New Testament Background

Between Malachi and Matthew

Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164 B.C.)

The Maccabees
The Romans

The Synagogue

The Scribes

The Pharisees

The Sadducees

An Overview of the New Testament as a Whole
(Adapted from material by John Phillips)
The best way to comprehend the total message of the New Testament is to group the individual books of the New Testament according to their major emphasis. When we do this, we discover that they concern themselves with the Christian and his beliefs, his brethren, and his behavior.

1. The Christian and his beliefs
   * That which is fundamental – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Romans
     The gospels set before us the person of Christ
     Romans sets before us the principles of Christianity
   • That which is false – Galatians, Colossians, Hebrews, 2 Corinthians, 2 Timothy, 2 Peter, Jude
• That which is future – 1 Thessalonians (primarily with the rapture of the church), 2 Thessalonians (primarily with the ruin of the world, Revelation (the return of Christ)

2. The Christian and his brethren (the church)
   • The origins of the church – Acts
   • The operation of the church – 1 Corinthians (primarily the local church), Ephesians (primarily the universal church)
   • The officers of the church – 1 Timothy, Titus

3. The Christian and his behavior
   • Dealing with situations – Philippians (deals with suffering, sacrifice, service, and sickness)
   • Dealing with slavery – Philemon (Paul’s attack on slavery was not social but spiritual. He simply instructed Philemon to regard Onesimus as a brother and treat him just as he would treat Paul himself)
   • Dealing with sincerity – James (James demands that any profession of Christianity be proven by an evident practice of Christianity)
   • Dealing with suffering – 1 Peter
   • Dealing with sonship – 1 John
   • Dealing with separation – 2 John (John cautions his reader not to entertain in her home those bring divisive and devilish doctrines)
   • Dealing with strife – 3 John
The Gospels

Matthew, Mark and Luke are called “Synoptic Gospels” because they share a common point of view.

Matthew is the Gospel of the King written with Jews in mind
Mark is the Gospel of the Servant written with Romans in mind
Luke is the Gospel of the Perfect Son of Man written with Greeks in mind
John is the Gospel of the Son of God written with all people in mind

The Gospels have been compared to a newspaper:
- Matthew – the main news stories
- Mark – the headlines
- Luke – the human interest stories
- John – the editorial page

The Accuracy of the Gospels

Matthew

Author:

Date of writing:

Written wrote primarily to a Jewish audience
Matthew being a tax collector was very involved with money. It’s interesting that the Gospel of Matthew has more references to money than the other Gospels.

Matthew recorded at least twenty of Jesus’ miracles.

Matthew recorded six major sermons of Jesus
• The Sermon on the Mount – 5:7
• The charge to the disciples – 10
• The parables of the kingdom – 13
• The lesson on forgiveness – 18
• The denunciation of the Pharisees – 23
• The Olivet Discourse – 24-25

Some of the material in Matthew is arranged logically rather than chronologically. For example, a large number of miracles are given together, and the opposition to Jesus is given in one section.

Outline from *The MacArthur Study Bible*:
I. (Prologue) The King’s Advent – 1:1-4:25
   A. His Birth – 1:1-2:23

   B. His Entry into Public Ministry – 3:1-4:25

II. The King’s Authority – 5:1-9:38
   A. Discourse 1: The Sermon on the Mount – 5:1-7:29

   B. Narrative 1: The Authenticating Miracles – 8:1-9:38

III. The King’s Agenda – 10:1-12:50
    A. Discourse 2: The Commissioning of the Twelve – 10:1-42

    B. Narrative 2: The Mission of the King – 11:1-12:50

IV. The King’s Adversaries – 13:1-17:27

B. Narrative 3: The Kingdom Conflict – 13:53-17:27

V. The King’s Administration – 18:1-23:29


VI. The King’s Atonement – 24:1-28:15
   A. Discourse 5: The Olivet Discourse – 24:1-25:46

   B. Narrative 5: The Crucifixion and Resurrection – 26:1-28:15

VII. (Epilogue) The King’s Assignment – 28:16-20
Mark

Author: John Mark

Date: Probably sometimes in the 50s A.D.

Theme: Jesus the Servant

Key Verse: 10:45

Key Word: Immediately

Written for: Romans

Outline from *The Ryrie Study Bible:*
I. The Service of the Servant – 1:1-10:52
   A. His Preparation – 1:1-13
B. His Preaching – 1:14-20

C. His Power – 1:21-3:12

D. His Personnel – 3:13-35

E. His Parables – 4:1-34
F. His Prerogatives – 4:35-9:1

G. His Previews – 9:2-9:50

H. His Preaching in Perea – 10:1-52

II. The Sacrifice of the Servant – 11:1-15:47
III. The Success of the Servant – 16:1-20
   A. His Resurrection – 16:1-8

The Added Ending of Mark - 16:9-20
Luke

Author: Luke

Theme: Jesus – the Perfect Man

Written to Theophilus – 1:3
Date of Writing:

Written with Gentiles in Mind:

Key Verse: 19:10
Outline derived from key verse (by Ray Stedman):

2. Events leading up the birth of Christ – 1:5-56
3. The birth of John the Baptist – 1:57-80
4. The birth of Jesus Christ – 2:1-38
5. The childhood of Jesus Christ – 2:39-52
6. The ministry of John the Baptist – 3:1-20
7. The baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist – 3:21-22
8. The genealogy of the Son of Man – 3:23-38

9. The temptation of the Son of Man – 4:1-13

HIS MINISTRY – THE SON OF MAN SEEKS – 4:14-19:27
10. The beginning of His ministry, His acceptance in Galilee, His rejection in His hometown – 4:14-30

11. Miracles demonstrating His power over demons, sickness, and paralysis; also, His calling of the first disciples – 4:31-5:28

12. Jesus and the Pharisees – 5:29-6:11

13. Jesus instructs the disciples, the Beatitudes, the Christian way of life, parables – 6:12-49

14. Miracles, the healing of the centurion’s son, the raising of the widow’s son – 7:1-16

15. Jesus praises John the Baptist – 7:17-35

16. Jesus dines at a Pharisee’s home, a woman anoints His feet with costly perfume – 7:36-50

17. Parables and miracles, the storm is stilled, demons are cast into swine, a woman with an issue of blood is healed, Jairus’ daughter is raised – 8

18. The Twelve and sent to preach – 9:1-11

19. Jesus feeds the 5,000 – 9:12-17

20. Peter’s confession of faith – 9:18-26


22. Demoniac healed – 9:37-42

23. Jesus predicts His approaching death – 9:43-50
24. The opposition of the Samaritans – 9:51-56

25. The 72 Followers are sent out on a mission – 9:57-10:24


27. The parable of the Good Samaritan – 10:29-37

28. Mary and Martha – 10:38-42

29. Jesus teaching on prayer (the Lord’s Prayer) – 11:1-13

30. Jesus rejected by the religious leaders – 11:14-54


32. Jesus heals a woman and is criticized for it – 13:10-17

33. Jesus teaches on the kingdom – 13:18-30

34. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem – 13:31-35

35. Jesus and the Pharisees – 14:1-24

36. Teachings on discipleship – 14:25-35

37. Teachings on repentance, lost sheep, lost coin, lost - or prodigal – son – 15:1-32

38. Teachings on stewardship – 16:1-31


40. Ten lepers healed – 17:11-19

41. Teachings on the Second Coming – 17:20-37

42. Teachings on prayer – 18:1-14

43. Jesus blesses the children – 18:15-17

44. Teachings on sacrificial living – the rich young ruler – 18:18-30

45. Jesus predicts His death and resurrection – 18:31-34

46. Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus – 18:35-4
47. Jesus and Zacchaeus – 19:1-10

48. Parable of the servants entrusted with money – 19:11-27

49. The final week of Jesus Christ – 19:28-23:56

50. The resurrection – 24:1-12

51. Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus and to the disciples – 24:13-43

52. The Great Commission – 24:44-48

53. Jesus’ Ascension – 24:49-53
Author: John the son of Zebedee

John’s purpose in writing:

John presents Jesus as the Son of God

Date of writing:

Key Verse: John 20:30-31

John organized his gospel around seven “signs” that point to Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God

- Water turned into wine – 2:1-11
- Healing of the official’s son – 4:46-54
- Healing of the lame man – 5:1-18
- Feeding of the 5,000 – 6:1-15
- Walking on the water – 6:16-21
- Healing of the blind man – 9:1-41
- Raising Lazarus from the dead – 11:1-57

John records seven “I Am” statements by Jesus:

- I am the bread of life – 6:35, 48, 51
- I am the light of light of the world – 8:12; 9:5
- I am the door of the sheep – 10:7, 9
- I am the good shepherd – 10:11, 14
- I am the resurrection and the life – 11:25
- I am the way, the truth, and the life – 14:6
- I am the true vine – 15:1

John presents seven discourses by Jesus:
- The new birth – 3:1-21
- The words of God – 5:19-47
- The bread of life – 6:22-59
- The water of life – 7:11-52
- The light of the world – 8:12-20
- The good shepherd – 10:1-18
- The upper room discourse – 14:1-31

Chapter 1 – The Word Became Flesh

Chapter 2 – Turning Water into Wine

Chapter 3 – You Must Be Born Again

Chapter 4 – The Woman at the Well

Chapter 5 – Healing at the Pool of Bethesda
Chapter 6 – Feeding of the 5,000

Chapter 7 – Living Water

Chapter 8 – I Am the Light of the World

Chapter 9 – Healing the Man Born Blind

Chapter 10 – The Good Shepherd

Chapter 11 – Raising Lazarus from the Dead

Chapter 12 – Jesus Anointed by Mary at Bethany

Chapter 13 – Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet

Chapter 14 – I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life

Chapter 15 – The True Vine

Chapter 16 – The Work of the Holy Spirit

Chapter 17 – The High Priestly Prayer

Chapter 18 – Jesus’ Arrest and Trials

Chapter 19 – The Crucifixion

Chapter 20 – The Resurrection

Chapter 21 – Peter Restored
The Acts of the Apostles

Title:

Author: Luke (see previous study of the Gospel of Luke)

Theme: The origin and outreach of the church

Key Verse: 1:8

Outline from *The MacArthur Study Bible*:
Prologue – 1:1-8

I. The Witness to Jerusalem – 1:9-8:3
   A. The Anticipation of the Church – 1:9-26

   B. The Founding of the Church – 2:1-47

Nations at Pentecost

c. A.D. 30

Pentecost attracted Jews from all over the world to Jerusalem to celebrate the annual festival. Those who heard the apostles' message in their native languages at Pentecost
came from various regions within the two great competing empires of the day—the Roman Empire and the Parthian Empire—with Jerusalem near the center.

C. The Growth of the Church – 3:1-8:3


2. Deacons: Praying, teaching, and enduring persecution – 6:1-8:3
II. The Witness to Judea and Samaria – 8:4-12:25
   A. The Gospel to the Samaritans – 8:4-25

   B. The Conversion of a Gentile – 8:26-40

   C. The Conversion of Saul – 9:1-31


   F. The Persecution by Herod – 12:1-25


Paul's First Missionary Journey (Acts 13:4–14:26)

c. A.D. 46–47

Barnabas and Paul first visited Barnabas's home region of Cyprus before sailing to the southern region of Asia Minor. When they reached Perga in Pamphylia, John Mark left the group and returned to Jerusalem. Making their way to Antioch (in Pisidia), Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, Paul and Barnabas were driven out of each city by jealous Jewish religious leaders. Later they returned by the same route, strengthening the new churches as they went. From Attalia they set sail for their home in Antioch of Syria.
C. Paul’s Second Missionary Journey – 15:36-18:22

Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36–18:22)

C. A.D. 49–51

Paul and Silas revisited the places in Asia Minor where Paul had preached on his first journey (cf. map), while Barnabas took John Mark and sailed to Cyprus. Paul and Silas visited Derbe, Lystra, and Antioch in Pisidia. From there Paul and Silas traveled to Troas, where Paul received a vision of a man from Macedonia calling to them. Crossing into Europe, they passed through several towns along the Egnatian Way and traveled to the cities of Athens and Corinth in southern Greece. Then, sailing to Ephesus and Caesarea, they visited the church in Jerusalem before returning to Antioch of Syria.

D. Paul’s Third Missionary Journey – 18:23-21:16

c. A.D. 52–57

Paul's third missionary journey traversed much the same ground as his second (cf. map). Passing through Galatia and Phrygia, he proceeded directly to the great port city of Ephesus. After three years of preaching and teaching there, Paul traveled again through Macedonia and Achaia, strengthening the believers, and then finished with a visit to Jerusalem.

E. Paul’s Jerusalem and Caesarean Trials – 21:17-26:32

Paul's Journey to Rome

C. A.D. 60

Appealing his case to Caesar, Paul was ordered by Festus to be transferred to Rome. Paul's journey was marked by difficult weather, as they had begun their voyage late into the season for sea travel. A bad decision to try to find winter harbor at Phoenix ended with the ship being driven by a storm to the island of Malta, where the ship broke apart. All aboard the ship survived, however, and Paul was soon placed aboard another ship that took him to Puteoli. From there Paul was taken to Rome.
The Letter of Paul to the Romans

Author: The apostle Paul

Recipients: The church at Rome

Purpose:
- To pave the way for his coming visit
- To present the basics of salvation and the Christian life
- To explain the relationship between Jew and Gentile in God’s plan of redemption
- To ask for prayer

Date: 57 A.D.

Theme: The Righteousness of God

“The epistle to the Romans has the most complete diagnosis of the plague of man’s sin, and the most glorious setting forth of the simple remedy of justification by faith apart from the works of the law” Donald Barnhouse

Summary of Romans:
- Chapters 1-8 – explanations of what God is doing through the human race and His redemption of our total being: body, soul, and spirit
- Chapters 9-11 – Paul’s illustration of the principles of the first eight chapters, as demonstrated in the life and history of the nation of Israel
- Chapters 12-16 – Practical application of these mighty truths to everyday situations
Outline from *ESV Study Bible*:

I. The Gospel as the Revelation of the Righteousness of God – 1:1-17
   A. Salutation: the gospel concerning God’s Son – 1:1-7
   B. Thanksgiving: prayer for an apostolic visit – 1:8-15
   C. Theme: the gospel of the righteousness of God – 1:16-17

II. God’s Righteousness in His Wrath against Sinners – 1:18-3:20
   A. The unrighteousness of the Gentiles – 1:18-32
   B. The unrighteousness of the Jews
   C. The unrighteousness of all people – 3:9-20

III. The Saving Righteousness of God – 3:21-4:25
   A. God’s righteousness in the death of Jesus – 3:21-26
   B. Righteousness by faith for Jews and Gentiles – 3:27-31
   C. Abraham as the father of Jews and Gentiles – 4:1-25

IV. Hope as a Result of Righteousness by Faith – 5:1-8:39
   A. Assurance of hope – 5:1-11
   B. Hope in Christ’s triumph over Adam’s sin – 5:12-21
C. The triumph of grace over the power of sin – 6:1-23

D. The triumph of grace over the power of the law – 7:1-6

E. The law and sin – 7:7-25

F. Life in the Spirit – 8:1-17

G. Assurance of hope – 8:18-39

V. God’s Righteousness to Israel and to the Gentiles – 9:1-11:36
   A. God’s saving promises to Israel – 9:1-29
   B. Israel’s rejection of God’s saving promises – 9:30-11:10
   C. God’s righteousness in His plan for Jews and Gentiles – 11:11-32
   D. Concluding doxology – 11:33-36

   A. Paradigm for exhortations: total dedication to God – 12:1-2
   B. Marks of the Christian Community – 12:3-13:14
   C. A call for mutual acceptance between the strong and the weak – 14:1-15:13

VII. The Extension of God’s Righteousness through the Pauline Mission – 15:14-16:23
   A. The establishment of churches among the Gentiles – 15:14-33
   B. Appreciation and greetings to coworkers in the gospel – 16:1-23

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Author: The Apostle Paul

Written to: Christians in Corinth, Greece

Date of Writing: 53, 54, or 55 A.D.

Key Verse: 1:9

Reason for Writing:

Paul wrote to:
- Instruct and correct such issues as: divisions (1:10-4:21); immorality (5, 6:12-20); lawsuits in pagan courts (6:1-8); abuse of the Lord’s Supper (11:17-34)
- To correct false teaching concerning the resurrection – 15
• To give instruction concerning the offering for poverty stricken believers in Jerusalem – 16:1-4

“As you read this letter through, you will see not only the problems of the Corinthian church but you will recognize the problems of the church in America today…So this letter is directed especially to those who live in a sex-saturated atmosphere, dominated by the constant ebb and flow of ideas and information. It is directed to Christians who are living in the midst of pressures and temptations of the kind you and I face every day.” Ray Stedman

Outline by David K. Lowery, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*:
I. Introduction – 1:1-9
   A. Greetings and description of the writer and readers – 1:1-3 READ

   B. Thanksgiving for the effects of God’s grace – 1:4-9

II. Divisions in the Church – 1:10-4:21
   A. The reality of the division – 1:10-17

   B. The causes of division – 1:18-4:5
      1. A misunderstanding of the message – 1:18-3:4

      2. A misunderstanding of the ministry – 3:5-4:5

   C. The cure of division – 4:6-21

III. Disorders in the Church – 5-6
   A. Failure to discipline a sinner – 5

   B. Failure to resolve personal disputes – 6:1-11
C. Failure to practice sexual purity – 6:12-20

IV. Difficulties in the Church – 7-15
   A. Counsel concerning marriage – 7
      1. Marriage and celibacy – 7:1-9
         2. Marriage and divorce – 7:10-24
         4. Remarriage and widows – 7:39-40
   B. Counsel concerning Christian liberty – 8-14
         a. The principle of brotherly love – 8
         b. The regulation of privilege – 9:1-10:13
         c. The application to idolatry – 10:14-11:1
      2. Christian liberty in relation to Christian worship – 11:2-14:40
         a. Women in worship – 11:2-16
b. Christians at the Lord’s Supper – 11:17-34

c. Spiritual Gifts – 12-14

C. Counsel Concerning the Resurrection – 15
   1. The certainty of bodily resurrection – 15:1-34

      b. Logical argument – 15:12-19

      c. Theological argument – 15:20-28

      d. Experiential argument – 15:29-34
2. Answers to certain questions – 15:35-58
   a. Answers about the resurrection of the dead – 15:35-49
   b. Answers about the Rapture of the living – 15:50-58

D. Counsel concerning the collection for the poor – 16:1-4

E. Counsel concerning future visits – 16:5-12

V. Conclusion – 16:13-24
   A. Exhortation on appropriate conduct and commendation – 16:13-18
   B. Greetings and goodbye – 16:19-24
The 2nd Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Author: Paul

Date: Paul wrote 2 Corinthians from Macedonia around 55-56 A.D. (a year or so after writing 1 Corinthians)

Background:
- Paul spent 18 months in Corinth on his 2nd missionary journey
- After leaving Corinth, Paul heard of immorality in the Corinthian church and sent a letter which we do not have today
- While in Ephesus Paul heard reports of division in the Corinthian church
- The Corinthians wrote Paul a letter asking for clarification on some issues. Paul responded with our 1 Corinthians which gives the clarification they wanted plus deals with the problem of division in the church
- Disturbing news reached Paul of further difficulties in Corinth, including the arrival of false apostles
- The false teachers began assaulting the character of Paul
- Paul went to Corinth (the “painful visit” of 2:1)
- Paul left Corinth
- Paul wrote the “severe letter” (2:4) and sent it with Titus to Corinth
- Paul went to Troas to meet Titus and learn how his letter was received
- Titus reported to Paul that most of the Corinthians had repented of their rebellion against Paul
- Paul wrote 2 Corinthians knowing that some rebellious attitudes still smoldered under the surface and could erupt again

Paul’s Purposes in Writing:
1. To commend the church for disciplining the sinning church member and to encourage them to forgive and receive him
2. To explain why he had apparently changed his plans and not visited them as he had promised
3. To answer those in the church who were questioning his apostolic authority
   To answer those who accused him of wrong motives
4. To encourage the church to share in the offering for the Jerusalem believers
5. To prepare them for his planned visit

Outline from The MacArthur Study Bible
I. Paul’s Greeting – 1:1-11

II. Paul’s Ministry – 1:12-7:16
   A. Paul’s Plans – 1:12-2:4
B. The Offender’s Punishment – 2:5-11

C. Titus’ Absence – 2:12-13

D. The Ministry’s Nature – 2:14-6:10
   1. The triumph of the ministry – 2:14-17
   2. The commendation of the ministry – 3:1-6
   3. The basis of the ministry – 3:7-18
   4. The theme of the ministry – 4:1-7
   5. The trials of the ministry – 4:8-18
   6. The motivation of the ministry – 5:1-10
   7. The message of the ministry – 5:11-21
   8. The conduct of the ministry – 6:1-10

E. The Corinthians Exhorted – 6:11-7:16
   1. To open their hearts to Paul – 6:11-13
   2. To separate themselves from unbelievers – 6:14-7:1
   3. To be assured of Paul’s love – 7:2-16

III. Paul’s Collection – 8:1-9:15
   A. The Patterns of Giving – 8:1-9
      1. The Macedonians – 8:1-7
      2. Jesus Christ – 8:8-9
   B. The Purpose of Giving – 8:10-15
   C. The Procedures of Giving – 8:16-9:5
D. The Promise of Giving – 9:6-15

IV. Paul’s Apostleship – 10:1-12:13
   A. Apostolic Authority – 10:1-18
   B. Apostolic Conduct – 11:1-15
   C. Apostolic Suffering – 11:16-33
   D. Apostolic Credentials – 12:1-13

V. Paul’s Visit – 12:14-13:14
   A. Paul’s Unselfishness – 12:14-18
   B. Paul’s Warnings – 12:19-13:10
   C. Paul’s Benediction – 13:11-14
The Letter of Paul to the Galatians

Author: Paul

Date: Around 49 AD

The Recipients:

Occasion:

Purpose:
- Defend Paul’s apostleship
- Defend the doctrine that people are saved by faith and not by the law

Theme: From the ESV Study Bible
“Christ’s death has brought in the age of the new covenant (3:23-26; 4:4-5, 24), in which believers do not have to become Jews or follow the outward ceremonies of the Mosaic law (2:3, 11-12, 14; 4:10). To require these things is to deny the heart of the gospel, which is justification by faith alone, not by obedience to the law (2:16; cf. 1:6-7). In this new age, Christians are to live in the guidance and power of the Spirit (chapters 5-6).

Key Verse – 5:1

Outline by Ray Stedman in Adventuring through the Bible

The Gospel of Liberty - Chapters 1-4
1. Introduction – Why have the Galatians departed from this gospel of liberty? – 1:1-9
2. The gospel of liberty came directly from God – 1:10-24 \( \text{READ} \)

3. The gospel of liberty affirmed in Jerusalem and by Paul’s rebuke to Peter – 2

4. Salvation comes by faith, not works or the Law – 3-4
5. Stand fast in your liberty – 5:1-12

6. In liberty, love one another – 5:13-15

7. Walk in the Spirit, not the flesh – 5:16-21

8. The fruit of the Spirit – 5:22-26

9. Live free, do good to all, care for one another – 6:1-10

10. Conclusion, including a curse upon those who impose their legalism on believers under grace – 6:11-18
“Romans is, humanly speaking, the most impressive of Paul’s letters. But Ephesians is probably the most elegant. In its opening doxology blessings cascade down upon the reader. In its closing verses the smell of the battlefield lies heavily in the air and through the smoke of war we see Christians, fully clad in the armor of spiritual warfare, still standing. From beginning to end Ephesians sets before us the wonder of God’s grace, the privilege of belonging to the church, and the pattern of life-transformation the gospel produces.”

Sinclair Ferguson

Author: Paul

Recipients: the church in the city of Ephesus, capital of the Roman province of Asia (Asia Minor, in modern Turkey)

Date: Sometime between 60-62 B.C. while Paul was being held in Rome

Key Theme: “Mystery” of the church
Outline by Ray Stedman in *Adventuring through the Bible*

**Our Position as Christians – 1-3**

1. Introduction: we are redeemed by the Son, sealed by the Spirit – 1

2. Our position before God: once dead, now alive in Christ – 2:1-10

3. Our position in the church: Jew and Gentiles reconciled – 2:11-22

4. The mystery of the church revealed – 3

**Our Lifestyle as Christians – 4-6**

5. Unity in the church – 4:1-6

6. One church, many spiritual gifts – 4:7-16

7. Put off the old self, put on the new – 4:17-29
8. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit, but be filled with the Spirit – 4:30-5:21


10. Service in the workplace – 6:5-9

11. Spiritual warfare: the armor of God, praying for boldness – 6:10-20

12. Conclusion – 6:21-24
The Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Author: Paul

Date: Around 62 A.D. during Paul’s imprisonment in Rome

Written to the Christians in Philippi

Theme:
Paul wants to encourage the Philippians to live out their lives as citizens of a heavenly colony.

Occasion for writing:
Paul wrote to the Philippians from prison, prompted in part by his reception of their latest monetary gift that they had sent with Epaphroditus. In addition, Paul wanted to pass along the good news that Epaphroditus had recovered from a serious illness. While writing, Paul also wanted to encourage the Philippians to continue to make progress in their faith.

Outline from The ESV Study Bible:
I. Greeting and Prayer – 1:1-11
   A. Salutation from Paul and Timothy – 1:1-2

   B. Paul’s thanksgiving and prayer for the Philippians – 1:3-11

II. Paul’s Reflections on His Imprisonment – 1:12-30
   A. Paul’s imprisonment has meant progress for the gospel – 1:12-18

   B. To live is Christ – 1:19-26
C. Encouragement to walk worthy of the gospel – 1:27-30

III. Exhortation to Humble Service – 2:1-30
   A. Encouragement to unity in the faith and service to one another – 2:1-4
   
   B. Christ’s example of humble service – 2:5-11
   
   C. Living as lights in the world – 2:12-18
   
   D. Timothy as an example of a service-centered life – 2:19-24
   
   E. Epaphroditus as another example of service – 2:25-30

   A. Initial call to rejoice in the Lord – 3:1
   
   B. Contrast between the opponents of the gospel and the true people of God – 3:2-3
C. Paul’s renunciation of spiritual and ethnic privileges for the sake of knowing Christ – 3:4-11

D. Paul’s progress in the gospel: through Christ, not the law – 3:12-16

E. A call to follow Paul’s example of commitment to Jesus as Lord – 3:17-21

V. Concluding Exhortations and Thanksgiving – 4:1-23
   A. Standing together for the gospel – 4:1-3

   B. Rejoicing in faith – 4:4-9

   C. Thanksgiving for the Philippians’ gift: Paul’s contentment in God – 4:10-20

   D. Greetings – 4:21-22

   E. Benediction – 4:23
The Letter of Paul to the Colossians

Author: Paul

Date: 60-62 B.C.

Written to: The Christians in Colossae

Emphasis of the Book: The deity of Jesus and His sufficiency for all we need spiritually. “Anyone who claims that Jesus is not truly God has at least two big problems. One is the gospel of John, a book entirely devoted to the subject of the deity of Christ. The other is this passage [Colossians 1:15-20], which is an absolutely clear unambiguous statement of the deity of Christ. Of course, the deity of Christ is a theme that is woven throughout Scripture, but John and Colossians make the case in terms that are direct and unassailable.” Ray Stedman

Outline by Curtis Vaughn in NIV Bible Commentary Vol. 2:
1. Introduction – 1:1-14
   A. Salutation – 1:1-2
B. Prayer of Thanksgiving – 1:3-8

C. Prayer of Petition – 1:9-14

II. The Supremacy of Christ – 1:15-23
   A. The Scope of Christ’s Supremacy – 1:15-18

   B. The Basis for Christ’s Supremacy – 1:19-23
      1. The Fullness of God in Christ – 1:19
      2. The Reconciling Work of Christ – 1:20-23

III. The Ministry of Paul – 1:24-2:7
    A. A Ministry of Suffering – 1:24
B. A Ministry of Preaching – 1:25-29

C. A Ministry of Intercession – 2:1-5

D. A Ministry of Exhortation – 2:6-7

IV. Warning against Error – 2:8-23
   A. The Error of False Philosophy – 2:8-15
      1. The warning stated – 2:8

      2. The warning justified – 2:9-15
         a. The full deity of Christ – 2:9a

         b. The real humanity of Christ – 2:9b

         c. The complete adequacy of Christ – 2:10-15

   B. The Error of Legalism – 2:16-17

   C. The Error of Angel Worship – 2:18-19

   D. The Error of Asceticism – 2:20-23

   1. Sins of the old life are to be abandoned – 3:5-11

   2. Virtues of the new life are to be cultivated – 3:12-17

   3. Family relationships are to be strengthened – 3:18-4:1

   4. Christian duties are to be faithfully performed – 4:2-6

VI. Conclusion – 4:7-18
   A. Commendations – 4:7-9

   B. Greetings – 4:10-15

   C. Instructions – 4:16-17

   D. Benediction – 4:18
The First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Written By: Paul

Written: The Christians in Thessalonica

Date Written: A.D. 49-51

Occasion of the Writing:

Outline adapted from an outline by Dr. John F. Walvoord:
I. The Lord’s Coming in Relation to Salvation – 1
II. The Lord’s Coming in Relation to Christian Service – 2

III. The Lord’s Coming in Relation to Sanctification – 3:1-4:12

IV. The Lord’s Coming in Relation to Christians Who Have Died – 4:13-18

V. The Lord’s Coming in Relation to the Safety of Christians in the Day of Wrath – 5
The Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Outline by Thomas L. Constable in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary:*
I. Salutation – 1:1-2

II. Commendation for Past Progress – 1:3-12
   A. Thanksgiving for growth – 1:3-4
   B. Encouragement to persevere – 1:5-10
   C. Prayer for success – 1:11-12
III. Correction of Present Error – 2:1-12
   A. The beginning of the day of the Lord – 2:1-5

   B. The mystery of lawlessness – 2:6-12

IV. Thanksgiving and Prayer – 2:13-17
   A. Thanksgiving for calling – 2:13-15

   B. Prayer for strength – 2:16-17
V. Exhortations for Future Growth – 3:1-15
   A. Prayer for the apostles – 3:1-2

   B. Confidence of the apostles – 3:3-5

   C. Treatment of the disorderly – 3:6-10

   D. Commands for the idle – 3:11-13

   E. Discipline of the disobedient – 3:14-15

VI. Conclusion – 3:16-18
The First Letter of Paul to Timothy

Timothy:

When Written:

Outline from The MacArthur Study Bible:
I. Greeting – 1-2

II. Instruction Concerning False Doctrine – 1:3-20
   A. The False Doctrine at Ephesus – 1:3-11

   B. The True Doctrine of Paul – 1:12-17
C. The Exhortation to Timothy – 1:18-20

III. Instructions Concerning the Church – 2:1-3:16
   A. The Importance of Prayer – 2:1-8

   B. The Role of Women – 2:9-15
C. The Qualifications for Leaders – 3:1-13

D. The Reason for Paul’s Letter – 3:14-16

IV. Instructions Concerning False Teachers – 4:1-16
   A. The Description of False Teachers – 4:1-5

   B. The Description of True Teachers – 4:6-16

V. Instructions Concerning Pastoral Responsibilities – 5:1-6:2
   A. The Responsibility to Sinning Members – 5:1-2
B. The Responsibility to Widows – 5:3-16

C. The Responsibility to Elders – 5:17-25


VI. Instructions Concerning the Man of God – 6:3-21
   A. The Peril of False Teaching – 6:3-5

   B. The Peril of Loving Money – 6:6-10

   C. The Proper Character and Motivation of a Man of God – 6:11-16

   D. The Proper Handling of Treasure – 6:17-19

   E. The Proper Handling of Truth – 6:20-21
The Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

Written By: Paul

Written To: Timothy

Date: During the 2nd imprisonment in Rome just before his execution
Sometime between 64-67 A.D.

Outline from Ryrie Study Bible:
I. The Salutation – 1:1-2

II. The Expression of Thanks for Timothy – 1:3-7

III. The Call of a Soldier of Christ – 1:8-18
   A. A Call to Courage – 1:8-12

   B. A Call to Faithfulness – 1:13-18

IV. The Character of a Soldier of Christ – 2:1-26
   A. He Is Strong – 2:1-2

   B. He Is Single-minded – 2:3-4

   C. He Is Strict – 2:5-10

   D. He Is Secure – 2:11-13
E. He Is Sound of Faith – 2:14-19

F. He Is Sanctified – 2:20-23

G. He Is a Servant – 2:24-26

V. The Caution of a Soldier of Christ – 3:1-17
   A. The Peril of Apostasy – 3:1-9

   B. The Protection from Apostasy – 3:10-17
VI. The Charge to a Soldier of Christ – 4:1-5

VII. The Comfort of a Soldier of Christ – 4:6-18
   A. A Good Finish to Life – 4:6-7

   B. A Good Future after Life – 4:8

   C. Good Friends in Life – 4:9-18

VIII. Concluding Greetings – 4:19-22
The Letter of Paul to Titus

Martin Luther wrote this about Paul’s letter to Titus: “It is a short letter and yet such quintessence of Christian doctrine, composed in such a masterly manner, that it contains all that is needful for Christian life and knowledge.”

Written By: Paul

Written To: Titus

Date Written: Between Paul’s 1st and 2nd imprisonments in Rome

Outline from The Ryrie Study Bible:
I. Opening Greetings – 1:1-4

II. Elders in the Church – 1:5-9
   A. Their Desirability – 1:5
B. Their Qualifications – 1:6-9

III. Offenders in the Church – 1:10-16

IV. Operation of the Church – 2:1-3:11
   A. Godly Behavior for Different Groups – 2:1-10

   B. Living in Response to God’s Grace – 2:11-15

   C. Demonstration of Good Works – 3:1-11
      1. In relation to governments – 3:1
2. In relation to all people – 3:2-7

3. In relation to false teachers – 3:8-11

V. Personal Messages and Greetings – 3:12-15
The Letter of Paul to Philemon

Written By: Paul

When Written: around 62 AD

Written To: Philemon

Theme of the Book: The power of the gospel to transform lives and to impact human relationships

Reason the letter is included in Scripture:
- To give us a picture of Christ’s love for us in pleading our case before the Father
- To teach Christian love

Outline from The MacArthur Study Bible:
I. Greeting – 1-3
II. The Character of One Who Forgives – 4-7
III. The Actions of One Who Forgives – 8-18
IV. The Motives of One Who Forgives – 19-25
The Letter to the Hebrews

Written By: ?
Written To: Jewish (Hebrew) People

Theme of the Book: The Preeminence of Jesus

The Warning Passages:

- Ignoring What God Has Done in Christ – 2:1-4
- Not Believing God – 3:7-14
- Degenerating from the Basic Principles – 5:11-6:20
- Willful Sin – 10:26-39
- Devaluing the Grace of God – 12:15-17
- Rejecting Discipline – 12:10-11
- Indifference – 12:25-29
Outline from *The MacArthur Study Bible*:
I. The Superiority of Jesus Christ’s Position – 1:1-4:13
   A. A Better Name – 1:1-3

   B. Better Than the Angels – 1:4-2:18
C. Better Than Moses – 3:1-19


II. The Superiority of Jesus Christ’s Priesthood – 4:14-7:28
   A. Christ As High Priest – 4:14-5:10
B. Exhortation to Full Commitment in Christ – 5:11-6:20

C. Christ’s Priesthood Like Melchizedek’s – 7:1-28
III. The Superiority of Jesus Christ’s Priestly Ministry – 8:1-10:18  
A. Through a Better Covenant – 8:1-13

B. In a Better Sanctuary – 9:1-12

C. By a Better Sacrifice – 9:13-10:18

IV. The Superiority of the Believer’s Privileges – 10:19-12:29  
A. Saving Faith – 10:19-25

B. False Faith – 10:26-39

C. Genuine Faith – 11:1-3

D. Heroes of Faith – 11:4-40
E. Persevering Faith – 12:1-29

V. The Superiority of Christian Behavior – 13:1-21
   A. In Relation to Others – 13:1-3

   B. In Relation to Ourselves – 13:4-9

   C. In Relation to God – 13:10-21

Postscript – 13:22-25
The Letter of James

Author: James the Just

Written to: Jewish Christians in scattered places

Date: Prior to 62 A.D.
Probably prior to 48-49 A.D. (date of the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15)

Theme: True faith will express itself in works

Outline from *ESV Study Bible*:
I. Greeting – 1:1
II. The Testing of Faith – 1:2-18
   A. Joy in trials – 1:2-4

   B. Wisdom from God for trials – 1:5-8

   C. The place of rich and poor before God – 1:9-11
   D. Reward for those who endure – 1:12

   E. The process of temptation – 1:13-18

III. Hearing and Doing the Word – 1:19-27
   A. Hearers of the Word – 1:19-21
B. Doers of the Word – 1:22-25

C. True, practical religion – 1:26-27

IV. The Sin of Partiality – 2:1-13
   A. Preferring the wealthy over the poor in the assembly – 2:1-7

B. The royal law of love – 2:8-11

C. Acting in light of judgment – 2:12-13

V. Faith without Works Is Dead – 2:14-26
   A. Faith without works – 2:14-17

B. Response of a critic – 2:18-20
C. Examples of Abraham and Rahab – 2:21-26

VI. The Sin of Dissension in the Community – 3:1-4:12
   A. Training the tongue – 3:1-12

B. The solution: wisdom from above – 3:13-18
C. Warning against worldliness – 4:1-12

VII. The Sins of the Wealthy – 4:13-5:12
   A. Boasting about tomorrow – 4:13-17

   B. Warning to the rich – 5:1-6
C. Patience in suffering – 5:7-12

VIII. The Prayer of Faith – 5:13-18

IX. Concluding Admonition – 5:19-20
The First Letter of Peter

Author: Simon Peter

Written to: Christians under persecution

Written From: Babylon – 5:13

Date Written: 62-63 A.D.

Purpose of the Letter: to teach them how to live victoriously in the midst of hostility without losing hope, without becoming bitter, while trusting in their Lord and while looking for His 2nd coming.

Outline from The MacArthur Study Bible:

Salutation – 1:1-2

I. Remember Our Great Salvation – 1:3-2:10
   A. The Certainty of Our Future Inheritance – 1:3-12
      1. Preserved by the power of God – 1:3-5
2. Proven by the trials of persecution – 1:6-9

3. Predicted by the prophets of God – 1:10-12

B. The Consequences of Our Future Inheritance – 1:13-2:10
   1. Perseverance of hope – 1:13-16
   2. Persistence of wonder – 1:17-21
   3. Power of love – 1:22-2:3

4. Praises of Christ – 2:4-10

II. Remember Our Example Before Men – 2:11-4:6
   A. Honorable Living Before Unbelievers – 2:11-3:7
      1. Submission to the government – 2:11-17

   2. Submission to masters – 2:18-25
3. Submission in the family – 3:1-7

B. Honorable Living Before Believers – 3:8-12

C. Honorable Living in the Midst of Suffering – 3:13-4:6
   1. The principle of suffering for righteousness – 3:13-17
   2. The paragon of suffering for righteousness – 3:18-22

3. The purpose of suffering for righteousness – 4:1-6
III. Remember Our Lord Will Return – 4:7-5:11
   A. The Responsibilities of Christian Living – 4:7-11

   B. The Rewards of Christian Suffering – 4:12-19

   C. The Requirements for Christian Leadership – 5:1-4

   D. The Realization of Christian Victory – 5:5-11

Conclusion – 5:12-14
The Second Letter of Peter

Written By: Simon Peter

Written To:

Date Written: Around 64-65 A.D.

Theme: The grace of God in Christ truly transforms and empowers Christians to live righteously, even in the face of opposition and persecution.

Purpose: Warn Christians about False Teachers

Outline from the *ESV Study Bible*:
I. Initial Greeting – 1:1-2

II. God’s Grace in Christ Is the Source of Godly Living – 1:3-11
   A. God’s power exercised on our behalf – 1:3-4

   B. Making every effort to live a godly life – 1:5-7
C. Living an effective life for Christ – 1:8-11

III. Peter’s Reminder to the Churches – 1:12-21
   A. Stirring up Christians to holiness – 1:12-15

   B. Peter’s preaching results from his own eyewitness experience – 1:16-18

   C. Truth about Jesus Christ anchored in the prophetic word of Scripture – 1:19-21

IV. Evaluation of False Teachers – 2:1-22
   A. Influence of false teachers – 2:1-3

   B. Judgment of false teachers – 2:4-10a
C. Character of false teachers – 2:10b-16

D. Influence of false teachers revisited – 2:17-22

V. The Day of the Lord Will Surely Come – 3:1-13
   A. Scoffers challenge the truth of Scripture concerning the coming of the Lord – 3:1-7
B. The Lord’s patience determines the timing of His return – 3:8-10

C. Living effectively in view of the Lord’s return – 3:11-13

VI. Concluding Exhortations – 3:14-18
   A. Concerning diligence – 3:14

B. Concerning the distortion of Paul’s teaching – 3:15-16

C. Concerning the proper response to Paul’s teaching – 3:17-18
The First Letter of John

Written By:  The apostle John (author of gospel + Revelation)
John’s name is not found in 1 John but:
* it’s obvious the author had authority & respect (plus the author places himself among
the eyewitnesses of our Lord’s life & ministry – 1:1-2)
* testimony of early church
* title in all the ancient manuscripts
* vocabulary & style are so similar to the vocabulary & style of John’s Gospel

Written To:  Christians in General

John’s 5 Purposes in Writing 1 John:
- To Stimulate Fullness of Joy – 1:4
- To Stimulate Resistance of Sin – 2:1, 12-14; 3:7-9
- To Stimulate Love for One Another – 3:11; 4:7, 11, 21
- To Stimulate Awareness of False Teaching – 2:18, 26
- To Stimulate Assurance of Eternal Life – 5:13

Theme:

Outline from The MacArthur Study Bible:  Outlining 1 John is very difficult because John
repeats similar themes over and over to emphasize the basic truths about genuine
Christianity. Some have likened John’s repetition to a spiral that moves outward,
becoming larger and larger, each time spreading the same truth over a wider area and
encompassing more territory. Others have seen the spiral as moving inward, penetrating
deeper and deeper into the same themes while expanding on his thoughts. However one
views the spiraling pattern, John uses repetition of basic truths as a means to accentuate
their importance and to help his readers understand them.
   A.  The Fundamental Tests of Doctrine – 1:1-2:2
      1.  A biblical view of Christ – 1:1-4
2. A biblical view of sin – 1:5-22

B. The Fundamental Tests of Morals – 2:3-17
   1. A biblical view of obedience – 2:3-6

2. A biblical view of love – 2:7-17
   a. The Love that God requires – 2:7-11

   b. The Love that God hates – 2:12-17

II. The Fundamental Tests of Genuine Fellowship – SPIRAL II – 2:18-3:24
   A. Part 2 of the Doctrinal Test – 2:18-27
      1. Antichrists depart from Christian fellowship – 2:18-21


      3. Antichrists deceive the Christian Faithful – 2:26-27

   B. Part 2 of the Moral Test – 2:28-3:24
      1. The purifying hope of the Lord’s return – 2:28-3:3
2. The Christian’s incompatibility with sin – 3:4-24
   a. The requirement of righteousness – 3:4-10

   b. The requirement of love – 3:11-24

III. The Fundamental Tests of Genuine Fellowship – SPIRAL III – 4:1-21
   A. Part 3 of the Doctrinal Test – 4:1-6
      1. The demonic source of false doctrine – 4:1-3

      2. The need for sound doctrine – 4:4-6

   B. Part 3 of the Moral Test – 4:7-21
      1. God’s character of love – 4:7-10

      2. God’s requirement of love – 4:11-21
   A. The Victorious Life in Christ – 5:1-5

   B. The Witness of God for Christ – 5:6-12

   C. Christian Certainties Because of Christ – 5:13-21
      1. The certainty of eternal life – 5:13
      2. The certainty of answered prayer – 5:14-17
      3. The certainty of victory over sin and Satan – 5:18-21
The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Letter of John

Written By: The Apostle John

Written to: “The Elect Lady and her children” v. 1

Background: False teachers were seeking to make converts and taking advantage of Christian hospitality to advance their cause. The recipients of the letter have shown these false teachers hospitality. John warns his readers against showing hospitality to such deceivers.

Theme: Living in the love of God in accordance with the truth of Jesus Christ

Outline from \textit{ESV Study Bible}:
I. Greeting: The Elder’s Love – 1-3

II. The Elder’s Joy and Request – 4-6

III. The Elder’s Concern – 7-8
IV. The Elder’s Warning – 9-11

V. Closing: The Elder’s Farewell – 12-13
The 3rd Letter of John

Author: The Apostle John

Written to: Gaius

Theme: Steadfastness in the face of opposition

Outline from ESV Study Bible:
I. Greeting: The Elder’s Joy at Gaius’ Faithfulness – 1-4

II. Praise for Gaius’ Support for Itinerant Christian Workers – 5-8

III. Concern about Diotrephes – 9-10

IV. Advice and Commendation of Demetrius – 11-12

V. Closing with Promise to Visit – 13-15
The Letter of Jude
Written by: Jude (Judas) the half brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3) and brother of James

Theme: Apostasy

Date Written: 67-80 A.D.

Outline by Dr. J. Vernon McGee:
1. Occasion of the Epistle – 1-3

2. Occurrences of Apostasy – 4-16
   (1) Inception of Apostasy – 4

   (2) Israel in the Wilderness – 5

   (3) Angels – 6

   (4) Sodom and Gomorrah – 7
(5) Modern Apostate Teachers Identified – 8-10

(6) Cain, Balaam, Korah – 11

(7) Modern Apostate Teachers Defined and Described – 12-16

3. Occupation of Believers in Days of Apostasy – 17-25
   (1) Believers Warned by Apostles That These Apostates Would Come – 17-19
(2) What Believers Must Do in Days of Apostasy – 20-25
The Book of Revelation
(“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”)

Meaning of the Title:

Author: John

Written to: 7 Churches in Asia Minor

Date Written: 94-96 A.D.

The Message of Revelation: God is in control of the events of human history. Someday Jesus will return in His glory to judge and to rule.

Three Major Differences in Viewing Revelation:
  • It has all been fulfilled in the past
  • It is a timeless depiction of the cosmic struggle between the forces of good and evil
  • It will be fulfilled in the future (primarily chapters 6-22)
The futuristic approach is the logical approach because the prophecies found in this book have simply not taken place. There is nothing in history that comes close to the events of the majority of the book. For instance: (a) No judgments in history have ever equaled those depicted in chapters 6, 8, 9, and 16, but in these chapters, these judgments are presented as things that will occur. (b) The resurrection and judgment of chapter 20 have never occurred, but are clearly presented as future facts. (c) Obviously, the great anticipation of the book, Christ’s visible return as portrayed in chapter 20, has also not take place.

Three Major Differences in Viewing the Millennial Kingdom:

- Premillennialism

- Postmillennialism

- Amillennialism

Key to the Book: 1:19

Outline (modified) from the *MacArthur Study Bible*:
I. The Things Which You Have Seen – 1:1-20
   A. The Prologue – 1:1-8
B. The Vision of the Glorified Christ – 1:9-18

C. The Apostle’s Commission to Write – 1:19-20

II. The Things Which Are – 2:1-3:22

Each of the letters have this pattern:
1. The Church
2. The Correspondent
3. The Commendation
4. The Condemnation
5. The Command
6. The Challenge

A. The Letter to the Church at Ephesus – 2:1-7

B. The Letter to the Church at Smyrna – 2:8-11
C. The Letter to the Church at Pergamum – 2:12-17

D. The Letter to the Church at Thyatira – 2:18-29

E. The Letter to the Church at Sardis – 3:1-6

F. The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia – 3:7-13

G. The Letter to the Church at Laodicea – 3:14-22

III. The Things Which Will Take Place after These Things – 4:1-22:21
   A. Worship in Heaven – 4:1-5:14

(1) The Seven Seals – 6:1-8:5

1st seal – 

2nd seal – 

3rd seal – 

4th seal – 

5th seal – 

6th seal – 

7th Seal –
(2) The Seven Trumpets – 8:6-14:20
(3) The Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath – 15:1-18:24

C. The Return of the King – 19:1-21

D. The Millennium – 20:1-10

E. The Great White Throne Judgment – 20:11-15