

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

Matthew- 28 chapters- key verses (28:18-20)

Matthew is one of four accounts of Jesus' life. It is one of the first three called the synoptic gospels which are similar. The uniqueness of Matthew is that it portrays Jesus as the ruler and king who was expected by the Jews. Matthew speaks a lot of fulfilled prophecy, Jesus being the Messiah, and the kingdom of God. It also has some extended teachings of Jesus not found in the other gospels.

Mark- 16 chapters- key verse (10:45)

Mark is the shortest and most action packed of the gospels. It portrays Jesus as the suffering servant, focusing on what He did for people and the miracles He did. This one is full of a lot of things happening, but not a lot of teaching or explanation. Good for a quick overview of Jesus' life.

Luke- 24 chapters- key verses (2:10-11)

Luke portrays Jesus as the compassionate savior. He always had time to serve people, especially those who were outcast and downtrodden, such as the poor, the gentiles, and women. In Luke Jesus is shown to be very human in the good sense, having compassion and helping people. If you need to learn more about how Jesus relates to you personally, this may be a book for you to read.

John- 21 chapters- key verse (20:31)

John is different than the other three gospels. He keys on special events and teachings of Jesus not shown in the others. His main thrust is to show Jesus as the special powerful Son of God and to encourage people to believe in Him for eternal life. He uses many symbols and events to show what it means to believe and why you should. This book is both easy for the beginner, and profound for the person who knows the Bible.

Acts- 28 chapters- key verse (1:8)

Acts is the history of the church for about 30 years after Jesus left the earth. It tells the story of how the church grew from 120 people to influencing the entire known world. It stresses the work of the Holy Spirit in miraculous events in the church. It also tells the story of the two principle people, Peter and Paul.

Romans- 16 chapters- key verses (1:16-17)

This is a letter from Paul to the church in Rome to prepare them for his visit. It also speaks to the problems they had between the Jews and Gentiles. Paul writes in a systematic way what it is to be a Christian, what faith is, and how we should live as Christians. Probably the most influential of all Paul's letters.

1 Corinthians- 16 chapters- key verses (16:13-14)

This is a letter from Paul in response to some problems that were happening in the church at Corinth. Paul addresses these problems and gives us some great teaching on how to live. Some topics addressed include divisions, sexual immorality, marriage, dealing with your and other peoples scruples, public worship, spiritual gifts, and the resurrection.

2 Corinthians- 13 chapters- Key verse (4:5)

A Letter from Paul showing encouragement that the Corinthians had heeded his last letter. He defends what he has done and is doing, explaining what his ministry is all about. He encourages them and gives them teaching about how to live now, including a collection for the poor.

Galatians- 6 chapters- key verse (2:16)

Galatians is a letter from Paul to solve a problem in the churches in Galatia. They were teaching that in order to be saved, you had to follow the Old Testament law exactly, especially on the issue of circumcision. Paul responded to this false teaching by teaching what it meant to be truly saved and the Christians relation to the Old Testament law. He said that we are saved by faith, and not by works of the law and explained how this works out in everyday life.

Ephesians- 6 chapters- key verses (1:9-10)

One of Paul's most profound letters. The first three chapters deal with who we are in Christ. We are blessed with all spiritual blessings, we are all one body, etc. The last three chapters deal with how this is to be lived out in everyday life, giving instruction on family life, community life, and life in general.

Philippians- 4 chapters- key verse (1:21)

This letter was sent by Paul to the Philippians as a thank you letter. He uses the opportunity to explain about his situation and speak of the riches of Christ and to exhort people to unity. Even though Paul writes from prison, the letter is full of Joy and thankfulness. This letter is a must read.

Colossians- 4 chapters- key verses (2:9-10)

Paul wrote this letter to combat false teachings. The false teachers were saying that we need other things, such as rituals, speculative philosophy, angel worship, etc. in addition to Christianity. Paul counters by holding up Christ as sufficient for each and every need. Christ is the head of the universe and the cause of all salvation, the source of all wisdom and power.

1 Thessalonians- 5 chapters- key verses (5:23-24)

A letter from Paul to encourage the church that was going through persecution. He encourages them to hold fast, to be holy and pure. He encourages them with the fact that Jesus will return and give both rewards and punishments.

