

Introduction to the New Testament

A. The Significance of Its Name

“Testament” = Covenant (distinguish terms)

1. Promise
2. Will
3. Contract
4. Covenant

B. The Relationship Between the OT and the NT

The New Covenant

- There are two primary stages of development in the progress of God's revelation:
 - The reign of Death extended from Adam to Moses (Romans 5:12-14)
-----The Old Testament Revelation-----
 - The reign of the Law extended from Moses to Christ (Romans 5:20; cp. Galatians 3:19-25)
-----The New Testament Revelation-----
 - The reign of Grace extends from Christ's first coming to Christ's second coming (Romans 5:21; cp. 6:15)

The New Covenant

- The New Covenant Promised
 - Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - Cp. 32:36-40, it is called an “everlasting covenant”
 - Cp. Ezekiel 34:25, it is called a “covenant of peace”
 - Ezekiel 36:24-38

The New Covenant

- The Outworking of the New Covenant
 - Jesus inaugurated the New Covenant (Luke 22:20; Hebrews 9:16-28)
 - The New Covenant was promised to Israel; we are Gentiles.
 - By “fulfilling” the Old Covenant (Matthew 5:17), Jesus brought about the inclusion of the Gentiles in God’s promises by faith.
 - Israel will experience the New Covenant blessings when Jesus returns (Romans 11:11-27)
 - The present age is the Church Age, composed of believing Jews and Gentiles.
 - We now enjoy the New Covenant blessings that are not specific to national Israel.

The New Covenant

- Jesus Christ is the Revelator of the New Covenant
 - Christ is the **Mediator** of the NC as Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant (Hebrews 12:1)
 - He is the great **Prophet** promised to Moses in Deuteronomy 18:15-19, who will speak with the full authorization of God when He speaks.
 - He is the eternal **Word of God**, who reveals the person, mind, will, and message of God to man (John 1:1, 14, 18).
 - Today God speaks to man through **His Son** (Hebrews 1:1-2).

The Relationship Between the OT & NT

Old Testament

- Law
- Moses
- Preparatory and Temporary (“Old”)
- Reveals Through Pictures and Shadows
- Promise

New Testament

- Grace
- Jesus Christ
- Final and Permanent (“New”)
- Reveals the Reality and Substance
- Fulfillment

The Divisions of the New Testament

There are different methods of organizing the books of the NT.

A. According to Literary Character

1. Historical (Matthew – Acts)
2. Doctrinal (Romans – Jude)
3. Prophetic (Revelation)

B. According to Authorship

1. Their ethnicity
2. Their relation to Christ
3. By individual

The Books of the NT by Author

- Matthew (1)
- Mark (1)
- Luke (2)
- John (5)
- James (1)
- Jude (1)
- Paul (13)
- Peter (2)
- Unknown (1)



The Divisions of the New Testament

C. According to Historical Period (Tenney, p. 128)

1. The Period of Inception
2. The Period of Expansion
3. The Period of Consolidation

D. Traditional Divisions of the NT

1. Gospels (4)
2. Acts (1)
3. Pauline Epistles (13)
4. General Epistles (8)
5. Revelation (1)

The Inspiration of the New Testament

- A. The Bible's View of Itself (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - Theopneustos = “God-breathed” or “breathed out by God”
- B. The View of Christ and the Apostles Concerning the OT
 1. Christ (Matthew 5:18; John 10:35)
 2. The Apostles (2 Peter 1:19-21)
- C. Peter Called Paul's Writings Scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16)
- D. The Logical Syllogism of Inspiration
 1. Major Premise: God is truthful and cannot err.
 2. Minor Premise: Scripture is breathed out by God.
 3. Conclusion: Therefore, Scripture is truthful and without error.

The Inspiration of the New Testament

E. Statement of the Doctrine of Inspiration

1. Both the OT and NT Scriptures in their original manuscripts are verbally and plenary inspired and without error.
 - a. In the original manuscripts (the autographs)
 - b. Verbal Inspiration
 - c. Plenary Inspiration
 - d. Inerrant
2. Conclusions

The Preservation of the New Testament

A. The Role of Preservation

From the mind of God to the mind of man

1. Revelation
2. Inspiration
3. Preservation
4. Illumination

B. The Means of Preservation

1. Manuscript copies of Scripture
2. Translations of Scripture
3. Printed editions of Scripture

The Canon of the New Testament

A. The Canon Explained

1. The meaning of the word:
 - a. from the Greek word κανών, kanōn
 - b. Definition: “an authoritative list of books accepted as Holy Scripture.” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)
2. All branches of the Christian Church accept the 27 book of our New Testament as Scripture. Some accept more, but none accept less.

The Canon of the New Testament

B. Principles for Determining the Canon

1. Only “inspired” Scripture can be accepted.
2. Apostolic authors wrote with authority and expected their writings to be recognized and received by the readers.
3. These books claim the quality of inspiration for themselves.
4. Canonization was NOT determined by a Church council; believers and churches recognized the quality of inspiration in these writings and acknowledged their canonical status as soon as they were received.

Summary and Conclusion

The entire New Testament is ...

- The product of the mind of God,
- Revealed by Jesus Christ, and
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit.