. The Scribes were the ones who drew up legal documents. They also copied the Old Testament Scripture. They also devoted themselves to the study of the law, and the determination of its applications on daily life. They also studied the Scripture with respect to doctrinal and historical matters. Noted scribes had their own disciples. Many of the scribes were members of the Jewish council.

MATTHEW – Lesson 4

Author and Date: Scholars believe the author was Matthew, _____ who became one of Jesus' twelve Apostles. He wrote it sometime between A.D. 55-65.

1. Note Matthew's keen interest in accounting Matt. 18:23-24; 25:14-15
2. The Gospel of Matthew is very orderly and concise. Rather than write in chronological order, Matthew arranges this Gospel through six discussions.
3. Tax collectors could write in a form of shorthand, which meant that Matthew could record Jesus' words, such as the Sermon on the Mount, as He spoke.

Purpose of Writing: Matthew intends to prove to the _____ that _____

1. More than any other Gospel, the Gospel of Matthew quotes the OT to show how Jesus fulfilled the words of the Jewish prophets (over 60 times).
2. Matthew describes in detail the lineage of Jesus from King David, and uses many forms of speech that Jews were familiar with (ie. Son of man, Son of David).

Key Verses: _____

Brief Summary:

1. The Gospel of Matthew discusses the lineage, birth, and early life of Christ in the first two chapters.

2. Chapters 3 and 4 describe the beginnings of Jesus' public ministry.

3. Matthew records Christ's teachings through "discourses" such as:

- The Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5 through 7.
- Chapter 10 involves the mission and purpose of the disciples;
- Chapter 13 is a collection of parables;
- Chapter 18 discusses the church;
- Chapter 23 begins a discourse about hypocrisy and the future.

4. Chapters 21 through 28 describe the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, concluding with the Great Commission.

Matthew frequently quotes the Old Testament to show that Jesus is the Messiah:

1. His virgin birth in Bethlehem Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2
2. His return from Egypt after the death of Herod Hosea 11:1
3. His ministry to the Gentiles Isaiah 9:1-2; 60:1-3
4. His miraculous healings of both body and soul Isaiah 53:4
5. His speaking in parables Psalm 78:2
6. And His triumphal entry into Jerusalem Zechariah 9:9

Practical Application:

1. Matthew's intended audience was his fellow Jews, many of whom—especially the religious leaders—stubbornly refused to accept Jesus as their Messiah.

a. They wanted a political Messiah, one who would free them from oppression and fulfill their earthly desires.

b. Jesus rebuked them for their hard hearts and their refusal to recognize Him (John 5:38-40).

2. Matthew's climactic closing gives Jesus' last words—the Great Commission—that we, His disciples, are to "go and make disciples of all nations" (people groups).

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