

# BIBLE INTRODUCTION #4

## NEW TESTAMENT: THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

### II TIMOTHY 3:16-17

**“All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”**

#### DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT<sup>4</sup>

**GOSPELS<sup>1</sup>**  
**HISTORY<sup>1</sup>**

**PAULINE EPISTLES<sup>2</sup>**  
**GENERAL EPISTLES<sup>3</sup>**  
**PROPHECY<sup>3</sup>**

**MATTHEW-JOHN**  
**ACTS**  
**ROMANS-PHILEMON**  
**HEBREWS-JUDE**  
**REVELATION**

<sup>1</sup>This chart      <sup>2</sup>Chart 5    <sup>3</sup>Chart 6    <sup>4</sup>Old Testament charts 1-3

#### THE GOSPELS

##### MATTHEW

- Author: Matthew
- From: Judea
- Date: Likely A.D. 40s; considered by many to have been the first book written, Matthew was at least written before A.D. 70 (24:4-35) though some time had passed since the crucifixion (27:8; 28:15)
- Audience: Jews
- Purpose: To show the Jews that Jesus was their prophesied King (21:4-5) and Messiah [Christ] (16:16)
- Keys:
  - Words: King, Kingdom, Verily
  - Phrase: “It is written”
  - Verse: 28:18 (All authority)
  - Passages: 5:2-12 (Blessedness); 6:9-13 (The model prayer); 11:28-30 (Jesus’ invitation); 16:21-26 (True profit)
  - Chapters: 1 (Genealogy and prophesied virgin birth); 13 (The kingdom parables); 24 (Contrast between A.D. 70 and the Second Coming)
- Lessons:
  - Jesus is worthy to receive worship (2:2,11; 14:33)
  - Jesus did the Father’s Will (3:15; 6:10; cf. Luke 22:42) and so pleased Him (3:17)
  - God’s Word should be utilized in battling temptation (4:4,7,10)
  - One’s influence must be good and evident (5:13-16)
  - Those acting to be seen of men will only have reward in this life (6:1-6,6:16-18)
  - Ones who will not forgive will not be forgiven (6:14-15)
  - Few will be saved (7:13-14)

(continued next column)

#### THE GOSPELS (continued)

- Those who would be blessed by God must do His Will (7:21; 12:50)
- One must confess Christ, not deny Him (10:32-33)
- One must replace wickedness with righteousness (12:43-45)
- Spiritual family is more important than physical family (12:47-50; cf. 10:35-37)
- Jesus was greater than Moses and Elijah as was His system greater than the law and the prophets (17:1-5)
- Children are not born sinful, but innocent, and must be emulated by those who would be righteous (18:1-6)
- God’s children must always be prepared and willing to forgive (18:21-22; 19:14)
- Marriage is for life (19:1-9)
- One must be prepared and willing to sacrifice all for Christ (19:16-24)
- Even Jesus could not save those who do not want to be saved (23:37)
- No signs will precede the Second Coming (24:36-51); therefore, one must ever be ready (25:1-13)
- Miscellaneous: There is some debate over whether Matthew was written in Hebrew or Greek; in reality it is of no consequence, for the Holy Spirit has known both languages

##### MARK

- Author: John Mark
- From: Perhaps Rome (II Timothy 4:11) or Babylon (I Peter 5:13)
- Date: Likely mid A.D. 60’s, for the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 had yet to occur (13:1-31)
- Audience: Gentiles, specifically Romans
- Purpose: To present Jesus, the Son of God (1:1), as a Man of action who could triumph over death
- Keys:
  - Words: Immediately, Straightway
  - Verse: 1:1 (Son of God)
  - Passage: 12:28-34 (The first and second commandment)
  - Chapter: 16 (Resurrection and appearances)
- Lessons:
  - Even Jesus needed to pray (1:35; 6:46)
  - Jesus could have compassion, literally “suffer with,” those to whom He came (1:41; 5:19; 6:34; 8:2)

(continued next page)

# NEW TESTAMENT: THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

## THE GOSPELS (MARK continued)

- Jesus had power over physical ailment (2:3-12)
- Jesus had power over sin (2:5-12)
- Jesus knew what it was like to feel and suffer as a man (3:5; 6:6; 7:34; 8:12; 10:14; cf. John 11:35; Hebrews 4:15)
- Jesus had power over the spirit world (5:1-13)
- Jesus had power over death (5:22-24,35-42)
- Faith which motivates action is the faith that saves (5:25-34; cf. Hebrews 11)
- Jesus had power over material things (6:34-44)
- Man-made tradition must not be elevated above Divine precept (7:1-13)
- The proper attitude must accompany hearing (7:16)
- Sin starts in the heart (7:18-23)
- The soul is man's most valuable possession (8:34-37)
- Humility, an attribute of the Lord, is expected of His servants (10:35-45)
- Jesus expects fruit from all that are capable of bearing fruit (11:13-14,20-21; cf. John 15:2)
- Jesus expects His followers to pay their taxes (12:14-17)
- God knows the sacrifices men make (12:41-44)
- Honor is not in what one has, but in what that person does with it (14:3-9)
- Some will do anything to be rid of Jesus and the responsibility of obedience that He requires (15:6-15)
- Belief and baptism are equally necessary in obedience (16:16)
- The purpose of miracles was to confirm the Word of God (16:20)
- Miscellaneous: Some suggest that Mark was the young man of 14:51-52

## LUKE

- Author: Luke (1:3; Acts 1:1)
- From: Perhaps Asia or Macedonia (Acts 16:10) or Rome (Colossians 4:14; II Timothy 4:11)
- Date: Late A.D. 40s to early 60s; certainly before Acts (1:1) and Jerusalem's A.D. 70 destruction (21:20)
- Audience: Theophilus (1:3)
- Purpose: To provide an inspired account of what really had taken place in the life of Christ (1:1-4)
- Keys:
  - Word: Lost
  - Verses: 1:4 (Knowing with certainty); 9:27 (Kingdom was soon to come); 19:10 (Jesus' mission)
  - Chapter: 15 (Lost sheep, coin, son)
- Lessons:
  - One can *know* about spiritual matters (1:4; cf. I John 5:13; Isaiah 1:18)

(continued next column)

## THE GOSPELS (continued)

- Sometimes answers to prayers exceed expectations (1:13)
- Jesus grew the same ways that our children do (2:40,52)
- Sometimes the calling of names is necessary (3:7)
- The message and the need to preach it is the same no matter who is the audience or what is the cost (3:19-20)
- No one is above facing temptation (4:1-13)
- Jesus' overcoming temptation is an encouragement to all (4:1-13; cf. Hebrews 2:18)
- Even the devils believed and trembled (4:34,41; James 2:19), but that alone could not save (James 2:20)
- Jesus knows what man's thoughts are (5:22)
- One must actively build upon the foundation of Christ (6:46-49)
- Those in the church have blessings even John and others could only have imagined (7:28; 10:23-24)
- There is power in the Word (8:4-11)
- Attitude promotes or rejects obedience (8:5-8)
- One must treat all equally—with love, mercy, and good will (10:25-37)
- God will answer the prayers of the righteous (11:1-13; cf. James 5:16; Proverbs 15:29; 28:9)
- Covetousness will destroy one's reward (12:13-21)
- Sincerity is not enough (13:24)
- One must be in the right location to enjoy salvation (14:15)
- One can be lost outside or inside of his Father's house (15:11-32)
- One cannot spiritually straddle the fence (16:13; I Kings 18:21)
- One cannot live without expecting difficulties (17:1; cf. II Timothy 3:12)
- One must not lead others to sin (17:2)
- Appreciation should mark the attitude of one who would receive good things (17:11-19)
- Humility is the attitude God rewards (18:9-14)
- God is the God of the living (20:37-38)
- One must be selfless, even in persecution (23:34; cf. Acts 7:60)

## ANSWERING CRITICS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Some suggest that similarities in Matthew, Mark, and Luke mean that these were not distinct accounts; but copies of each other or other sources
- This suggestion attacks inspiration and ignores that these accounts would necessarily be similar due to their subject matter and the disposition of the inspired writers



# NEW TESTAMENT: THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

## THE GOSPELS

### JOHN

- Author: John (21:20-24)
- From: Ephesus
- Date: Likely A.D. 96, around the same time as the Revelation
- Audience: All men, especially the church
- Purpose: To show that Jesus was God (1:1; 20:30-31) and that His sacrifice was effectual for all (3:16; 12:32-33)
- Keys:
  - Words: Word, Believe, Life
  - Phrase: "I am"
  - Verse: 1:14 (Word made flesh); 3:16 (God's love); 21:20 (Just the highlights)
  - Passage: 20:30-31 (John's purpose)
  - Chapter: 17 (Jesus' prayer)
- Lessons:
  - Jesus is God (1:1-14), the I am (8:24,58)
  - Jesus knows man (2:24-25)
  - All men have the opportunity to be saved due to the gift of God and sacrifice of Jesus (3:16)
  - Attitude and action are equally important in obeying and worshipping God (4:24)
  - Jesus' commands are authoritative (5:10-11)
  - "Son of" indicates equality with (5:18)
  - Jesus would not be an earthly King (6:15; cf. Matthew 4:8); neither would He have an earthly kingdom (18:36)
  - There is no source for eternal life, save Jesus (6:68)
  - It is not wrong to judge others if one judge righteously (7:24)
  - Satan is powerful (8:44)
  - God does not listen to those who do not listen to Him (9:31)
  - Jesus chose to die (10:15,17-18)
  - The best time to honor someone is before his death (12:3,7-8)
  - The spiritual must be elevated over the physical, the eternal over the temporal (12:25)
  - Love is the means by which God's children are known (John 13:34-35)
  - Genuine love necessarily motivates obedience (14:15)
  - Jesus had to die before the church could be established (16:7; cf. Acts 2:1-4)
  - Those united with Jesus and the Father must be united with each other (17:20-23)
  - Even those close to the Savior can stumble (18:15-18,25-27)
  - Jesus had to return to the Father (20:17)
  - There are not enough words to do justice to the Word's works (21:25; cf. 1:1-3,14)

### John 17:17

**"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."**

## THE EMPTY TOMB

### • ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE RESURRECTION

- DISCIPLES STOLE BODY: Four to sixteen alert and well-trained Roman soldiers guarded the tomb; the disciples did not expect the resurrection to occur anyway; and they ultimately died for what they knew was true
- ENEMIES STOLE BODY: This would be self-defeating, for a stolen body would merely increase belief in the resurrection
- MARYS WENT TO WRONG TOMB: The right tomb was known to Joseph and the disciples; furthermore, the chief priests, elders, and soldiers gladly would have taken the Marys to the right tomb where the still dead body of Jesus was
- JESUS DID NOT REALLY DIE: Multiple Roman soldiers, experienced in seeing and ensuring death, recognized Jesus' condition as that of being dead
- WITNESSES HALLUCINATED: Over 500 individuals in numerous locales over many weeks all had to share similar hallucinations
- BODY WAS IN A COMMON PIT FOR THE EXECUTED: Joseph of Arimathaea was granted the body (John 19:38-41)
- MYTH OF THE RESURRECTION WAS STARTED YEARS LATER: An understanding and acknowledgment of the resurrection, by both sides, was immediate

### • EVIDENCES OF THE RESURRECTION

- APPEARANCES AFTER THE RESURRECTION: To the Marys near the tomb (Matthew 28:9; Mark 16:9; John 20:14); to Peter in Jerusalem (Luke 24:34; I Corinthians 15:5); to the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:15; Mark 16:12); to the disciples, minus Thomas, in Jerusalem (Luke 24:36; John 20:19); to the disciples eight days later in Jerusalem (Mark 16:14; John 20:26; I Corinthians 15:5); to the disciples as they fished on Galilee (John 21:1); to more than 500 brethren in Galilee (I Corinthians 15:6); to the eleven in Galilee (Matthew 28:17); James (I Corinthians 15:7); to the eleven on Olivet before the ascension (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:50; Acts 1:4); and to Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-5; 22:6-8; Acts 26:12-15; I Corinthians 15:8)
- FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY AND TYPE: Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:10; Psalms 2:7; 16:10; Hosea 6:2; Jonah 1:17; Matthew 12:39-40; 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 26:61; 27:40, 27:63; and others)
- TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES: The account and silencing of the guards (Matthew 28:11-15)
- TESTIMONY OF THOSE WHO WERE INSPIRED: As was spoken (Acts 1:3; 2:24, 2:32; 3:15; 4:10, 4:33; 7:55; 13:37; 17:31); as was written (Romans 6:4-5; 8:11; I Corinthians 15:4; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 2:12; Hebrews 13:20; I Peter 1:3)

# NEW TESTAMENT: THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

## BOOK OF HISTORY

### ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- Author: Luke
- From: Probably Rome (Colossians 4:14; II Timothy 4:11)
- Date: Late A.D. 50s to mid 60s, for the book followed the writing of Luke (1:1), the deputyship of Gallio in Achaia (18:12) which began in A.D. 51, and the beginning of the governorship of Festus (24:27) which dates to A.D. 56; however, the book preceded the burning of Rome by Nero in A.D. 64, the death of Paul between A.D. 66 and 68, and the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (these three events would have merited allusion)
- Audience: Theophilus (1:1)
- Purpose: To provide an accurate account of the history of the early church (cf. Luke 1:1-4)
- Keys:
  - Words: Church, Baptized, Witness
  - Phrase: "What ... do"
  - Verse: 2:47 (Consistent growth)
  - Chapters: 2 (Establishment of the church); 7 (Stephen's martyrdom)
- Lessons:
  - God is not concerned with one's national or ethnical background, only his soul (2; 8; 10; cf. I Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11)
  - Baptism is essential for salvation (2:38,41; 8:12,13,16,36,38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15,33; 18:8; 19:5; 22:16)
  - Christians must care for each other (2:44-46; 6:1-2; 20:34-35; cf. Galatians 6:2)
  - Even the "chief" of sinners can change (8:3; 9; 22; 26; cf. I Timothy 1:15)
  - Some judge themselves unworthy of salvation (13:46)
  - When ones cannot work together, they can still be relied upon to work effectively (15:36-41)
  - It is hard to say goodbye to a faithful co-laborer, especially when there may never be another meeting (20:36-38)—at least on this side of eternity
  - The righteous will face persecution
  - The church must be mission minded
- Miscellaneous: Without the book of Acts, much of the New Testament would border on the enigmatic

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

- Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47
- WHO: The eleven, and in effect all Christians
- WHAT: Make disciples (add people to the kingdom)
- WHEN: Throughout the church age
- WHERE: "All nations"; "all the world"
- TO WHOM: "Every creature"
- WHY: Lead a lost world to the One through Whom salvation comes
- HOW: Teach and baptize
- TO WHAT END: That all that Jesus commanded of the faithful might be observed

## PAUL'S JOURNEYS

- FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY (Acts 13:2-14:27)
  - Antioch and Seleucia in Syria to Salamis and Paphos on Cyprus to Perga in Pamphylia to Antioch in Pisidia to Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe in Lycaonia back through Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia to Perga and Attalia in Pamphylia to Antioch in Syria
- SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (Acts 15:36-18:22)
  - Antioch in Syria to Derbe to Lystra to the regions of Phrygia, Galatia, and Mysia to Troas in Mysia (where he received the "Macedonian Call") to Samothracia in the Aegean to Neapolis and Philippi in Macedonia through Amphipolis and Apollonia in Macedonia to Thessalonica and Berea in Macedonia to Athens, Corinth, and Cenchrea in Greece to Ephesus to Caesarea in Judea to Antioch of Syria
- THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY (Acts 18:23-21:15)
  - From Antioch in Syria to the regions of Galatia and Phrygia to Ephesus in Asia to Macedonia to Greece back to Macedonia to Philippi to Troas to Assos in Mysia and to or by Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Trogyllium Miletus, and Coos on Asia's Aegean coast to Rhodes in the Aegean to Patara in Lycia to Tyre in Phoenicia to Judea's Ptolemais, Caesarea, and Jerusalem
- UNDOCUMENTED JOURNEY
  - Involved preaching as far as Illyricum (Romans 15:19) which evidently included Nicopolis (Titus 3:12)—these were on the eastern side of the Adriatic Sea, northwest of Greece
- JOURNEY TO ROME (Acts 23:11-28:16)
  - From Jerusalem to Caesarea to Sidon in Phoenicia to Myra in Lycia to the Fair Havens and Lasea in Crete to Melita in the Mediterranean to Syracuse in Sicily to Rhegium, Puteoli, Appii Forum, the Three Taverns and Rome

## CATES PUBLICATIONS

- Look for "Bible Introduction" #s 1 through 3 "The Old Testament," and #s 5 and 6 "The New Testament"
- Available or coming: Charts on Christian Evidences, Bible history, New Testament Greek, and English Grammar
- All charts are comprised of sound, Bible-based material which is perfect for serious and casual Bible students alike; these charts make great gifts and incentives
- Visit on-line to order books, tracts, and the mentioned and other charts ([shop.catespublications.com](http://shop.catespublications.com))