

## INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

**I. CONTENTS:** 27 books.

**II. DIVISIONS AND BOOKS IN EACH DIVISION:** (Learn the names of these books in order)

**Gospels (4)**—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

**History (1)**—Acts

**Pauline Epistles (14)**—Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews

**General Epistles (7)**—James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, Jude

**Prophecy (1)**—Revelation

**III. AUTHORS:** Eight men:

1. Matthew wrote 1 book . . . . . Gospel of Matthew
2. Mark wrote 1 book . . . . . Gospel of Mark
3. Luke wrote 2 books . . . . . Gospel of Luke and Acts
4. John wrote 5 books . . . . . Gospel of John, 1, 2, 3 John, Revelation
5. Paul wrote 13 or 14 books . . . (Listed above)
6. James wrote 1 book . . . . . James
7. Peter wrote 2 books . . . . . 1 and 2 Peter
8. Jude wrote 1 book . . . . . Jude

**IV. DATE:** The New Testament was written between AD 50 and 100.

**V. ORIGINAL LANGUAGE:** Greek.

**VI. TYPES OF LITERATURE:**

*(By each type place the name of a New Testament book in which you think that style of writing could be found.)*

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Biography _____ | 4. Letters _____  |
| 2. Poetry _____    | 5. Sermons _____  |
| 3. History _____   | 6. Prophecy _____ |

**VII. THEME:** Christ

Christ is the theme and central character of the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. The Old Testament continually promises “Christ will come.” The New Testament says “Christ has come.” The Old Testament tells of God’s preparing and preserving a people through whom the Savior would come. The Jews were given many beautiful types or pictures of the life and work of Jesus. Besides this there are many definite prophecies telling both of Christ’s first coming—as a Savior to die; and of His second coming—as King to reign. First Peter 1:10–11, clearly tells us this. *(Read and mark this passage.)*

**VIII. OUTLINE OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST** as found by harmonizing the four gospels. (Learn the main divisions.) The stories from each are needed in order to give the complete account. Many of the following events are told in several other gospels besides the one listed. No one knows the exact order of all the happenings or the time covered by each.

**1. Thirty years of preparation**

Ancestry, birth, flight to Egypt, in the temple at twelve. Matt. 1:1–2:23, Luke 1:1–2:52

**2. Year of Obscurity—Beginning of Public Ministry**

(First ministry in Perea, Galilee, Judea, and Samaria)

- a. Baptism and temptation. Luke 3:1–4:13
- b. First disciples and first miracle. John 1:19–2:12
- c. Early Judean ministry. Temple cleansed, Nicodemus. John 2:13–3:36
- d. Samaritan ministry. John 4:1–42

**3. Year of Popularity—Galilean Ministry**

- a. Beginning. Nobleman’s son. John 4:1–54; Nazareth, Capernaum. Luke 4:16–31
- b. First preaching tour. Mark 1:16–45
- c. Growing hostility of scribes and Pharisees. Mark 2:1–3:6
- d. Twelve disciples chosen. Mark 3:13–19
- e. Sermon on the Mount. Matt. 5:1–7:29
- f. Second preaching tour. Luke 7:36–8:3
- g. A day of teaching. Matt. 12:22–13:53
- h. A day of miracles. Matt. 8:18–9:34
- i. Third preaching tour. Mark 6:1–29
- j. Crisis at Capernaum. Five thousand fed. Matt. 14:13–15:20
- k. In various northern regions. Mark 7:24–8:26
- l. Jesus with apostles. Discussion, transfiguration. Matt. 16:13–17:23
- m. In Capernaum again. Discussions. Matt. 17:24–18:35

**4. Year of Opposition**

**Later Judean Ministry**

- a. On way to Jerusalem. Luke 9:51–62
- b. In Jerusalem. John 7:11–10:21
- c. In Judea. Luke 10:1–13:21

**Later Perea Ministry**

- d. Withdrawal from Jerusalem. Luke 13:22–17:10; John 11:1–54
- e. Last journey to Jerusalem by way of Samaria and Galilee. Luke 17:11–18:14
- f. In Perea. Matt. 19:1–20:28
- g. Going toward Jerusalem. Luke 18:35–19:28; John 11:55–12:11

**Closing Events of Jesus’ Ministry**

**The Passion Week.** Trial. Crucifixion. (see page 38)

**The Forty Days.** Resurrection. Ascension. (see page 39)



## THE FOUR GOSPELS

*Matthew—Mark—Luke—John*

“Gospel” (good story or God’s story) is the English translation of the word meaning “glad tidings” or “good news.”

“The first four books of the New Testament are called biography because they tell the life of Christ. Each biographer presents a different picture of the same person—Christ. Each gospel was evidently written with a distinct class of readers in mind and the four gave distinct pictures of Christ.”

Matthew wrote to the Jews—presenting Christ as \_\_\_\_\_ (Zech. 9:9).

Mark wrote to the Romans—presenting Christ as \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa. 42:1).

Luke wrote to the Greeks—presenting Christ as \_\_\_\_\_ (Zech. 6:12).

John wrote to the world—presenting Christ as \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa. 40:9).

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

### EMPHASIZE THE WORKS OF CHRIST

*These are called Synoptic Gospels. “Synoptic” means “to see or look together.”*

### EMPHASIZES THE WORDS OF CHRIST

## TERMS DEFINED

1. **Pharisees:** A powerful religious and political group among the Jews. Politically they looked forward to a glorious future for their nation. Religiously they stressed outward forms more than inward righteousness. They not only followed closely the Mosaic law of purity but were strict in keeping the great host of man-made regulations which had been added. They believed in the resurrection of the dead. Jesus exposed their hypocrisy and self-righteousness. They in turn violently hated Jesus.
2. **Sadducees:** A small wealthy influential sect of Jews, who opposed the Pharisees. They did not believe in the resurrection, angels, or spirits. They also were bitter enemies of Christ.
3. **Scribes:** These men copied and interpreted the Scripture, worshipping the mere letter of the law. They were usually Pharisees. They are also called “lawyers.”
4. **Herodians:** Jewish political party that supported Herod and Rome.
5. **Zealots:** A religious, political party of Jews who opposed Roman aggression.
6. **Samaritans:** A mixed race, descendants of Jews and Gentiles brought in by the Assyrian king during Israel’s captivity. Samaritans were despised by the Jews.
7. **Sanhedrin:** Supreme council of the Jews composed of 71 members—Pharisees and Sadducees.
8. **Synagogue:** Jewish place of worship and schooling in the Scriptures.
9. **Levites:** Men of the tribe of Levi. They took care of the temple.
10. **Publicans:** Tax collectors employed by the Roman government. Many of them greatly oppressed the people, using extortion and graft. Jews who were publicans were hated by other Jews.
11. **Centurion:** Captain of a hundred men.
12. **Disciple:** Any follower of Christ.
13. **Apostle:** A sent one, a messenger. The name is especially applied to the chosen twelve.

*“We are writing a gospel; a chapter each day,  
By the deeds that we do; by the words that we say.  
People read what we write, whether faithless or true.  
Say! What is the gospel according to YOU?”*

—Bishop McIntyre

## MARK

**AUTHOR:** John Mark. Many believed that Mark was influenced a great deal by Peter. Read these verses on Mark: Act 12:25, 13:13. Compare Acts 15:26–40 with what Paul later says about Mark in Colossians 4:10–11 and 2 Timothy 4:11. It is significant that **Mark**, the unfaithful missionary and servant of God, later made faithful by the grace of God, should be chosen to write the gospel of the obedient servant.

