

301: New Testament Bible Survey
Session 1: Introduction to the New Testament

The Bible is a story about God's relationship with his special creation, humanity.

The Bible is divided into two major parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament consists of 39 books.

The Intertestamental Period was a time of huge social, political, and

religious upheaval.

The New Testament contains 27 books.

The New Testament books point to the one central message shared by the authors: the

life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

There are three different issues we must be sensitive to when reading and studying the

New Testament:

Literary genre, context , and the Holy Spirit

There are several different types of literature in the New Testament:

Gospel – a type of ancient historical biography

Acts of the Apostles - a type of ancient historiography that focuses on the early church

The New Testament has different types of epistles/letters written for specific purposes

Apocalyptic literature – a common genre in the 1st century written for the purposes of encouragement featuring a heavenly messenger and highly symbolic images

We must examine the original context of the New Testament including its

history, place, and the contemporary ideas.

We must recognize the inherent tension between understanding the historical

background of the Scriptures and the application of our current day.

The third critical piece in studying the New Testament is the Holy Spirit.

We must be courageous enough to question not just the biblical text but also

_ourselves, our loyalties, and our prejudices/assumptions.

The New Testament demonstrates that the early church was more diverse,

(somewhat) divided, and effective than we often believe.

The New Testament is the continuation of the revelation of God in the Old

Testament, revealing God's specific plan in the _person and work of

Jesus Christ for the rescue of humanity.

Additional Course Reading:

Introductory

A Little Exercise for Young Theologians. Helmut Thielicke. Eerdmans, 2016.

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, 4th ed. Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart. Zondervan Academic, 2014.

The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read the Bible, 2nd ed. Scott McKnight. Zondervan, 2018.

The New Testament in Antiquity: A Survey of the New Testament within Its Cultural Contexts, 2nd ed. Gary Burge, Gene Green. Zondervan Academic, 2020.

A Beginner's Guide to New Testament Studies. Nijay Gupta. Baker Academic, 2020.

Archaeology and the New Testament. John McRay. Baker Academic, 2008.

The Day the Revolution Began: Reconsidering the Meaning of Jesus' Crucifixion. N.T. Wright, Harper One, 2016.

Reading the Gospels Wisely: A Narrative and Theological Introduction. Jonathan T. Pennington. Baker Academic, 2012.

Can We Trust the Gospels? Peter J. Williams. Crossway, 2018.

Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free. F.F. Bruce. Eerdmans, 2000.

Experienced

The New Testament in its World: An Introduction to the History, Literature, and Theology of the First Christians. N.T. Wright and Michael Bird. Zondervan Academic, 2019.

Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony, 2nd ed. Richard Bauckham. Eerdmans, 2017.

Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament. J. Julius Scott, Jr. Baker Academic, 2000.

Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels (IVP Bible Dictionary), 2nd ed. Joel B. Green, Jeannine Brown, et al. IVP Academic, 2013.

The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration, 4th ed. Bruce M. Metzger. Oxford University Press, 2005.

The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology, 3rd ed. Bruce Malina. Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

The New Testament and the People of God. N.T. Wright. SPCK, 1992.

A Theology of the New Testament. George Eldon Ladd. Eerdmans, 1993.

Advanced

Jesus Remembered: Christianity in the Making, Vol. 1. James D.G. Dunn, Eerdmans, 2003.

Judaism: Practice and Belief, 63 BCE – 66 CE. E.P. Sanders. Fortress Press, 2016.

The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature, 3rd ed. John J. Collins. Eerdmans, 2016.

The First Urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul, 2nd ed. Wayne Meeks. Yale University Press, 2003.

Women in the World of the Earliest Christians: Illuminating Ancient Ways of Life. Lynn Cohick. Baker Academic, 2009.

Jews in the Mediterranean Diaspora: From Alexander to Trajan (323 BCE – 117 CE). John M.G. Barclay. University of California Press, 1999.

Paul and Palestinian Judaism: 40th Anniversary Edition. E.P. Sanders. Fortress Press, 2017.

Paul and His Recent Interpreters. N.T. Wright. Fortress Press, 2015.

The Interpretation of the New Testament, 1861-1986. Stephen Neill, Tom Wright. Oxford University Press, 1988.