The New Testament Letters

Major Sections of the Bible

Old Testament

4000 BC 2000 BC

History
Creation
Israel’s history

Poetry

Prophecy

New Testament

4 BC 29 AD 60 AD 68 AD

History
Christ on earth
Apostles

Letters
Letters
before
Acts 28
after
Acts 28

Israel (2000BC – 60AD)
The New Testament Letters

Timeline of Acts & Beyond

- Acts chapters:
  - 1-8
  - 9
  - 10,11
  - 12-14
  - 15
  - 16-26
  - 27,28

- Pentecost
- Stephen Killed
- Salvation for Gentiles as well as Jews
- Council of Jerusalem
- Israel set aside
- Jerusalem and Temple destroyed
- 30 AD
- 40 AD
- 50 AD
- 60 AD
- 70 AD
- Death of Paul

Early Letters by Paul
- Romans
- 1 & 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- 1 & 2 Thessalonians
- Hebrews

Later Letters by Paul
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 & 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon

Letters by Others
- James
- 1 & 2 Peter
- 1, 2 & 3 John
- Jude
- Revelation
What is Acts about?

• the story of the Lord’s witnesses proclaiming Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah King

• how that message was taken from Jerusalem and spread abroad

• how that message was largely rejected, especially by the Jewish people of the time

Acts 1 to 9 – concerning Jews only

• Message - that Jesus is the Christ
• Preached to Jews exclusively
• Peter is main figure
• Outward signs verifying God’s approval of those Jews who believed the message

Acts 10 to 28 – concerning Jews, then Gentiles

• Message of salvation through Christ
• Preached to Jews first, but also to Gentiles now
• Paul is main figure
• Outward signs verifying God’s approval of those who believed the message – both Jew and Gentile

(Jews still prior in God’s dealings. Gentiles were accepted to provoke Israel to jealousy)
Genesis 12:2,3

“I will make you into a great nation (Israel)
... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”
The New Testament Letters

The word 

“Epistle”

“Related to the word “apostle” - “one who is sent” - usually with a message.

An epistle is a written letter which has been sent.
Main Purposes of the NT Letters
- written by apostles of Christ -

- A follow up to inform believers in writing about who Christ was, His work, His resurrection, etc.
- Advice about living in a way which is pleasing to God.
- Some foretelling of future events.
- An addressing of specific issues which had arisen amongst recipients of the letters.
Churches Paul had visited, which he then wrote to,
## The Letters of the New Testament

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written During Acts Period</th>
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<tr>
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*From “Dating of Paul’s Later letters” by Michael Penny*
Most NT letters include:
author’s name, addressee’s name/s, greeting, parting words, etc ....

mostly:
+ items of doctrine
+ practical Christian advice
Part 2 of 2

The New Testament Letters (Epistles)
The New Testament Letters

Major Sections of the Bible

Old Testament
- History
  - Creation
  - Israel’s history
- Poetry
- Prophecy

New Testament
- History
  - Christ on earth
  - Apostles
- Letters before Acts 28
- Letters after Acts 28

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30AD 40AD 50AD 60AD 70AD

Paul converted

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Romans; 1 & 2 Corinthians; Galatians
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Letters by Others
James; 1 & 2 Peter; 1, 2 & 3 John;
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# Epistles of the New Testament

## Paul’s Epistles

- Romans
- 1 & 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 Thessalonians
- 2 Thessalonians

**Epistles to Churches:**
(to Jews & Gentiles)

**Epistles to Individuals:**
(to Gentiles)

- 1 & 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon

## Jewish Epistles

- Hebrews
- James
- 1 & 2 Peter
- 1, 2, 3 John
- Jude

## Prophecy

- Revelation
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