**PEOPLE TO WHOM WRITTEN:** The Romans in particular.

**THEME:** Jesus, the Servant.

**KEY VERSE:** Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

### CHARACTERISTICS:

1. It is the gospel of **rapid-fire action**. The word “straightway” occurs 40 times in Mark.
2. **Miracles** are more emphasized in Mark than in any other gospel. Little attention is given to the words of Christ but much to His **works**.
3. It is the **briefest** of the Gospels, having only 16 chapters.
4. Mark is filled with **descriptive details**.
5. The **public life** of our Lord is stressed.
6. Christ is called “**Master**” frequently in **Mark**.
7. Christ’s seasons of retirement and prayer are prominent.
8. There are very **few references to the Old Testament** in Mark. The Roman people would be unfamiliar with the sacred writings of the Jews.
9. There are only about 24 verses given in Mark which could not be found in some form in either Matthew or Luke.

### THINGS FOR YOU TO DO:

1. *Read the entire book, watching for the parts which seem to help you to know Jesus better. Watch for verses which would help a Christian become a better servant of God.*
2. *Memorize Mark 10:45 and Mark 8:35–38.*
3. *As you read, list the miracles found in **Mark**.*
4. *As you read, identify the outstanding characters mentioned.*
5. *Learn from Mark 11–16 the happenings of the last week of Jesus’ life. (Study pages 38, 39)*

Why is this week called the “Passion” Week? \_\_\_\_\_

Approximately one-third of all four gospels is given over to the last week of our Lord’s life. Man is born to live, and his death is incidental. With the Lord Jesus, it was different. He was born to die.

### MIRACLES:

#### Purposes of Miracles:

1. To show that Jesus was God, doing the works of God.
2. To help people in need.

#### Kinds of Miracles—Miracles show Jesus’ control over:

1. Death—raised the dead;
2. Hell—cast out demons;
3. Disease—healed the sick;
4. Nature—showed power over the **forces** of nature (such as miracles connected with food, fish, the sea, etc.).

**Inner Spiritual Meaning:** The outward physical miracle is a sign of a deeper spiritual miracle Jesus performs. Cleansing the leper is an outward sign of a greater thing that Christ does when He cleanses a sinner. Stilling the tempest is no greater than the miracle God performs even today when He stills the heart of a worried, anxious person.

List in order the miracles you find in Mark. By each tell the kind of miracle it is:

Chapter	Miracle	Kind
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____

Be able to tell any one of these miracles in an interesting fashion.

**CHARACTERS:**

Give the outstanding event connected with each of the following in the book of Mark:

1. **John the Baptist** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Simon Peter** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Andrew** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **James, son of Zebedee** \_\_\_\_\_
5. **John, son of Zebedee** \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Levi** (compare Mark 2:14 with Matt. 9:9) \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Titus** \_\_\_\_\_
8. **Herod** \_\_\_\_\_
9. **Herodias** \_\_\_\_\_
10. **Simon, the leper** \_\_\_\_\_
11. **Judas Iscariot** \_\_\_\_\_
12. **Pilate** \_\_\_\_\_
13. **Barabbas** \_\_\_\_\_
14. **Simon of Cyrene** \_\_\_\_\_
15. **Joseph of Arimathea** \_\_\_\_\_
16. **Mary Magdalene** \_\_\_\_\_

## MATTHEW

*Renan, the French sceptic, called Matthew the most important book of Christendom;  
the most important book that has ever been written.*

**AUTHOR:** Matthew, also called “Levi.” One of the twelve apostles. A hated tax collector living at or near Capernaum. Luther called him “the best tax gatherer, as he brought in to God and the Saviour human toll.”

**PEOPLE TO WHOM WRITTEN:** Matthew was written especially to the Jews to prove that Jesus of Nazareth was their long-expected Messiah, repeatedly promised in the Old Testament Scriptures. Its message, however, is for all people as well as for the Jews.

