

New Testament Survey

NTS.01



"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Introduction





Logistics & Learning Objectives:

Learning Objectives. Participants will gain an understanding of:

- a. Why we have a *New Testament*
- b. Why it is important to have a solid overview of the *New Testament*
- c. The timeline(s) of the *New Testament*
- d. The themes of the *New Testament*
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The New Testament Survey

seeks to presents Christianity's core tenets and doctrines for all that are interested in learning about Christianity. We seek to provide tools for believers to build a strong foundation in their understanding of the *New Testament* and thereby bolster their faith in Christ. We seek to be diligent in teaching the foundations of our beliefs, so we can earnestly contend for our faith. We commit to being relentless in our study of the *Scripture*



1. New King James Version. 1988. Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

Key
Sources:

Why Study the New Testament

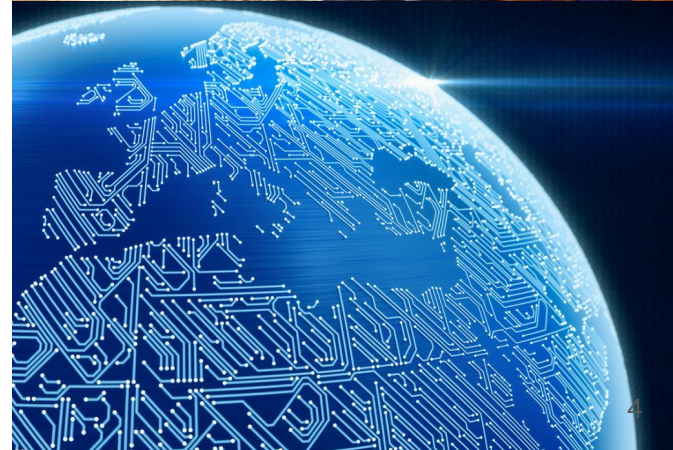
"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63

"Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God." Matthew 22:29

"For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God." Acts 20:27

"Calvin thought that only the Scriptures could lead to a true knowledge of God. Without it, one is condemned to ignorance and sin."

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ!" insisted St. Jerome - a strong exhortation from a ... Doctor of the liturgical church ... urging them to pay attention to serious Scripture study. This is a must, not a luxury option."



Why Did We Need a “New” Testament?

“For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, *there is the* bringing in of a ***better hope***, through which we draw near to God.” **Hebrews 7:18-19**

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, ***the hope of glory.***” **Colossians 1:27**



Why Did We Need a “New” Testament? *(continued)*



6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of **a better covenant**, which was established on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. 8 Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah 9 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” 13 In that He says, “**A new covenant**,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 8:6-9, 12-13

Why Did We Need a “New” Testament? *(continued)*

31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make **a new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Jeremiah 31:31-34



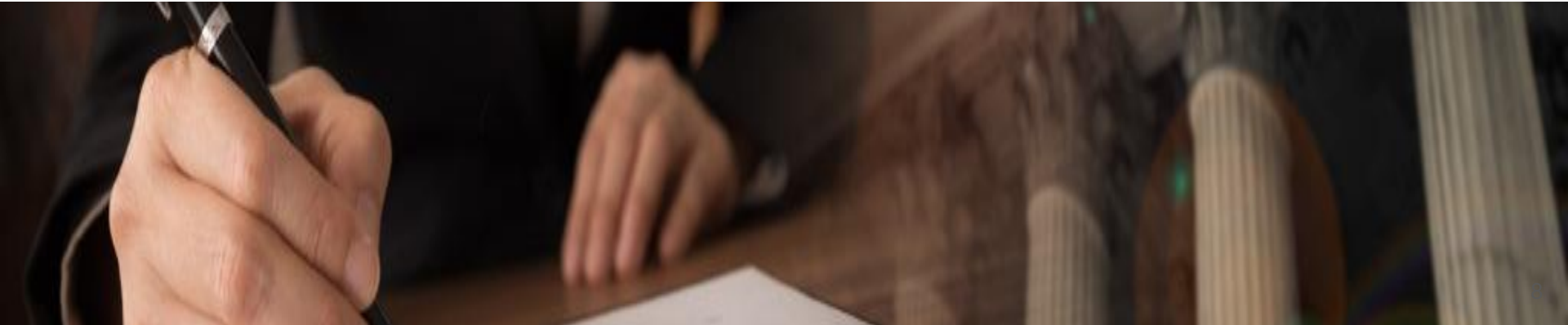
Why Did We Need a “New” Testament? *(continued)*

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

24 Therefore ***the law was our tutor*** to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But ***after faith*** has come, we are ***no longer under a tutor***.

Galatians 3:21-25



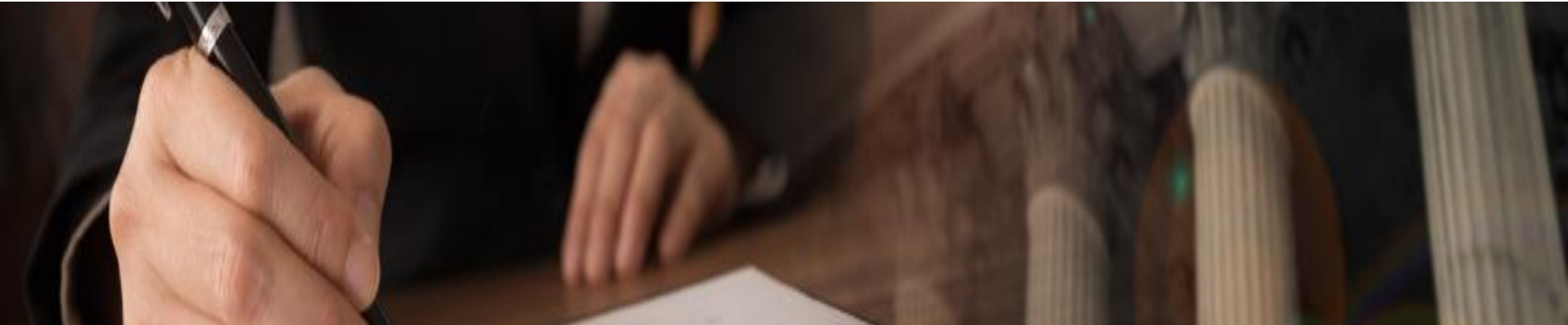
Why Did We Need a “New” Testament? *(continued)*

“St. Augustine: ‘The New is in the Old concealed; the Old is in the New revealed.’

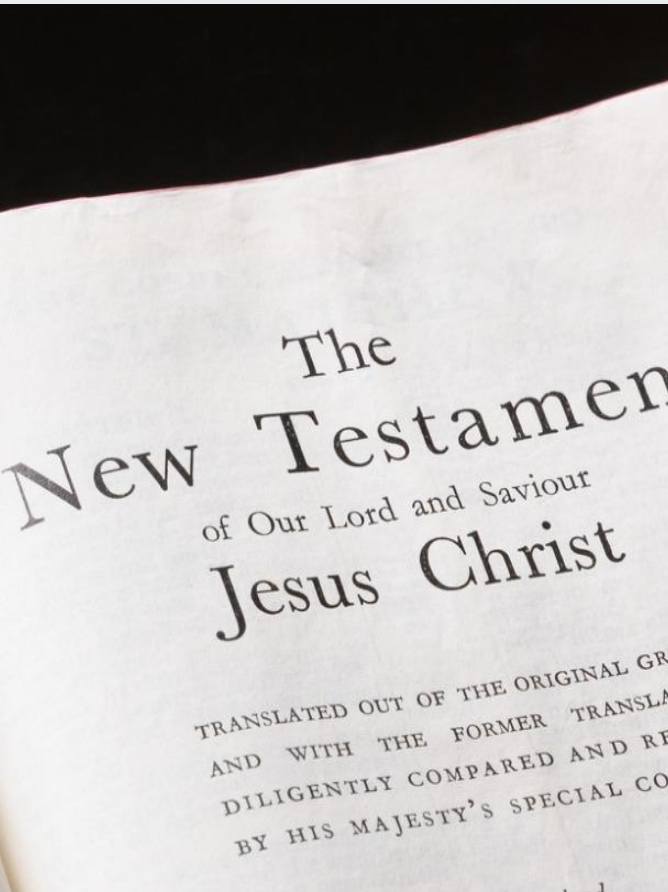
‘Christ is implicit in the Old and explicit in the New.