2 Thessalonians- 3 chapters- key verse (2:15)

This was written by Paul to correct a misunderstanding in the Thessalonian church that Christ had already returned and they had missed out. Paul said that Christ had not yet returned and he gave some indications of what would happen in that time. He also spoke about how people should live in the meantime before the second coming, both being ready, but not abandoning responsibilities.

1 Timothy- 6 chapters- key verses (3:14-15)

This was written by Paul to his young associate Timothy to give instructions on how to deal with certain problems in the church. He also gives encouragement and exhortation to Timothy to stand firm and be strong in Christian principles. He gives instruction on how the church should work and how Timothy should lead it. Most of the letter is encouragement and cheerleading to help Timothy do his job well.

2 Timothy- 4 chapters- key verse (2:2)

This is a letter written to Timothy from Paul shortly before he died. It is like a last will and testament passing on the responsibility of the churches, some last minute instructions and encouragement. It gives insight into the personal life of Paul as he says all the things that he couldn't leave unsaid to a close personal friend whom he considered to be a son.

Titus- 3 chapters- key verses (2:7-8)

Paul writes to Titus, the man in charge of the church at Crete to give him instruction and encouragement. Paul helps him correct false teaching and set up the proper kind of people to teach. This book deals a lot with what it takes to be a true godly leader. Paul also teaches about salvation to combat false teaching.

Philemon- 1 chapter- key verse (1:17)

A touching letter aiming to reconcile a runaway slave with his Christian master. Paul asks him to be welcomed as a brother in Christ, and not as a slave. Paul is a master at persuasion without manipulating. He deals openly and honestly with Onesimus, the master. He says that he could order him to do what is right, but would rather that he do what is right freely without compulsion.

Hebrews- 13 chapters- key verse (4:14)

Hebrews was a book written to first century Jewish Christians to encourage them in hard times. Some were in danger of turning away from the faith and back to Judaism. The author encourages them by showing how Jesus is superior to all others, including Moses and angels. He encourages them to persevere during hard times because God is faithful and he gives many examples from history to show how people have persevered by faith.

James- 5 chapters- key verse (1:27)

James is a great book written by the half brother of Jesus. In it he encourages people to live the Christian life wholeheartedly. James is somewhat harsh and to the point sometimes, but he is right and we need to be encouraged to purity. Very practical book that we can put into practice immediately.

1 Peter- 5 chapters- key verses (2:11-12)

Peter is written to encourage Christians under great persecution. He deals with the themes that Christ is coming soon and we should live in light of that hope and encouragement. He stresses submission and servanthood under suffering, using Jesus as a model. He also stresses godly living in all circumstances.

2 Peter- 3 chapters- key verses (3:17-18)

In this book Peter is dealing with false teaching that Jesus' second coming was a false hope. Some people scoffed at the idea and Peter assured his readers that Jesus was coming back at the proper time. He also explained about the false teachers and true and false knowledge.

1 John- 5 chapters- key verse (5:13)

John writes this book to show what it means to truly be a Christian. He wants his readers to be encouraged by the assurance that they are Christians. He explains what a true Christian is and how they act. He gives tests throughout the book, such as right conduct, love, and right understanding of who Jesus is.

2 John- 1 chapter- key verse (1:10)

John writes this short letter to tell the church how to handle heretical teachers. His solution is basically not to receive them.

3 John- 1 chapter- key verse (1:5)

This was written to a specific situation where one man was dominating a church and not letting John's representatives have the proper say and correction. John commends Gaius who has received John's representative and blasts his opponent.

Jude- 1 chapter- key verse (1:3)

Also written to combat false teachers. Jude writes about the problem of false teachers and teachings at his time. He states the character both of the teachers and their teachings and also tells the people what the solutions are to the problems.

Revelation- 22 chapters- key verse (11:15)

A vision of John where Jesus shows him things that will take place in the future. First Jesus sends a message to the seven churches under John's care, then he reveals in visions what will happen in the future. The language and imagery is highly symbolic and it is not easy, nor always wise, to try to figure out what each symbol means. The whole scope of the book is crystal clear, however. There is a great increase of evil in the end times, led by certain personalities; God pours out his wrath on the earth and Jesus comes back as a conquering warrior to rule with His faithful people forever. The book ends with a picture of the New Jerusalem where God will dwell with His people in paradise .