

Intro to New Testament

NT1000-1

Why study the NT?

**How is this important to
our faith?**

Hosea 4:5...

Basic Concepts

- Inspiration
- Textual Transmission
 - Canon
- Description of NT
 - Order of Books

Inspiration

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17: theopneustos "God breathed" or "air of God" Genesis 2:7
- 2 Peter 1:20-21: concursus- God used human agents to write the texts (page 27)
- Verbal, Plenary Inspiration"
 - God spoke through human authors

Textual Transmission

- The Bible is soundly grounded, numerous texts (more than 5,000 manuscripts)
- Manuscripts are dated early (before 70AD)
- Only ___? manuscripts today that have Caesars name on them
- Dead Sea scrolls were found
 - Only two errors found in our Old Testament in light of the Dead Sea scrolls. (one in Isaiah: , is wrong)

Canon

- **Meaning is “stick, measurement”**
 - **Standard by which the books of the bible were accepted**
 - **Council of Hippo in A.D. 393**
 - **Closed the NT Canon**
 - **27 Books**

Description of NT

- Name: new testament “a new covenant”
- Length: 1/3 as long as OT
- Time of events: 100 year period
 - 5 B.C. to 95 A.D.
 - OT is 2000 year span (history of Israel)

Order of Books

- **Four tiers to book order in NT**
 - **Genre and Logic**
 - **Author**
 - **Recipient**
 - **Length**

Ch. 3

The Gospel & the Four Gospels

- What is the content of the Gospel?
- What is the form of the Gospel?
- Why were the Gospels written?
- Why are there four Gospels?
- Why trust the Gospels?

What is the Content?

- The gospels describe the life and teaching of Jesus (1 John 1)
- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- 2 gospels (Matt. & Luke start with His birth, whereas John begins with His pre-existence.
- Jesus' childhood is pretty much omitted, his ministry begins with His baptism by John the Baptist.
- We have the last three years of Jesus' life, we read about His death/resurrection

What is the Form?

- Greco-Roman biography
- C. H. Dodd: expanded written Kerygma (pg70)
 - Kerygma: Greek word for proclamation
 - Content of early church's preaching
- Gospels are "expanded biographical sermons"
- "Gospel" has no parallel, it is unique among literature. (Ryan: our God is unique)

Why written?

- **As eyewitnesses died off, a permanent record of Jesus' life was needed (1 John 1).**
- **As the gospel spread far beyond Palestine, a written record was needed.**
- **Jesus' return did not happen immediately, so the need to record history was needed.**
- **As Christianity grew a need for a material or written documents to teach new converts.**

Why four Gospels?

- Different witnesses can see the same thing but describe it differently (writers experiment...)
 - Based on background, perspective
- Telling the account to different people groups (Jews/gentiles/location)
- Deuteronomy 5:19 requires multiple witnesses to verify an account
- If you had seen these things take place you would write about them as well!

Why trust the Gospels?

- **Eyewitnesses hold validity**
- **Two gospels are directly linked to the Apostles (Matthew and John)**
- **Mark is written based on Peter's account**
- **2 Peter 1:21 (God inspired these writings)**
- **We have non-biblical accounts of Jesus**