

How To Unlock The Wisdom Of the New Testament Selected Scriptures

Series: Explore The Book - Part 2

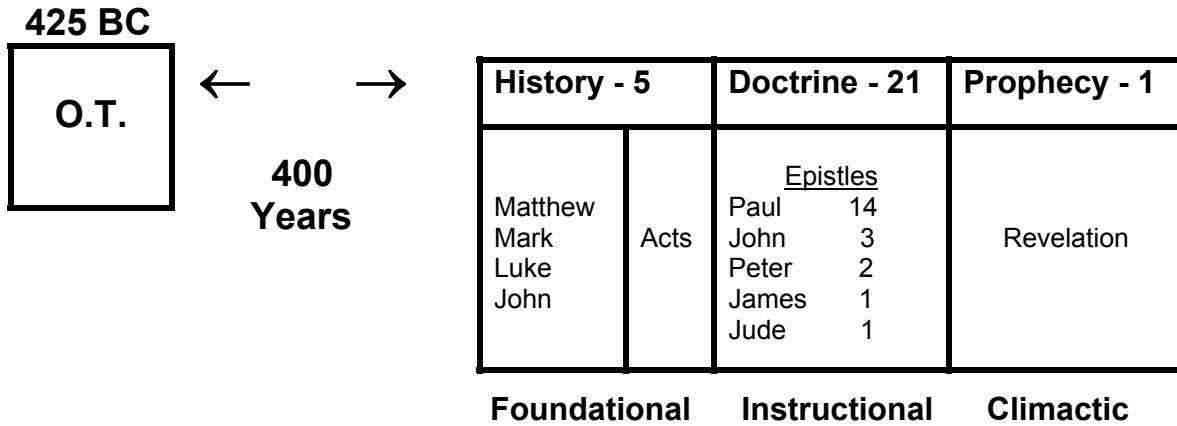
Introduction – Three Keys To The New Testament

1. Getting The Big Picture
2. Understanding The Relationship of the O.T. & N.T.
3. Grasping The Concept of “Progressive Revelation”

◆ The Four Main Era’s of the New Testament

1. **Gospels** – The life of Jesus of Nazareth as told in the Gospels.
2. **Church** – The formation stage of the Christian Church.
3. **Mission** – The expansion of the Church into the Roman Empire through missions.
4. **Future** – The prophetic foretelling of history’s final chapter – the nature and chronology of the end times.

◆ **The Structure of the New Testament**



◆ **The Gospel Era = Jesus**

- ◆ Storyline = Jesus comes in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies of a savior, and offers salvation and the true Kingdom of God. While some accept Him, most reject Him, and he is crucified, buried, and resurrected.

Why Four Gospels?

Gospel	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Audience	Jews	Romans	Greeks	All Men
Portrait Of Jesus	Jesus is the Messiah/King who fulfills O.T. prophecy and expectations	Jesus is the authoritative Son of God	Jesus is the perfect Son of Man who came to save and minister to all people through the power of the Holy Spirit and prayer	Jesus is the fully divine Son of God in whom we should believe to receive eternal life (the "I AM" of God)
Key Verse	21:5	10:45	19:10	20:31
Key Word	"Fulfilled"	"immediately"	"Son of Man"	"believe"

◆ **The Church Era = Peter**

- ◆ Storyline = *Peter*, shortly after the ascension of Jesus, is used by God to *establish* the *Church*, God's next major plan for man.

- Creation = Birth of Church – Acts 1-5
- Growth = Organization of Church – Acts 6
- Persecution = 1st Christian Martyr – Acts 7
- Transition = A Missionary to Gentiles – Acts 8-12

◆ **The Mission Era = Paul**

- ◆ Storyline = *Paul expands* the Church into the *Roman* empire during the next two *decades*.

- 1st Missionary Journey – Galatia 2 yrs (Acts 13-14)
- 2nd Missionary Journey – Greece 3 yrs (Acts 15-17)
- 3rd Missionary Journey – Asia 4 yrs (Acts 18-21)
- Trials & Imprisonment – Rome 2 yrs (Acts 22-28)

- ◆ Epistles = Letters written to churches and individuals to encourage and instruct them in the Christian faith.

Epistles (Teaching) Of The Church

Paul's	Pastoral	General
Romans 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians	1 & 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2 & 3 John Jude

◆ **Future Era = Jesus – Book of Revelation**

- ◆ **Storyline** = After fulfilling God's sovereign purposes to save "whosoever would believe" through the agency of His Church, Jesus removes the Church (rapture), fulfills all O.T. promises concerning Israel in the last days, and returns to execute a final, just judgment of good and evil, which ushers in the eternal site.

Discussion Questions

1. How does getting the "big picture" help you understand the New Testament?
2. What information was new to you? Most interesting? Most difficult to understand?
3. In what way did God speak to your life through this message? How will you respond?