

# An overview of the New Testament

9b

General epistles – 2 Peter, Jude, Hebrews

## Possible New Testament Timeline

### *Christ's Birth through the Revelation of St. John*

7-4 B.C.	Christ's birth
26-30 A.D.	Jesus' ministry
Fall of 26	Jesus' baptism and temptation
Most of 27	Early Judean ministry (John 1-4)
28 and early 29	The Galilean ministry of the Synoptic Gospels
Spring to Fall 29	Special training of the Twelve
Fall of 29	Last journeys in Judea and Perea
Spring of 30	Jesus' death and resurrection
30	Pentecost: Birthday of the New Testament Church (Acts 2)
31	Death of Stephen and conversion of St. Paul (Paul spends parts of three years in Arabia.) (Acts 7 and 9)
33	Paul returns to Damascus and has to flee (Galatians 1:7; 2 Corinthians 11:32); he visits Jerusalem and meets Peter and James (Acts 9:26-30, 22:17,18; Galatians 1:17-20); he returns to Tarsus where he remained for 10 years.
43	Founding of Gentile Church at Antioch; Paul summoned to Antioch by Barnabas
44	Death of Herod Agrippa I; Death of James the Son of Zebedee (Acts 12:2)
45-49	<b>EPISTLE OF ST. JAMES</b>
46	Paul's second visit to Jerusalem, fourteen years after his previous visit (Galatians 2:1-3 and Acts 11:30)
47-48	<b>St. Paul's First Missionary Journey (into Galatia)</b>
48/49	<b>EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS</b>
49	Expulsion of Jews from Rome; APOSTOLIC COUNCIL in Jerusalem (Acts 15); decision reported to Galatia by Paul and Silas (Acts 16:4) confirmed what Paul wrote in his letter.
49-52	<b>St. Paul's Second Missionary Journey</b>
50-60	<b>GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW</b>
51/52	Governorship of Gallio in Corinth
51 (early)	<b>1 THESSALONIANS from Corinth</b>
51 (summer)	<b>2 THESSALONIANS from Corinth</b>
53-57	<b>St. Paul's Third Missionary Journey</b>
56 (spring)	<b>1 CORINTHIANS from Ephesus</b>
56 (summer or fall)	<b>2 CORINTHIANS from Macedonia</b>
56-57 (winter)	<b>ROMANS from Corinth (or Cenchrea)</b>
57-59	St. Paul's Caesarean Imprisonment
59	Arrival of Festus in Palestine to assume governorship; St. Paul's voyage to Rome
60	<b>GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE</b>
60-62	St. Paul's Imprisonment in Rome <b>COLOSSIANS (60/61), PHILEMON (60/61), EPHESIANS (61), PHILIPPIANS (62) (The captivity Letters)</b>
62	<b>ACTS</b>
62-64	<b>1 PETER</b>
63	<b>GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK</b>
64	<b>2 PETER</b>
63-67	Paul's final travels and execution <b>1 TIMOTHY (63), TITUS (63-66), 2 TIMOTHY (67) (Pastoral Letters)</b>
64-67	Fire in Rome, Nero undertakes persecution of Christians
65-69	<b>HEBREWS</b>
68-80	<b>JUDE</b>
70	Fall of Jerusalem
90	<b>GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN</b>
90	<b>1,2,3 JOHN</b>
95	<b>REVELATION OF ST. JOHN</b>

# The epistles of Peter

## The author

Galatians 2:8,9. Peter's mission work was carried out primarily among the **Jews**, while Paul's was primarily among the **Gentiles**.

1 Peter 5:12,13. Peter's ministry took him to **Rome**, which is where he wrote 1 Peter. He probably wrote 2 Peter there and eventually died a martyr's death there.

Peter was assisted by **Silas** as he wrote 1 Peter, which may account for the major differences between 1 Peter and 2 Peter.

Mark was also with Peter. It is probable that Mark wrote his Gospel in connection to his close association with Peter (See 2 Peter 1:14,15). The recipients were Christians in Asia Minor.

## 1 Peter

Place: **Rome**, Date: **62-64 A.D.**

Recipients: Gentile Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor who were facing persecution

Theme: Hope in Christ

Outline:

- Introduction (1:1-2)
- Living hope through Christ's resurrection (1:3-12)
- Hope-produced holiness of living (1:13-2:10)
- Hope-produced submission to one another (2:11-3:12)
- Hope in the midst of suffering (3:13-4:19)
- Elders: Shepherd the flock of God (5:1-11)
- Conclusion (5:12-14)

Things to remember about 1 Peter :

- Hope during suffering
- 2:9 - You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood...
- 3:15 - Always be prepared to give an answer.
- 3:19 - Jesus' descent into hell.
- 3:21 - Baptism saves you

## 2 Peter

Place: \_\_\_\_\_, Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme: Christian hope strengthened

Outline:

- Introduction (1:1-2)
- Strengthened through the inspired Word (1:3-21)
- Strengthened in spite of false teachers (2:1-22)
- Strengthened as we wait for Christ's return (3:1-18)

Sample: **2 Peter 3:10-18**

How does Jesus' return on the Last Day help us focus on living our lives as God's children today?

What insight do we learn about the Scriptures with Peter talking about Paul?

What final encouragements does Peter give to us who wait for Jesus' return?

Things to remember about 2 Peter :

1:21 – Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit

3:8-9 – God is not slow; he is patient

## The epistle of Jude

### The author

Jude 1. Mark 6:3. Jude calls himself a brother of James, which also makes him a brother of \_\_\_\_\_.

### His letter

Place: ??? Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme: Contend for the faith

### Contents:

A severe condemnation of false teachers, specifically libertinism

Very similar to 2 Peter 2

## The epistle to the Hebrews

### The author

Origen: “Who wrote the epistle, God only knows certainly.”

Theories: Paul, Barnabas, Apollos (Luther), Luke, Silas, Aquila and Priscilla

### The letter

Place: ??? Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipients: Jewish Christians, probably those living in Rome.

Theme: Christ is superior

### Outline:

Christ is superior as the revealer of the new covenant (1:1-4:13)

Christ is superior as the priest of the new covenant (4:14-12:29)

Concluding admonitions (13:1-19)

Conclusion and greetings (13:20-25)

### Sample: **Hebrews 1:1,2**

What two periods of time is the writer comparing?

How did God reveal himself to mankind during the first period of time mentioned? Cite some examples.

How has God revealed himself in the second period of time mentioned?

### Sample: **Hebrews 10:11-25**

What characteristic of the work of the Old Testament priests does the writer draw attention to? (v.11)

How does the writer highlight the difference between their work as priests and Jesus' work as Priest? (v.12)

Because of Jesus' work, what are we as New Testament Christians able to do that Old Testament believers were not able to do? (vv.19-22)

How do we as New Testament Christians do this? (v.25)

Why are these truths valuable to us?

**For next week:**

- Review the general letters (James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude, Hebrews)
- Read John's writings (The Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John)