In the Old Testament the Rose of Sharon is just budding, but in the New Testament it is in full bloom.”

Geisler



The New Testament's Authenticity



The nature of the New Testament writings shows every sign of authenticity.

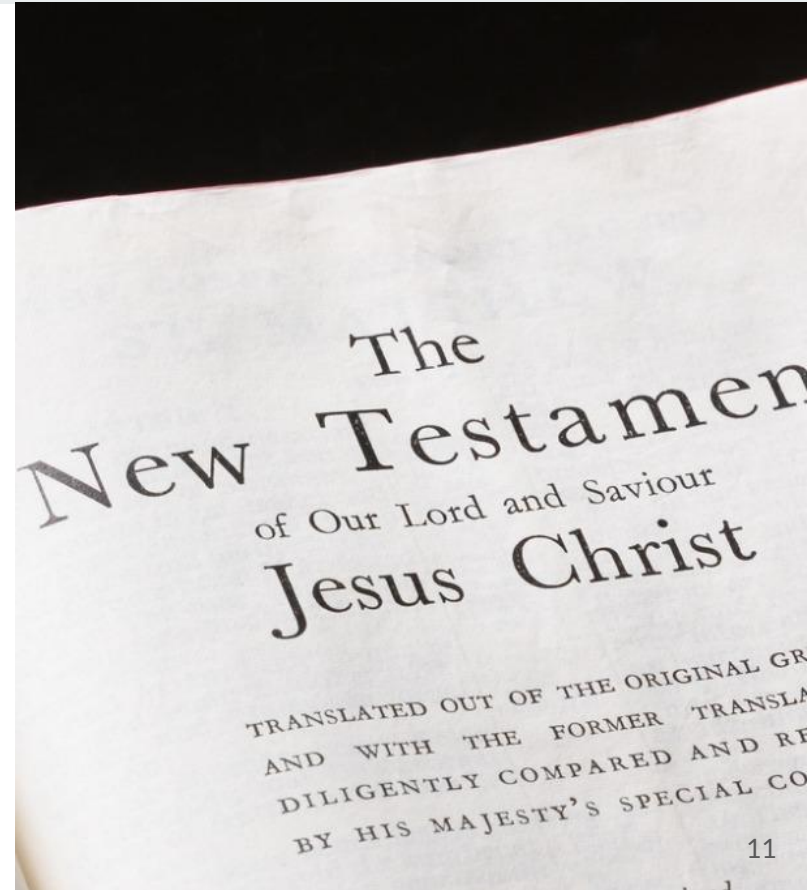
- They are vivid, fresh, unembellished, detailed, self-incriminating, diverse, but mutually confirming (that is, historical and not mythological). The following points make all of this clear.
- The writers made no attempt to harmonize their accounts, even though they are harmonizable.
- They included material that put Jesus in a bad light. They left many difficult passages in their text.
- They retained many self-incriminating details. They included many demanding sayings of Jesus.
- They distinguished their words from Jesus' words. They did not deny their testimony under threat of death.
- They claimed their record was based on eyewitnesses.
- They had women witnessing the resurrection before men.
- They challenged readers to check out the facts. They discarded long-held Jewish beliefs overnight.
- They included more than thirty historical people.

The Apostolic Period

"The first hundred years is often referred to as the apostolic period. This was the period during which the works now included in the New Testament were written.

During this time, Christianity was spreading throughout the Mediterranean region and beyond. The missionary journeys of Saint Paul, described in the Acts of the Apostles, are an excellent example of this activity."