**THEME:** Jesus, the King.

**KEY VERSE:** Matthew 2:2, “Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

### OUTLINE:

The King’s Coming . . . . .	Matthew 1–4
The King Presented. . . . .	Matthew 5–16
The King Rejected. . . . .	Matthew 17–25
The King Crucified and Risen . . . . .	Matthew 26–28

### CHARACTERISTICS:

1. Written **topically** rather than in the order in which the events happened. Matthew systematically groups things of the same kind together.
2. **Old Testament quotations** are frequently used. “It has been estimated that no less than 90 allusions, references, and verbal quotations from the Old Testament are contained in Matthew.”
3. The **rejection** of Christ is more prominent in Matthew than in the other gospels.
4. Five great sermons of our Lord are recorded in Matthew.
  1. Sermon on the Mount . . . . . Matthew 5–7
  2. Sermon at the sending out of the twelve apostles . . . . . Matthew 10
  3. Seven parables of the kingdom . . . . . Matthew 13
  4. The seven terrible woes . . . . . Matthew 23
  5. The Olivet Discourse . . . . . Matthew 24–25
5. Emphasizes the **final rewards and punishments**. Matthew often mentions “judgment,” “hell,” “fire,” “hypocrite,” and “woe.”
6. Presents Christ as **King of the Jews**. Matthew speaks of the kingdom in general some 54 times. “The Kingdom of Heaven” occurs 33 times in Matthew and in none of the other gospels.

### THINGS FOR YOU TO DO:

1. *Read the gospel according to Matthew as assigned.*
2. *Answer all the questions. Use your own words. Do not quote verses unless the question asks for that.*
3. *Especially notice the teachings of Christ. Also notice and be familiar with any characters and miracles not already studied in Mark.*
4. *Memorize Matt. 2:2, 5:1–12, 6:33, 16:16, 22:36–40, 24:44, 28:19–20, if assigned. Matthew has frequently been called the “Genesis of the New Testament,” for it lays the foundation for the New Testament.*

## QUESTIONS ON MATTHEW:

List the main idea of the quotations from the Old Testament in Matthew 1 and 2:

1:23 \_\_\_\_\_

2:6 \_\_\_\_\_

2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

2:18 \_\_\_\_\_

2:23 \_\_\_\_\_

List the names and titles given Jesus in Matthew 1 and 2:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ANCESTRY AND BIRTH OF THE KING

### MATTHEW 1

1. Matthew begins with the family line through whom Joseph, Christ's foster father, came. In your mind does this link the Old Testament to the New? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Of how many ancestors mentioned in verses 2 to 16 have you heard? \_\_\_\_\_  
Name them. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The line of Christ begins in Matthew with which of His ancestors? (1:2) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is the first king in the line of Jesus' ancestors? (1:6) \_\_\_\_\_
5. To whom did the angel appear? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Find the words of the angel concerning the birth of Jesus (1:20). "For that which is conceived in her is of the \_\_\_\_\_"
7. What does the name Jesus mean? (1:21) "Thou shalt call His name Jesus: for \_\_\_\_\_"
8. What does Immanuel mean? \_\_\_\_\_

## RECEPTION OF THE KING

### MATTHEW 2

1. Who was king in Judea at the time of the birth of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Whom were the wise men seeking? (2:2) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What question did Herod ask the chief priests and scribes? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did they answer? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did the wise men not return and tell Herod? \_\_\_\_\_
6. To what country was Jesus taken? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many **years** before had the wise men first seen the star? (2:16) \_\_\_\_\_
8. After whose death did Joseph bring Mary and the Child back to Palestine? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Satan has made many attempts to keep Jesus from being able to die on the cross and save us from sin. What did Satan do in this chapter to try to spoil this plan? (2:16) \_\_\_\_\_
10. In what city was Jesus reared? (2:23) \_\_\_\_\_

## THE HERALDING AND BAPTISM OF THE KING

### MATTHEW 3

1. Who is the forerunner of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where did John preach? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did John preach? \_\_\_\_\_