

HIGHER GROUND CALVARY CHAPEL SCHOOL OF MINISTRY  
New Testament Survey (Fall 2021)

Lesson 1

The Intertestamental Period, the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles

I. The Intertestamental Period

A. Political Developments

1. Persian Period: 539 B.C.—332 B.C.
2. Greek Period: 332 B.C.—167 B.C.
3. The Maccabean Revolt: 167 B.C.—63 B.C.
4. Roman Period: 63 B.C.—70 A.D.

B. Geographical Changes

C. Religious Developments

1. Pharisees
2. Sadducees
3. Essenes
4. Zealots
5. Herodians
6. Scribes and Rabbis
7. Synagogues
8. The Septuagint
9. High Priest and Chief Priests
10. The Sanhedrin

II. The Transmission of the New Testament: Its Reliability

III. The New Testament Canon

A. Defined: a rule; a measuring stick; a criterion by which something is judged; a list of sacred books accepted as genuine and authoritative.

B. Tests of Canonicity

1. Was the book apostolic in origin or written by a close associate of an apostle?
2. Was the book used and recognized by the churches as having been inspired by God?
3. Did the book teach sound doctrine?

IV. The Gospels

A. Their Nature

- euangelion = “good news”
- half of the NT
- Historical Narrative

B. Their Structure: Follows the model of ancient biographies:

1. Birth of the Subject

2. Incidents/sayings selected and arranged so as to reveal important aspects of the subject's character.

a. Often arranged topically/thematically rather than chronologically

b. Not exhaustive (Jn. 21:25)

3. Death of the Subject

C. Their Purpose

1. To Evangelize (John 20:30-31)

2. To Teach or Inform (Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 1:1-4)

3. To Strengthen the faith of believers (John 16:33)

D. Two Types:

1. Synoptic (Matthew, Mark, Luke): Record the same events from Christ's Galilean ministry.

2. Supplemental (John): Gives information on Christ's earlier Judean and Samaritan ministry.

E. Four Portraits of the Savior:

1. Matthew

- Audience: New Jewish believers and Jews considering faith in Christ

- Theme: Jesus is the King of the Jews and the Messiah

2. Mark

- Audience: Gentiles, esp. Roman believers suffering persecution

- Theme: Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Lord

3. Luke

- Audience: Theophilus (& other Gentile/Hellenic believers?)

- Theme: Jesus is the perfect Son of Man, the Savior of mankind.

4. John

- Audience: All who read and will believe

- Theme: Jesus is the eternal Son of God

V. The Gospel According to Matthew

A. Author

B. Date: circa A. D. 50—60

C. Audience (see IV. E. above)

D. Purpose and Theme (see IV. C & E. above)

E. Structure & Outline

- 6 Narratives alternating with...

- 5 Discourses

I. Prelude: The King's Appearance (1—4)

II. The King's Authority (5—9)

III. The King's Mission (10—12)

IV. The King's Rejection (13—17)

V. The King's Instructions for Christian Community and His Judean Ministry (18—22)

VI. The King's Olivet Discourse (23—25)

VII. The King's Passion & Resurrection (26—28:15)

VIII. Epilogue: The King's Commission (28:16-20)

VI. The Gospel According to Mark

A. Author

B. Date: early 50s—late 60s

C. Audience (see IV. E. above)

D. Purpose and Theme (see IV. C & E. above)

E. Structure & Outline

I. Jesus' Baptism and Temptation (1:1-13)

II. Jesus' Ministry in Galilee (1:14—9:50)

III. Jesus' Ministry in Judea and Jerusalem (10—13)

IV. Jesus' Death and Triumph (14—16)

VII. The Gospel According to Luke

A. Author

B. Date: A. D. 60

C. Audience (see IV. E. above)

D. Purpose and Theme (see IV. C & E. above)

E. Structure & Outline

I. Prelude to the Son of Man's Ministry (1:1—4:13)

II. His Ministry in Galilee (4:14—9:50)

III. His Journey to Jerusalem (9:51—19:27)

IV. Passion Week (19:28—23:56)

V. Resurrection and Post-resurrection Appearances (24)

VIII. The Gospel According to John

A. Author

B. Date: A. D. 90

C. Audience (see IV. E. above)

D. Purpose and Theme (see IV. C & E above)

## E. Structure & Outline

- Five Witnesses (5:30-40)
- Seven Signs
- Seven Sermons
- The Seven-fold “I AM”

I. The Incarnation of the Son of God (1:1-18)

II. The Presentation of the Son of God: His First Year of Ministry (1:19—4:54)

III. Opposition to the Son of God

A. Year Two (5)

B. Year Three (6—12)

IV. The Preparation of His Disciples by the Son of God (13—17)

V. The Execution of the Son of God (18—19)

VI. The Resurrection of the Son of God (20)

VII. The Son of God and Peter (21)

## IX. The Acts of the Apostles

A. Author: Luke

B. Date: A. D. 60—62

C. Audience: Theophilus (& other Gentile/Hellenic believers?)

D. Purpose and Theme:

1. Purpose: To give a historical account of the spread of the Gospel during the first three decades of the Church.

2. Theme: The work of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling the Great Commission

E. Structure & Outline (Acts 1:8)

I. The Coming of the Holy Spirit (1)

II. The Witness of the Spirit in Jerusalem (2—7)

III. The Witness of the Spirit in Judea and Samaria (8—9)

IV. The Witness of the Spirit to the Ends of the Earth (10—28)