

Foundations II: New Testament Overview

The New Testament is a record of historical events, the ‘good news’ events of the saving life of the Lord Jesus Christ—His life, death, resurrection, ascension, and the continuation of His work in the world—which is explained and applied by the apostles whom He chose and sent into the world. It is also the fulfillment of those events long anticipated by the Old Testament. Further, it is sacred history, which, unlike secular history, was written under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. This means it, like the Old Testament, is protected from human error and possesses divine authority for the church today and throughout human history until the Lord Himself returns.

Books of the New Testament: 27 books in 5 categories

The 4 Gospels

The word “gospel” means “good news.”

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

The Book of Acts

Acts 1:1–3, *“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, [2] until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. [3] He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”*

Paul’s letters to local churches

Romans, 1 and Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians,

The Pastoral Epistles: Paul’s letters to church leaders

1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

The General Epistles: Letters to large groups

Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John, Jude, Revelation

Timeline of the New Testament

Key Events	Date	Reference
Birth of Jesus	4 BC	Matthew 1
Baptism of Jesus	26 AD	Matthew 3
Death and Resurrection	30 AD	Matthew 27-28
Pentecost	30 AD	Acts 2
Saul’s conversion	34 AD	Acts 9
Peter shares the gospel with Cornelius	38 AD	Acts 10
Paul’s 1st missionary journey	46-47 AD	Acts 13-14
Jerusalem Council	48-49 AD	Acts 15
Paul’s 2nd missionary journey	49 AD	Acts 15-18
Paul’s 3rd missionary journey	52-55 AD	Acts 18-21

Three Years of Jesus Ministry

Year 1: Relative Obscurity

Baptism of Jesus

Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness

Jesus begins gathering his first disciples.

Jesus' brief visit to Galilee where he performed his first miracle in Cana and stopped in Capernaum.

Jesus' early Judean ministry, including his first cleansing of the temple and his talk with Nicodemus.

Jesus' return to Galilee, in which he speaks with the woman of Samaria at the well and returns to Cana where he performed his second miracle.

Jesus' return to Judea to attend an unnamed feast in Jerusalem where he heals the man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath that provokes the anger of the Jewish leaders.

Year 2: Year of Popularity

Jesus begins his great Galilean ministry of preaching repentance and that the kingdom of God is at hand.

Jesus' rejection in his hometown of Nazareth of Galilee and makes Capernaum in Galilee the headquarters for his great Galilean ministry.

Jesus calls his disciples to begin following him full time.

Jesus chooses but 12 of his disciples to be his apostles.

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Jesus sends out his 12 apostles on their first ministry mission and instructs them.

The story of John the Baptist's murder by Herod.

Jesus heals servant of Roman Officer, brings back to life a widow's son, calms a storm and more!

Year 3: Year of Opposition

Jesus feeds the 5,000

Jesus refused to have the crowds make him their bread king and preaches he is the bread of life. Many disciples then turn away from him.

Jesus' transfiguration

Jesus closes his Galilean ministry and conducts his later Judean and Perea ministry while enroute to Jerusalem to be crucified.

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

The Jewish religious leaders plot Jesus' murder to save their own positions.

Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem and his entrance into the city on Palm Sunday.

Holy Week of Jesus' passion and resurrection

Jesus' last appearances to his disciples and his ascension into heaven

Passion Week: Week of His Suffering

Saturday	Jn. 11:55-12:1	Anointed by Mary in Bethany
Sunday	Mt. 21:1-17; Lk. 19:29-44	Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem
Monday	Mk. 11:12-18	The fig tree cursed, Second cleansing of the temple
Tuesday	Mt. 21:23-22:14, 41-46; Jn. 12:2-8	Jesus' authority challenged Parable of the two sons, the wicked husbandman, the rejected stone, and the marriage feast The greatest commandment, Lament over Jerusalem Greeks desire to see Jesus The Olivet Discourse (Signs of Jesus return) Parables: The fig tree, the porter, the master of the house, the faithful and evil servants, the ten virgins, the talents, the sheep and the goats Judas bargains to betray Jesus
Wednesday	Mt. 26:14-16	Judas bargains to betray Jesus
Thursday	Mt. 26:17-46; Mk. 14:12-42;	Preparation for the Passover, the Lord's supper

Jesus washed the disciples' feet, Judas signaled as the traitor
Apostles warned against desertion, The great upper room discourse (Jn. 13-17)
The agony in Gethsemane, The betrayal and arrest, Peter and the healing of Malchus' ear

Friday Mt. 26:47-27:56; Mk. 14:43-15:46; Jn. 18:2-19:30 Jewish and Roman Trials
Pilate handed over Jesus to the Jews, Judas' suicide, The road to the cross
On the cross: First three hours: 9:00 to 12:00 a.m. three sayings:
"Father forgive them..." "Today you will be with me in paradise" "Dear woman, here is your son"
Second three hours: 12:00-3:00 p.m. four sayings:
"My God, my God..." "I am thirsty..." "It is finished" "Into your hands I commend my spirit"
Supernatural phenomena accompanying Jesus' death: Darkness, earthquake, rending of the temple veil
Burial of the body in Joseph's tomb.

Saturday Mt. 27:57-66; Lk. 23:47-56; Jn. 19:31-42 Body in the tomb

Sunday Mt. 28:1-10; Mk. 16:1-8; Lk. 24:1-35; Jn. 20:1-31 The Resurrection

Key New Testament Themes

Salvation Through Faith in Christ: John 3:16, Romans 3:20-26, Ephesians 2:1-10

The Holy Spirit

The book of Acts presents a rich theology of the Holy Spirit. It describes him as the one that empowers the church to live transformed lives and to evangelize the world. It records that he performed many signs and wonders to validate the ministry of the apostles and other early church leaders. It testifies that he gave great courage to Christians who faced opposition and persecution. In short, Acts describes the Holy Spirit as the one whose power enables the spread of the gospel and the kingdom, and as the one who empowers his people for godly living.

Acts 1:1-8, **Isaiah 44:3-4**, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 4:13

The Church

Necessity:

Physical Limitations- Acts 11:19-21

Temporal Limitations- Acts 20:25-28

Preparation:

Teaching - Ephesians 2:19-20, Acts 2:42

Officers- The apostles appointed additional church officers (elders and deacons) to ensure that the church would be able to carry out God's mission. Acts 6:3-6, Acts 14:23