

New Testament Survey (NT1)

The General Epistles

Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-2-3 John, Jude

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New Testament Survey (NT1)

1. Introduction to New Testament Theology
2. The Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark & Luke
3. Gospel of John; Book of Acts
4. Paul & Pauline Epistles (Galatians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Corinthians)
5. Pauline Epistles 2 (Romans, Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus)
6. The General Epistles (Hebrews to Jude)
7. Book of Revelation; Expectations for Fulfillment
8. New Testament Conclusion; Final Exam

Organization of New Testament Books

Four Gospels – “Good News” about the life, ministry, sacrificial death and resurrection of God’s incarnate Son, Jesus.

- *The “Synoptic” Gospels* – Matthew, Mark and Luke
- *The Fourth Gospel* – Gospel of John

One Book of Acts – History of Early Church, by Luke.

Twenty-One “Epistles” or “Letters” – written by Apostles & early church leaders.

- *Thirteen Letters attributed to the Apostle Paul.*

To Christian communities: Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1-2 Thess.

To Christian leaders: 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon.

- *One Biblical Sermon*: Hebrews
- *Seven General Non-Pauline “Epistles” or “Letters”* – written to broader Church rather than a specific group or individual.

* James, 1-2 Peter, 1-2-3 John, Jude

One “Apocalypse”: Book of Revelation – symbolic & prophetic.

The “Catholic” or Universal NT Letters

- **Hebrews** – Presentation to Jewish Christians of Jesus as High Priest.
- **James** – Practical instruction on how faith should show itself in righteous living.
- **1 Peter** – Encouragement and comfort to suffering Christians on various aspects of Christian life and duty.
- **2 Peter** – Warning against false Gnostic teachers.
- **1 John** – Reminder on the humanity of Jesus Christ, fellowship with God, and opposition of false doctrine.
- **2 John** – Letter encouraging discernment to keep from hosting false teachers.
- **3 John** – Commendation for righteous Christian leaders; warning against those who are unrighteous.
- **Jude** – Strong warning against false teachers, especially those teaching that grace allows licentiousness.

The Book of Hebrews

- Author: Unknown; perhaps Apollo or Barnabas

- Date: c. before AD 70

- Theme: Presents Jesus Christ as High Priest, written to Jewish believers.

- Purpose: To convince wavering Jewish Christians to continue in the faith.

- Outline:
 - *Superiority of Christ's Person (1:1-4:13)
 - *Superiority of Christ's Work (4:14-10:18)
 - *Superiority of Walk of Faith (10:19-13:25)

The Book of Hebrews – Key Verses

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

The Book of James

- **Author:** James, the brother of Jesus

- **Date:** c. AD 48-52

- **Theme:** Truth faith gives evidence through righteousness living.

- **Purpose:** While not contradicting Paul's emphasis on salvation by faith, James may have been written to balance Paul's theology (or vice versa).

- **Outline:** *The Test of Faith (1:1-18)

 - *The Characteristics of Faith (1:19-5:6)

 - *The Triumph of Faith (5:7-20)

The Book of James – Key Verses

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

James 1:19-25

The Book of James – Key Verses

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-and shudder.

James 2:14-19

The Book of 1 Peter

- Author: Peter, perhaps assisted by Silvanus

- Date: c. AD 62-3

- Theme: Teaching on various aspects of Christian life and duties.

- Purpose: To encourage and give a divine perspective to those suffering persecution.

- Outline: *Salvation of the Believer (1:1-2:12)

 - *Submission of the Believer (2:13-3:12)

 - *Suffering of the Believer (3:13-5:14)

The Book of 1 Peter – Key Verses

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

1 Peter 1:10-12

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-13

The Book of 2 Peter

- Author: Peter

- Date: c. AD 64-66

- Theme: Warning to guard against false teachers.

- Purpose: To oppose false teachers, and to encourage watchfulness for the return of the Lord.

- Outline:
 - *Cultivation of Christian Character (1)
 - *Condemnation of False Teachers (2)
 - *Confidence of Christ's Return (3)

The Book of 2 Peter – Key Verses

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives. 2 Peter 3:9-11

The Book of 1 John

- Author: John the Apostle

- Date: c. AD 85-95

- Theme: Fellowship with God, and the practice of righteous living and love.

- Purpose: To oppose Gnostic heresies common in the Early Church.

- Outline: *The Basis of Fellowship (1:1-2:27)

- *The Behavior of Fellowship (2:28-5:21)

The Book of 1 John – Key Verses

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete. 1 John 1:3-4

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13

The Book of 2 John

- Author: John the Apostle

- Date: c. AD 90

- Theme: Encouraging discernment in receiving teachers, as false teachers were misleading the faithful.

- Purpose: To oppose Gnostic heresies common in the Early Church.

- Outline: *Abide in God's Commandments (vv.1-6)
*Abide Not in False Teachers (vv.7-13)

The Book of 2 John – Key Verses

Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.⁸ Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.⁹ Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him.

The Book of 3 John

- Author: John the Apostle
- Date: c. AD 90
- Theme: Encouragement to enjoy and continue fellowship with fellow believers.
- Purpose: To commend worthy Christian workers, and warn those who were not being loving.
- Outline: *Commendation of Gaius (vv.1-8)
*Condemnation of Diotrephes (vv.9-14)

The Book of 3 John – Key Verses

Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you. ⁶ They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. ⁷ It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. ⁸ We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.

¹¹ Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

3 John 5-8,11

The Book of Jude

- **Author:** Judas brother of Jesus

- **Date:** c. AD 60-65

- **Theme:** Condemnation for false teachers and libertines, and encouragement for the faithful to stand strong.

- **Purpose:** To make clear that salvation did not give license to sin, and libertine teachers must be opposed.

- **Outline:** *Purpose (vv. 1-4)

 - *Description of False Teachers (vv. 5-16)

 - *Defense Against False Teachers (vv. 17-23)

 - *Doxology of Jude (vv. 24-25)

The Book of Jude – Key Verses

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. ⁴ For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

¹⁷ But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸ They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." ¹⁹ These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.