

New Testament Introduction

Fullness of Time

I. Introduction

- A. *Galatians 4:4-6, But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*
- B. Why was the first century AD the right time for the Father to send the Son into the world?

II. 400 Years of Silence

- A. **The End of the Old Testament:** The intertestamental period begins with the conclusion of the Old Testament, specifically with the prophetic writings of Malachi. Malachi's prophecy ends with a promise of the coming of the prophet Elijah, who would prepare the way for the Messiah.
- B. **No Prophetic Voice:** Following Malachi, there is a notable absence of prophetic activity recorded in Jewish literature. The cessation of prophetic revelation during this time is often referred to as the "silent years," as there are no recorded messages from God through prophets to the Jewish people.
- C. **Historical Context:** The intertestamental period is characterized by significant historical and political developments. During this time, the region of Judea experienced successive periods of foreign rule, including the Hellenistic period under Alexander the Great's successors and later the rule of the Seleucid and Ptolemaic empires. This period also witnessed the rise of the Hasmonean dynasty and the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire.
- D. **Cultural and Religious Changes:** The Hellenistic influence during this period led to cultural and religious syncretism among the Jewish people. Greek language, customs, and philosophies became prevalent, resulting in tensions between traditional Jewish practices and Hellenistic culture.
- E. **Development of Jewish Literature:** Despite the absence of prophetic revelation, Jewish religious thought and literature continued to evolve during the intertestamental period. Important works such as the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures), apocryphal writings, and various Jewish texts known as the Pseudepigrapha were composed during this time. These writings provide insights into Jewish beliefs, practices, and interpretations of Scripture.
- F. **Expectation of the Messiah:** Throughout the intertestamental period, the Jewish people maintained a strong expectation of the coming of the Messiah. This anticipation was fueled by messianic prophecies found in the Hebrew Scriptures and the hope for liberation from foreign oppression.

III. The Roman Road System

- A. **Extensive Network:** Roman roads formed an extensive network throughout the Roman Empire, stretching over 250,000 miles at its peak. This network connected major cities, military outposts, and economic centers, facilitating trade, communication, and the movement of troops.
 - B. **Engineering Marvels:** Roman roads were renowned for their engineering prowess. They were constructed with careful attention to gradient, drainage, and durability, using materials such as gravel, sand, and stone. Their design allowed for efficient travel and transportation, even in adverse weather conditions.
 - C. **Economic Benefits:** Roman roads stimulated economic growth by facilitating trade between regions within the empire. Merchants could transport goods more efficiently, leading to increased commerce and prosperity. The roads also encouraged the development of roadside settlements and businesses catering to travelers.
 - D. **Cultural Exchange:** Along the Roman roads, there was a significant exchange of ideas, cultures, and religions. Travelers and traders brought diverse perspectives and beliefs, contributing to cultural syncretism within the empire. This cultural exchange laid the groundwork for the spread of Christianity and other religions.
- IV. Koine Greek
- A. **Lingua Franca // Common Tongue:** Koine Greek was the common language spoken and understood by people across the eastern Mediterranean region during the time of Jesus and the early Christian Church. Its widespread use made it an effective means of communication for spreading the message of Christianity to diverse populations.
 - B. **Accessibility:** Unlike classical Greek, which was more formal and limited to educated elites, Koine Greek was a simplified form of the language that was widely spoken by people from various social and educational backgrounds, but still allowed for technical education.
 - C. **Synagogue Worship and Septuagint:** Many Jewish communities in the diaspora used Greek as their primary language, and the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, was widely read and studied. This familiarity with Greek among Jews in the diaspora facilitated the spread of Christianity.
- V. Other Factors
- A. **Pax Romana:** The era of relative peace and stability in the Roman Empire
 - B. **Cultural and religious syncretism:** Openness to new religious ideas and philosophies
 - C. **Jewish diaspora:** Spread of Jewish communities across the Roman Empire
 - D. **Messianic expectations:** Anticipation among various religious groups for a savior figure
 - E. **Greco-Roman philosophical and religious environment:** Preparing the ground for the reception of Christian teachings

Gospel Summary

- Explain briefly difference between Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Birth and Early Life:
 - Announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary by the angel Gabriel.
 - Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, fulfilling prophecy.
 - Visit of the shepherds and the Magi.
 - Flight to Egypt to escape King Herod's massacre of infants.
 - Return to Nazareth, where Jesus grows up and is known as the carpenter's son.
- Ministry Begins:
 - Baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, marking the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.
 - Temptation by Satan in the wilderness.
 - Calling of the disciples, including Peter, Andrew, James, and John.
 - Performances of miracles, including healing the sick, casting out demons, and raising the dead.
 - Teaching through parables and sermons, such as the Sermon on the Mount.
- Public Ministry:
 - Ministry throughout Galilee, Judea, and surrounding regions.
 - Conflicts with religious leaders over interpretation of the law and authority.
 - Proclamation of the Kingdom of God and invitation to repentance and faith.
 - Commissioning of the Twelve Apostles to preach, heal, and cast out demons.
 - Transfiguration on the mountain, revealing Jesus' divine glory to Peter, James, and John. (Taunting of Satan)
- Final Days in Jerusalem:
 - Triumphal entry into Jerusalem, hailed as the Messiah by crowds waving palm branches.
 - Cleansing of the Temple, driving out money changers and merchants.
 - Last Supper with his disciples, during which Jesus institutes the Eucharist.
 - Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying to the Father before his arrest.
 - Betrayal by Judas Iscariot and arrest by the religious authorities.
- Trial, Crucifixion, and Death:
 - Trials before the Jewish Sanhedrin, Pontius Pilate, and Herod Antipas.
 - Condemnation by Pilate despite finding no guilt.
 - Crucifixion at Golgotha, the place of the skull, alongside two criminals.
 - Death on the cross, with darkness covering the land and the temple veil tearing.
 - Burial in a tomb donated by Joseph of Arimathea, sealed with a stone and guarded by soldiers.
- Resurrection:
 - Resurrection on the third day, fulfilling his own prophecies and promises.
 - Appearance to Mary Magdalene and other women at the tomb.
 - Appearances to disciples on the road to Emmaus and in Jerusalem.
 - Commissioning of the disciples to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples of all nations.

- Ascension and Promise of the Holy Spirit:
 - Ascension into heaven from the Mount of Olives, forty days after the resurrection.
 - Promise of the Holy Spirit to empower and guide the disciples in their mission.
 - Return to Jerusalem to await the fulfillment of the promise.
 - Acts...

Timeline of Acts

- **Acts 1-8:** The events of Acts 1-2 likely occur around AD 30, shortly after Jesus' resurrection and ascension, and the day of Pentecost.
- **Acts 9:** Paul comes to faith around AD 33 and is in Damascus and Arabia. He visits Jerusalem for the first time as a believer around the end of AD 36.
- **Acts 10-12:** Paul is in Tarsus from AD 37 until 44, and then in Antioch until AD 47
- **Acts 13-14:** Paul's 1st Missionary Journey, taking place around AD 47-48, beginning with famine relief in Jerusalem.
 - JAMES
- **Acts 15:** This chapter describes the Jerusalem Council, convened to address the issue of circumcision and the inclusion of Gentiles in the Christian community, likely occurring around AD 49.
 - GALATIANS
- **Acts 16-18:** These chapters detail Paul's second missionary journey, during AD 49-52, including his travels through Macedonia and Achaia, his time in Corinth, and his return to Antioch. 18 months of this time was spent in Corinth.
 - 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS
- **Acts 19-21:** Chapters 19 through 21 cover Paul's third missionary journey during AD 53-55. He spent 2 years and 3 months in Ephesus and 3 months in Corinth.
 - 1 & 2 CORINTHIANS (written from Ephesus)
 - ROMANS (written from Corinth)
- **Acts 22-26:** These chapters narrate Paul's arrest, trials, and journey to Rome. They likely cover the years from around AD 56 to AD 58.
 - HEBREWS
- **Acts 27-28:** Following Paul's Caesarean Imprisonment in the previous chapters, this follows Paul's first Roman Imprisonment during AD 59-61.
 - MARK
 - MATTHEW
 - LUKE
 - EPHESIANS
 - COLOSSIANS
 - PHILEMON
 - PHILIPPIANS
- **Post Acts:** After being released from prison, Paul goes on various other endeavors - none of which we have clear records. This covers around AD 61 to his and Peter's death in AD 67.
 - ACTS

- 1 TIMOTHY
- TITUS
- 2 TIMOTHY
- 1 & 2 PETER
- JUDE
- JOHN (Late dating)
- 1,2,3 JOHN
- REVELATION

ACTS Chapter by Chapter

Chapter 1: Acts begins with Jesus' ascension into heaven after instructing his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit. The disciples devote themselves to prayer and select Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the Twelve Apostles.

Chapter 2: On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples, and they speak in different languages, enabling them to communicate with people from various nations. Peter delivers a sermon, explaining the significance of these events and calling for repentance and baptism. Many people become believers, and the early Christian community begins to form.

Chapter 3: Peter and John heal a crippled beggar at the temple gate, drawing a crowd. Peter preaches to the crowd, proclaiming Jesus as the source of the miracle and urging them to repent.

Chapter 4: Peter and John are arrested for preaching about Jesus but boldly proclaim the gospel before the Jewish leaders. Despite threats, they continue to preach, and the believers share their possessions and support one another.

Chapter 5: Ananias and Sapphira lie about their offering to the church and are struck dead by God. Despite opposition from religious leaders, the apostles continue to perform miracles and preach. They are arrested but miraculously freed from prison.

Chapter 6: The number of believers grows, leading to the appointment of deacons [lit: servants] to assist in caring for the community's needs. Stephen, one of the deacons, is accused of blasphemy and will become the first Christian martyr.

Chapter 7: Stephen delivers a powerful speech recounting Israel's history and their rejection of God's prophets, culminating in their rejection and crucifixion of Jesus. His speech enrages the Jewish leaders, leading to his stoning.

Chapter 8: Persecution breaks out against the church in Jerusalem, causing believers to scatter throughout Judea and Samaria. Philip, one of the disciples, preaches in Samaria and performs miracles, leading many to believe.

Chapter 9: Saul, a persecutor of Christians, encounters Jesus on the road to Damascus and is converted. He becomes a fervent preacher of the gospel, despite initial skepticism from other believers.

Chapter 10: Peter receives a vision from God instructing him to share the gospel with Gentiles. He visits Cornelius, a Roman centurion, and his household, who become the first Gentile converts.

Chapter 11: Peter explains his encounter with Cornelius and the acceptance of Gentiles into the church to the Jewish believers in Jerusalem. The church continues to grow, and believers are first called "Christians" in Antioch.

Chapter 12: King Herod persecutes the church, executing James the Apostle and imprisoning Peter. However, Peter is miraculously freed from prison by an angel.

Chapter 13: The church in Antioch sends out Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. They preach in various synagogues, encountering both acceptance and opposition.

Chapter 14: Paul and Barnabas continue their missionary journey, preaching in several cities in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) and facing persecution. Despite opposition, they establish churches and appoint elders.

- JAMES

Chapter 15: A dispute arises over whether Gentile converts need to follow Jewish customs, such as circumcision. The apostles and elders meet in Jerusalem to address the issue, ultimately deciding that Gentiles do not need to follow these customs but should abstain from certain practices.

- GALATIANS

Chapter 16: Paul begins his second missionary journey, traveling through Asia Minor and into Europe. He encounters various individuals, including Lydia, a seller of purple goods, and a Philippian jailer, who become believers.

Chapter 17: Paul preaches in Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens, encountering different responses to the gospel message. In Athens, he delivers a famous speech on Mars Hill, proclaiming the unknown God to the Athenians.

Chapter 18: Paul travels to Corinth, where he meets Aquila and Priscilla and establishes a church. Despite opposition, he continues to preach the gospel for 1.5 years as his base of operations. He then returns to Antioch.

- 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

Chapter 19: Paul arrives in Ephesus for his third missionary journey and encounters disciples who had not yet received the Holy Spirit. He baptizes them, and they receive the Holy Spirit. Paul ministers in Ephesus, performing miracles and facing opposition from idol makers. Ephesus becomes Paul's base of operations where he lives for three years.

Chapter 20: Paul travels through Macedonia and Greece, visiting churches and encouraging believers. In Troas, he raises Eutychus from the dead. He then meets with the elders of the Ephesian church and bids them farewell.

Chapter 21: Paul journeys to Jerusalem, where he is warned about the dangers he will face. Despite warnings, he proceeds to the temple, causing a riot. He is arrested by Roman authorities.

- 1 & 2 CORINTHIANS (written from Ephesus)
- ROMANS (written from Corinth)

Chapter 22: Paul defends himself before a Jewish mob in Jerusalem, recounting his conversion and calling to preach to the Gentiles. He is taken into Roman custody but asserts his Roman citizenship.

Chapter 23: Paul stands trial before the Sanhedrin but causes division among them by emphasizing his belief in the resurrection. Learning of a plot against his life, he is transferred to Caesarea.

Chapter 24: Paul stands trial before Felix, the Roman governor, who finds no fault in him but keeps him in custody. Paul continues to preach to Felix and his wife, Drusilla.

Chapter 25: Festus succeeds Felix as governor and holds another trial for Paul. Paul appeals to Caesar and is sent to Rome under guard.

Chapter 26: Paul defends himself before King Agrippa II, recounting his life and conversion. Agrippa acknowledges that Paul could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.

- HEBREWS

Chapter 27: Paul sets sail for Rome but encounters a severe storm. Despite the shipwreck, Paul and the other passengers safely reach shore on the island of Malta.

Chapter 28: Paul arrives in Rome, where he is greeted by believers. He preaches the gospel while under house arrest. The book concludes with Paul proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about Jesus with boldness.

- MARK
- MATTHEW
- LUKE
- EPHESIANS
- COLOSSIANS

- PHILEMON
- PHILIPPIANS
- ACTS
- 1 TIMOTHY
- TITUS
- 2 TIMOTHY
- 1 & 2 PETER
- JUDE
- JOHN (Late dating)
- 1,2,3 JOHN
- REVELATION

Summary of every NT Book

1. **Matthew (c. AD 60)**: Matthew presents Jesus as the long-awaited Messianic King, tracing His genealogy, birth, teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection, emphasizing His role as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.
2. **Mark (c. AD 55)**: Mark portrays Jesus as the powerful Son of God who serves and sacrifices, emphasizing His actions and miracles as demonstrations of His divine authority and the need for discipleship. *“Peter’s Gospel”*
3. **Luke (c. AD 60)**: Luke provides a detailed account of Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection, focusing on His compassion for the marginalized, teachings on repentance, and the universal scope of salvation. *Written to Gentiles, and most likely written while traveling with Paul in the second half of Acts.*
4. **John (c. AD 85-90)**: John highlights Jesus' deity, emphasizing His pre-existence, miracles, "I am" statements, and profound teachings, aiming to inspire belief in Jesus as the Son of God and Savior.
5. **Acts (ending c. AD 61-62)**: Acts records the birth and expansion of the early Christian church, detailing the ministry of the apostles, the spread of the gospel, and the work of the Holy Spirit, culminating in Paul's missionary journeys and his journey to Rome.
6. **Romans (c. AD 55-56)**: Romans explores the theological concepts of sin, justification by faith, and salvation through Christ, emphasizing the universal need for redemption and the righteousness that comes from faith. *Written during Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey; most likely in Corinth.*
7. **1 Corinthians (c. AD 54)**: 1 Corinthians addresses various issues within the Corinthian church, including divisions, immorality, lawsuits, and misuse of spiritual gifts, urging unity, love, and proper conduct. *Written during Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey; most likely while in Ephesus.*
8. **2 Corinthians (c. AD 55)**: 2 Corinthians continues Paul's correspondence with the Corinthian church, defending his apostolic authority, addressing accusations, and emphasizing the principles of grace, reconciliation, and generosity. *Written during Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey; most likely while in Ephesus.*

9. **Galatians (c. AD 49):** Galatians confronts the issue of legalism and emphasizes justification by faith alone, asserting freedom in Christ and warning against returning to the bondage of the law.
10. **Ephesians (c. AD 60-62):** Ephesians explores the believers' identity in Christ, unity in the body of Christ, and the spiritual blessings and responsibilities of the Christian life, encouraging growth, maturity, and spiritual warfare. *Written by Paul from prison around Acts 28.*
11. **Philippians (c. AD 60-62):** Philippians expresses joy and gratitude amidst adversity, emphasizing humility, unity, and the surpassing worth of knowing Christ, and encouraging perseverance in faith. *Written by Paul from prison around Acts 28.*
12. **Colossians (c. AD 60-62):** Colossians exalts Christ as the preeminent and sufficient Savior, warning against false teachings and emphasizing the believers' identity in Christ and their responsibilities in relationships and work. *Written by Paul from prison around Acts 28.*
13. **1 Thessalonians (c. AD 50):** 1 Thessalonians encourages believers in their faith amidst persecution, emphasizing the hope of Christ's return and the need for holy living and mutual love. *Written while Paul was in Corinth during his 2nd Missionary Journey.*
14. **2 Thessalonians (c. AD 51):** 2 Thessalonians addresses confusion about Christ's return, reassuring believers of His eventual coming and urging them to remain steadfast in faith and diligent in work. *Written while Paul was in Corinth during his 2nd Missionary Journey.*
15. **1 Timothy (c. AD 62):** 1 Timothy provides instructions for church leadership and conduct, addressing false teachings, emphasizing the importance of sound (gospel) doctrine, and encouraging godliness and perseverance. *Most likely written around Acts 28.*
16. **2 Timothy (c. AD 64):** 2 Timothy is Paul's final letter, written to encourage Timothy in his ministry, emphasizing the importance of preaching the Word, enduring hardship, and remaining faithful to the gospel. *Paul's final letter while awaiting execution.*
17. **Titus (c. AD 63):** Paul instructs Titus in appointing leaders and maintaining sound doctrine within the church, emphasizing good works, godly living, and the grace of God that brings salvation.
18. **Philemon (c. AD 61):** Philemon appeals to Philemon to forgive his runaway slave Onesimus and welcome him back as a brother in Christ, highlighting the principles of reconciliation and Christian love. *Written from prison around Acts 28.*
19. **Hebrews (c. AD 58):** Hebrews presents Jesus as the superior fulfillment of Old Testament types and shadows, emphasizing His role as the ultimate high priest and mediator of a new covenant, urging believers to persevere in faith despite increased persecution under Rome.
20. **James (c. AD 49):** James emphasizes the practical implications of faith, urging believers to demonstrate genuine faith through good works, wisdom, and righteous living, warning against hypocrisy and favoritism.
21. **1 Peter (c. AD 65):** 1 Peter addresses suffering and persecution, encouraging believers to endure with hope, to live holy lives as witnesses for Christ, and to trust in God's grace and ultimate vindication. *Written by Peter from Rome during increased persecution.*

22. **2 Peter (c. AD 66)**: 2 Peter warns against false teachers and emphasizes the certainty of Christ's return and the importance of holy living, urging believers to grow in knowledge and steadfastness. *Written right before Peter's execution.*
23. **1 John (c. AD 62-63 or 90-95)**: 1 John reaffirms the importance of love, obedience, and assurance of salvation, highlighting the reality of Christ's incarnation, the necessity of abiding in Him, and the call to love one another.
24. **2 John (c. AD 62-63 or 90-95)**: 2 John warns against false teachers and emphasizes the importance of walking in truth and love, urging believers to remain faithful to the teachings of Christ.
25. **3 John (c. AD 62-63 or 90-95)**: 3 John commends Gaius for his hospitality and support of missionaries, warns against the arrogance of Diotrephes, and encourages faithfulness and hospitality among believers.
26. **Jude (c. AD 65)**: Jude confronts false teachers and exhorts believers to contend for the faith, emphasizing the judgment of God upon the ungodly and the need to build themselves up in the faith. *Jude is Jesus' half brother.*
27. **Revelation (c. AD 95)**: Revelation unveils the apocalyptic visions received by John, revealing the ultimate victory of Christ, the final judgment of the world, and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom.