

New Testament: Overview, The Gospels & Acts

Leadership Institute - Sep 30, 2025

The Intertestamental Period – The 400 Silent Years

- Historical Context:
 - ~_____ years between Malachi and Matthew
 - “Silent years” no prophetic voices recorded
- Key Developments:
 - _____ by Alexander the Great (Rise of Greek culture)
 - Roman Empire by 63 BC (Pax Romana, road systems, law)
 - Growth of Jewish sects: Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, Essenes
 - Synagogue system & spread of the Hebrew Scriptures (Septuagint)
- Why It Matters:
 - God was preparing the perfect _____ for the arrival of Christ

New Testament Overview

- Structure of the New Testament:
 - _____ (4): Life and ministry of Jesus.
 - History (Acts): The birth and spread of the early church.
 - _____ (21): Instruction, correction, encouragement for believers.
 - Epistles of Paul (Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon)
 - General Epistles (Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Jude)
 - Prophecy (Revelation): Christ’s ultimate victory and hope for the church. Vision (future) Apocalyptic Literature
- Key Themes:
 - Fulfillment of God’s promises in Christ.
 - The _____ of God breaking in through Jesus.
 - The church as God’s people, empowered by the Spirit.
 - The hope of Christ’s return.

Review of the Gospels

- The value of eye witness testimony
- The Gospels are the _____ of Jesus
 - Written in the first century
 - Eyewitness writers or interviewed eyewitness accounts.

Matthew

- Author: Matthew / Date: AD 60-AD85
 - A _____ of Jesus
 - Written to Jewish audience
- Purpose: To prove that Jesus is the _____, the eternal King who fulfills all the OT promises concerning the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Key Themes:
 - The _____ of Heaven (4:17, 23; 5:3, 10, 19, 20; 7:21; 8:11-12; 10:7; 11:11-12; 13:11, 19, 24, 31, 33, 38, 43-45, 47, 52; 18:1, 3-4, 23; 19:12, 14, 23; 20:1; 21:31; 22:1; 23:13; 25:1)
 - Jesus is the King (1:1, 6; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15; 22:45, 2:2; 27:11, 29, 37, 9:9, 21:5, 28:18, 3:12; 6:2, 5, 16; 7:24-27; 13:30, 48-49; 18:23-34; 20:1-16; 21:33-41; 22:1-14; 24:45-51; 25:1-12, 14-30)
 - Rejection of Israel and inclusion of the Gentiles (3:9-10; 8:11-12; 10:6, 15; 11:16-24; 12:38-45; 13:10-17; 15:24; 16:1-4; 20:1-15; 21:28-32, 33-46; 22:1-14; 23:37-39)

Mark

- Author: Mark / Date: AD 60-AD 75
 - Peter's colleague and a disciple
 - Written to Christians in Rome
- Purpose: To tell of Jesus Christ, the _____, who came in _____ to serve and to reveal His mastery over all.
- Key Themes:
 - The Person of Jesus: "You are the _____" (8:29)
 - The Messiah is the Son of God who has authority over:
 - Disease & Disabilities (1:30-31, 40-42; 2:3-12; 3:1-5; 5:25-34; 7:31-37; 8:22-26; 10:46-52)
 - Demons (1:23-27; 3:11-12; 5:1-20; 7:24-30; 9:17-27)
 - Nature (4:34-41; 6:35-44, 47-52; 8:1-10; 11:12-14, 20-21)
 - Death (5:21-24, 35-43)
 - The Work of Jesus: "The Son of Man must _____ many things" (8:31), and "came not to be served but to serve" (10:45)
 - The Veiling of Jesus: "And He warned them to tell no one about Him.." (8:30)
 - Commanded demons to be silent (1:25, 34; 3:12)
 - Didn't publicize His miracles (1:44; 5:43; 7:36; 8:26)
 - Spoke in parables (4:11-12, 33-34)
 - The Misunderstanding of the Disciples: "Peter..began to rebuke Him.." (8:32)
 - The Disciples misunderstood Jesus' teachings (4:13; 7:18; 8:17-21), power (4:40; 6:52), and mission (9:31-32)
 - The Call of Jesus: "If anyone wishes to come after Me.." (8:34) he must deny himself, take up his cross, and lose his life
 - A Disciple must be least on this earth (9:34, 10:29-31), become like a child (10:14-15), and serve others (10:42-45)
 - Call to Us: We live by _____ (1:15; 4:40; 5:34, 36; 9:23; 10:52; 11:22; 16:16)

Luke

- Author: Luke / Date: AD 60-AD85
 - A historian, physician, and disciple of Paul
 - Written to Theophilus (“one who loves God”), _____.
- Purpose: To tell the story of Jesus Christ, the Savior who seeks the _____.
- Key Themes:
 - Deity of Jesus (1:32, 35; 2:49; 3:22; 4:3, 34, 41; 5:21-25; 8:28; 9:35; 10:21-22; 22:70)
 - Salvation - both Physical and Spiritual (1:47; 2:11; 6:9; 7:50; 8:12, 36, 48, 50; 9:24, 56; 13:23; 17:19; 18:26, 42; 19:10; 23:35, 37, 39)
 - Repentance (3:3, 8; 5:32; 13:3-5; 15:7, 10; 16:30; 17:3-4; 24:47)
 - Obedience (6:46-49; 8:18, 21; 10:37; 11:28, 42; 16:8-10; 17:6-10)
 - Forgiveness (3:3; 5:18-26; 6:37; 7:36-50; 11:4; 12:10; 17:3-4; 23:34; 24:47)
 - Prayer (3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28-29; 10:21-22; 11:1-13; 18:1-8, 9-14; 22:32, 40-41; 23:34, 46)
- Joy (1:14; 2:10; 8:13; 10:17; 13:17; 15:5, 9, 32; 19:6, 37; 24:41, 52)
- Fulfilled Destiny (I must” or “It is necessary”
 - 2:49 – “Be in My Father’s House” 4:43 – “Preach the Gospel” 9:22; 17:25; 24:7 – “Suffer”
 - 13:33 – “Go to Jerusalem” 22:37; 24:44 – “must be fulfilled in Me”

John

- Author: John / Date: AD 65-AD 95
 - A disciple of Jesus
 - Written to searching non-Christians or New Christians
- Purpose: To tell the story of Jesus Christ, who is _____, reveals the Father, and calls us to believe in Him for eternal life.
- Key Themes:
 - The _____ (1:33-34; 3:5, 34; 4:23-24; 6:63; 7:37-39; 14:16-17, 23, 25-26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; 20:21-23)
 - Helper/Comforter/Advocate (14:15-17); Teacher (1 4:26); Witness (15:26-27); Convictor (16:4-11); Revealer of Truth (16:12-15)
 - Presentation of Jesus
 - His Deity: Equal w/the Father (1:1, 14, 18; 5:18-30; 8:24-28, 58; 10:30-36; 18:5-8; 20:28)
 - The Son of God (1:34, 49; 3:16-18; 5:16-30, 37-38, 43-46; 8:36; 10:31-39; 11:27; 14:10; 15:22-24; 19:7; 20:30-31)
 - The Son of Man (1:51; 3:13-14; 5:27; 6:27, 53-54, 62; 8:28-29; 9:35; 12:23-34; 13:31-32)
 - The “I Am” of Exodus (4:26; 6:20; 8:18, 23-24, 28, 58; 13:19; 18:6, 8)
 - The Bread of Life (6:35); The Light of the World (8:12); The Door (10:7, 9); The Good Shepherd (10:11, 14); The Resurrection and the Life (11:25); The Way, the Truth and the Life (14:6); The True Vine (15:1, 5)

- The Christ, Messiah (1:40-42; 4:25-26, 42; 7:30-32, 40-42; 9:22; 10:24; 11:27; 12:34; 20:30-3)
- The Teacher, Rabbi (1:38, 49; 3:2, 26; 4:31-32; 6:25; 8:4; 11:3, 8, 28; 13:13; 20:16)
- The King of the Jews (1:49; 12:13-38; 18:33-38; 19:2-3, 12, 15, 19-22)

Overview of the Acts of the Apostles

- Author: Luke
 - same author as the Gospel of Luke
 - Written to Gentiles
- Purpose: For the Advancement of the _____
- Key Themes:
 - The Holy Spirit (1:2, 5, 8, 16; 2:4, 17-18, 33, 38; 4:8, 25, 31; 5:3, 9, 32; 6:3, 5, 10; 7:51, 55; 8:15-19, 29, 39; 9:17, 31; 10:19, 38, 44-47; 11:12, 15-16, 24, 28; 13:2, 4, 9, 52; 15:8, 28; 16:6-7; 19:2, 6; 20:22-23, 28; 21:4, 11; 28:25)
 - The Word of God (4:29, 31; 6:2, 4, 7; 8:4, 14, 25; 10:36; 11:1, 19; 12:24; 13:7, 44, 46, 48-49; 14:25; 15:35-36; 16:6, 32; 17:11, 13; 18:5, 11; 19:10)
 - _____ & Wonders (2:22, 43; 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 7:36; 8:6, 13; 14:3; 15:12; 19:11)
 - God's Sovereignty (1:7, 24-26; 2:23, 39, 47; 5:1-11; 9:1-16; 10:41; 12:20-23; 12:7-8; 13:2, 48; 16:14; 18:10)
 - Witness (1:8, 22; 2:32; 3:15; 4:33; 5:32; 10:39, 43; 13:31; 14:3, 14; 15:8; 22:15, 20; 23:11; 26:16)
 - Repentance (3:19; 5:31; 8:22; 11:18; 13:24; 17:30; 19:4; 20:21; 26:20)
 - Baptism (1:5, 22; 2:38, 41; 8:12, 13, 16, 36, 38; 9:18; 10:37, 47-48; 11:16; 13:24; 16:15, 33; 18:8, 25; 19:3-5; 22:16)
 - _____ of Jesus (2:32; 3:15, 26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30, 33-34; 17:31; 26:23)
 - Prayer (1:14, 24; 2:42; 3:1; 4:24, 31; 6:26; 8:22, 24; 9:40; 10:4, 9, 30-31; 11:5; 12:5, 12; 13:19; 14:23; 16:16, 25; 20:36; 28:8)
 - End Times/Return of Christ (1:3, 6, 11; 2:19-21, 34-35; 3:19-25; 6:14; 8:12; 10:42; 13:23-26, 32-33; 14:22; 15:15-18; 17:3, 7, 31; 19:8; 20:24-25, 32; 23:6; 24:15-17, 21, 25; 26:6-8, 18; 28:20, 23)

Comparison of Peter and Paul

	<u>Peter</u>	<u>Paul</u>
Healed a man lame from birth	3:1-11	14:8-18
Healed through inanimate object	5:15-16	19:11-12
Caused Jewish jealousy	5:17	13:45
Dealt with a sorcerer	8:9-24	13:6-11
Raised a person from the dead	9:36-41	20:9-12
Cast out demons	5:16	16:18
Gave gift of the Holy Spirit	8:17	19:16
Miracle while in prison	12:7	16:25
Paul's Missionary Journeys		

Journey Date Region Passage Book Written

First	47-48	Asia Minor	13:1-14:28	Galatians
Second	49-52	Macedonia, Achaia	15:36-18:22	1 & 2 Thessalonians
Third	52-56	W. Asia Minor	18:23-21:17	Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians

New Testament Writing

- _____ or scrolls made from animal skin
- Codex Sinaiticus (Almost entire NT & some OT)
- Codex Vaticanus (complete copy of Bible)

We have better attestation than any other document of ancient history!

- NT Gospels (1st century Jesus): _____ reliable account
- Gnostic Gospels (2nd century gnostic Jesus) :Judas, Thomas, Peter, Philip, Mary - present a Greek philosopher Jesus

Application for Christian Leaders and the Church

- For Leaders:
 - Contextual _____
 - Teaching with Clarity
 - Discipleship
- For the Church:
 - Unity in _____
 - Living the Kingdom
 - Hope in Christ

Group Discussion Notes:
