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How to Read and Study the Bible
Lesson Four – Part 1: What is the New Testament

Lesson Four Topics

- Reflection Questions
- Key Terms
- Introduction to the New Testament
- What is the New Testament
- Check Your Progress Questions

Reflection Questions

A. What are some reasons that the New Testament is important for Christians?

B. As Christians, we are expected not to conform to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. How can we use the New Testament to help us in both regards?

C. Who is this Jesus whose identity is to shape ours? What is his significance and why does he deserve my complete loyalty and obedience.

Key Terms

Anointed One	Day of Pentecost	Plan of Salvation
Ascension	Doctrinal Foundation	Primary Source Book
Authoritative	Foreshadow	Proclamation
Book of Fulfillment	Good Friday	Prophecies
Book of Promise	Holy Spirit	Redemption
Bride	Inspiration	Resurrection
Canon	Jesus	Revelation
Christian Church	Messiah	Spiritual Gifts
Christocentric	Passover	

New Testament : The second major division of the Christian Bible with 27 separate works or books. The majority is attributed to 8 different writers. At the core of the New Testament is the Gospels which there are four in total and three are recognized as synoptic.

The letters in the New Testament deal with the interpretation of God's act of salvation through Jesus Christ. Matters of discipline, proper Christian behavior and church polity also are included.

“How did we get this collection of text called the New Testament. 1st the composition of each of the texts now included in the New Testament : 2nd the selection by the church of this group of texts to stand in a position of central importance reference and authority within the church.”

“Each text was written to serve some specific pastoral needs and answer a range of important questions arising out of the life of the church. The scriptures of the Old Testaments function very much, as the church's manual or handbook (manual is derived from the Latin word “hand.” These are the resources that give us our identity, vision, mission, and hope, and orient us to our past, to the world around us and to our future.” *An Introduction to the New Testament DeSilva, David*

Important Emphasis of Comparison and Contrast:

In previous lessons, we learned that the Old Testament is called the book of _____ because it foreshadows [prefigures, foretells, or predicts] the coming of the Jewish _____ and Savior, Jesus Christ. The word Messiah comes from a Hebrew word which means _____ .

As the Messiah, Jesus is the _____.
That Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Anointed One (Messiah) of Old Testament prophecy was evidenced in his _____ by the Holy Spirit and by the miracles that followed (John 1:32–51; Luke 4:33–37).

“Anointed One”

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ is portrayed as fulfilling the three offices of _____ . Jesus is supremely, God’s “Anointed One.”

Christ is the same title derived from the Greek word for “*anointee*.” Christ is the Greek Word *Christos* which means anointed one anointed is the word *Chrio* which means appointment and assignment. The true anointing of the Messiah is _____ (Psalm 2:1-3; Daniel 9:26); that is, it is done by the _____ (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:1-2, 18, 19). (Culver, *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*)

The New Testament is the book of _____. Many of the prophecies of the Old Testament concerning Jesus Christ are fulfilled in the New Testament. However, many other prophecies will not be realized until the Lord returns. The New Testament completes God’s written revelation of Himself to humanity (John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Hebrews 1:1-2).

In the New Testament, we see the culmination [conclusion] of the eternal plan of salvation unfold on a barren hilltop outside the city walls of Jerusalem on one Friday afternoon. The Christian church calls this day _____ and celebrates it annually (Matthew 27:35).

The New Testament is about the mission of Jesus Christ and His fulfillment of God’s plan for human _____ from sin and death (Luke 4:18-21).

The New Testament is _____. That means that Jesus is the center of the New Testament message. Each of the Gospel writers teach us about the _____ and _____ of Jesus and how He impacted the lives of the people who either followed Him or heard Him. They tell of His death, burial, and resurrection.

The first century Christian church preached a powerful message about Jesus, making Him the center of their _____ and witness (see Acts 2:14-36).

The New Testament is a collection of sacred writings that are distinctly Christian. There are twenty-seven separate books in the New Testament canon.

The New Testament has been accepted by the Christian church for more than 1600 years as its official canon of Holy Scripture. The New Testament is that part of the Bible that was written exclusively by and for the Christian church.

The New Testament developed very quickly after the founding of the Christian church. It had been completely written within a span of 50-70 years of the ascension of Jesus Christ, whereas the Old Testament took several hundred years to develop. It was not until around AD 367 that the New Testament was officially accepted, in its present form, as the authoritative canon of Christian Scriptures.

Check Your Progress

1. What does it mean to say that the Old Testament is the book of promise?

2. What does Messiah mean in Hebrew?

3. Who is the “Anointed One of God?”

4. In the New Testament, what three offices are filled by the “Anointed One of God?”

5. Why is the New Testament called the book of fulfillment?

6. In the New Testament, what is the day called when God’s plan of salvation concludes.

7. What does the word Christocentric mean?

“The early Christians however did not have access to such a manual as the New Testament. From the parent religion, they inherited the Jewish Scriptures the Old Testament; which were foundational to the forging of the new group; identifying not nearly the same way that they were for the synagogue.”

“Gentile Christians were connected to texts only on account of their connection with Jesus. Jewish Christians were wholly reoriented to their scriptures by the same. Both were called together into one new community by preaching of the apostolic witnesses to what God was doing in Jesus.”

“Access to the traditions about and sayings of Jesus – together with the direction and guidance of reliable apostolic voices – was therefore of critical primary importance to the early church.” (*An Introduction to the New Testament DeSilva, David*)

Six reasons that the New Testament is an important book for Christians.

First, because it contains the account of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38).

Second, it teaches us that Jesus Christ is the _____ of all the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah (Matthew 2:1, 6, 18, 23; 3:1, 16).

Third, it teaches us about the _____: its mission, message, its birth and how the church grew so rapidly within a few short years of the resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:1-39, especially verse 16; Joel 2:30).

Fourth, it teaches us about the mission and ministry of the _____
_____. --Who the Holy Spirit is, and what the Holy Spirit does.

Who The Holy Spirit is:

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the _____. There is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:4-6).

The Holy Spirit is the living _____ and _____ of God who lives in and fills the lives of all believers (see Acts 1:8; 4:31).

What the Holy Spirit does:

The Holy Spirit imparts _____ and _____ upon individual _____ (spiritual gifts). These gifts are used by believers to build up the church and to assist in the fulfillment of the purpose of the church (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11).

The Holy Spirit imparts _____ and _____ upon church leaders. Leadership gifts provide spiritual direction and instruction to believers in preparation for works of ministry (see Ephesians 4:11-12).

Fifth, the New Testament is important because it teaches us what the first century Christian church taught and believed about Jesus Christ and His mission (Acts 11:18-23).

Sixth, the New Testament is important because it is our _____
_____ for how to become Christians and live Christian lives. In the New
Testament, we learn the unique features of the faith and how to live according to
the teachings of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Savior.

Just as the Old Testament is important for Jewish believers, so is the New
Testament for Christians. The New Testament contains the _____
_____ for the Christian church and our faith.

As we read and study its contents, the Holy Spirit will teach us more and reveal
more of the deeper things of God (see 1 Corinthians 2:9-16).

It is important to spend time reading, studying, and being taught the New
Testament. Who we are _____ and what we are _____
_____ is clearly taught in the New Testament (see Mark 8:34-38; Acts 1:8;
1 Corinthians 1:2).

Check Your Progress

8. What are some key things that the New Testament can teach us
about Jesus?

9. What does the New Testament teach us about the Christian
Church?

10. What does the New Testament teach us about the Holy Spirit?

11. What does the New Testament teach us about the Holy Spirit?

12. What kind of book is the New Testament for learning to live like Christ?

13. What does the New Testament contain for the Christian Church and our faith?

[Note: Study materials adapted from “The Bible: An Introduction” by G. Gunns]