Alister E. McGrath. "The Christian Theology Reader."





c. 2091 BC	Abraham believed God	c. 722 BC	Northern Kingdom Falls / Assyria
c. 1876 BC	Jacob Goes to Egypt	c. 586 BC	Southern Kingdom Falls / Babylon
c. 1446 BC	Moses / Exodus	c. 538 BC	Return to the Land
c. 1400 BC	Joshua Enters the Land	c. 515 BC	Second Temple Period Begins
c. 1030 BC	Davidic Covenant Begins	c. 356 - 323 BC	Alexander the Great
c. 966 BC	First Temple Period Begins	c. 146 BC	Rome Ascends
c. 930 BC	Kingdom Splits	c. 4 BC	Jesus' Birth



c. 4 BC	Jesus' Birth	c. 52 AD	3rd Missionary Journey
c. 26 - 29 AD	Beginning of Jesus' Ministry	c. 50 - 95 AD	Gospels written (c. 65 AD)
c. 30 - 33 AD	Jesus' Death, Resurrection, and Ascension	c. 62 AD	Paul's Journey to Rome
c. 34 AD	Paul's Conversion	c. 90 AD	John's Epistles
c. 48 AD	1st Missionary Journey	c. 95 AD	John exiled Patmos / Book of Revelation
c. 49 AD	2nd Missionary Journey	?	Jesus' Return



Themes



Messiah & Fulfillment

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be **fulfilled** which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**, which is translated, 'God with us.'" **Matthew 1:21-23**

Words & Works of Jesus

"And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen." **John 21:25**

"The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to *do* and *teach*." **Acts 1:1**



The Kingdom

"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the **kingdom of heaven**." **Matthew 5:20** "For indeed, the **kingdom of God** is within you." **Luke 17:21(b)** "Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The **kingdoms** of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" **Revelation 11:15**





Themes *(continued)*



The Cross

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." **Romans 5:8-9** "For the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who perish; but unto us who are saved, it is the power of God." **1 Corinthians 1:18** "Then the offense of the cross has ceased." **Galatians 5:11b**

Empty Tomb

"and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." **Romans 1:4**

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." **1 Corinthians 15:19**



Fishers of Men

"Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." **Matthew 4:19**

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. **Matthew 28:19-20**

Themes *(continued)*



Salvation by Grace through Faith

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." **Ephesians 2:8-10**

Warning to avoid False Teachers

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord [b]God and our Lord Jesus Christ." **Jude 3-4**



HIS Return

"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'" **Acts 1:10-11**



Themes *(continued)*

The Preeminence of Christ

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. **Colossians 1:15-18**



St Athanasius Easter Letter of 367 AD

3 "Forasmuch as some have taken in hand, to reduce into order for themselves the books termed apocryphal, and to mix them up with the divinely inspired Scripture, concerning which we have been fully persuaded, as they who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word, delivered to the fathers; it seemed good to me also, having been urged thereto by true brethren, and having learned from the beginning, to set before you the books included in the Canon, and handed down, and accredited as Divine; to the end that any one who has fallen into error may condemn those who have led him astray; and that he who has continued steadfast in purity may again rejoice, having these things brought to his remembrance."

6 "These are fountains of salvation, that they who thirst may be satisfied with the living words they contain. In these alone is proclaimed the doctrine of godliness. Let no man add to these, neither let him take ought from these. For concerning these the Lord put to shame the Sadducees, and said, 'Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures.' And He reprov'd the Jews, saying, 'Search the Scriptures, for these are they that testify of Me.'"



The New Testament

5 "Again it is not tedious to speak of the books of the New Testament. These are, the four Gospels, according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Afterwards, the Acts of the Apostles and Epistles" Athanasius: Easter Letter of A.D. 367

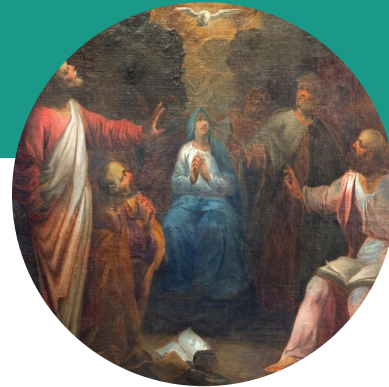
<https://www.scrollpublishing.com/store/Athanasius.html>



Synoptic Gospels



Gospel of John



Book of Acts



Pauline Epistles

The New Testament *(continued)*

5.*(continued)* "Called *Catholic*, seven, viz. of James, one; of Peter, two; of John, three; after these, one of Jude. In addition, there are fourteen Epistles of Paul, written in this order. The first, to the Romans; then two to the Corinthians; after these, to the Galatians; next, to the Ephesians; then to the Philippians; then to the Colossians; after these, two to the Thessalonians, and that to the Hebrews; and again, two to Timothy; one to Titus; and lastly, that to Philemon. And besides, the Revelation of John."



James, Peter and
Johannine Epistles



Pastoral Epistles
and Philemon



Jude



Revelation

Some Important Background

Slavery



Paganism

Gnosticism



Some Important Background *(continued)*

Military



Government

ENTERTAINMENT



Some Facts to Know

New Testament was written in Koine Greek. It was also known as Alexandrian dialect or Biblical Greek and was the supra-regional form of Greek spoken and written during the Hellenistic period, the Roman Empire and the early Byzantine Empire.



The language of Jesus and His disciples is believed to have been Aramaic which was the common spoken language of Judea in the first century A.D. The Galilean dialect was distinguishable to that in Jerusalem. Jesus was probably also fluent in Koine Greek, and He also would have been well versed in Hebrew.

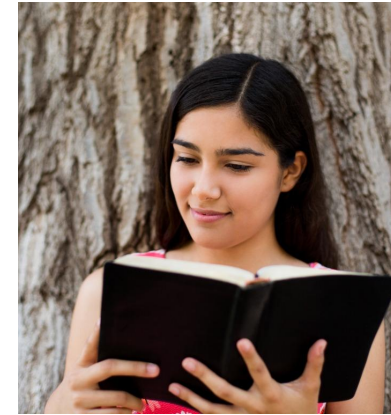
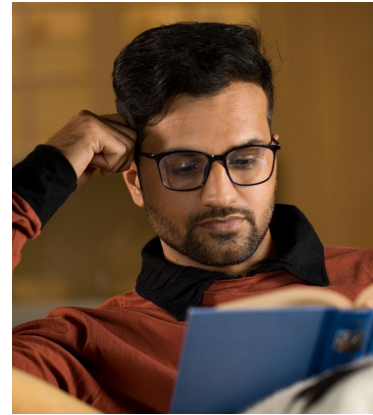
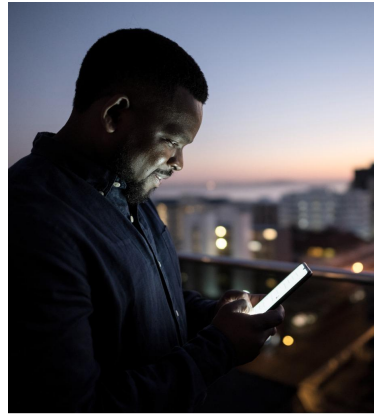
The New Testament has 260 chapters and 7,957 verses. The word *grace* appears 128 times in the New Testament. There are eight writers for the New Testament books. Luke is the only Gentile among the authors of the Gospel. Jesus fulfilled almost 300 direct and indirect prophecies of the Old Testament in the New Testament.

The first rule in knowing the New Testament ...

... Is to Read the New Testament

- 260 Chapters
 - 4 per day
 - In about 2 months you'll read though the entire New Testament

 - My commitment
-



1. Which of the *themes* of the New Testament resonated with you? Why?
2. How would you answer someone who asked: "Why'd we need a *New Testament*?" or "Why should we read the New Testament today?"
3. Which of the key dates of the Timelines we discussed did you find most insightful? Why?
4. What is/will be your commitment to reading the entire New Testament in 2023?



So What?
Now What?