

# New Testament: Composition

ASBC Bible Study

Taught By: Rev. Marc Lavarin

NT is taught as a one and/or two semester course in seminary, we have (2) 60 minute lessons.

## Our Objective

- Obtain a foundational understanding/overview of the NT
- Understand NT composition and NT content

○ New Testament  
Composition (Session 1)  
4/2/19

○ New Testament  
Content (Session 2)  
4/9/19

**Breakdown**

- All Scripture is inspired
- All Scripture is authoritative
- Scripture contains all things necessary for salvation

**Our  
Affirmation**

# Why a New Testament?

- Jeremiah 31:31- 34
  - “ the days are coming when I will make a new covenant, and I will write it on their hearts”
- Ezek. 36:26-27
  - “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put m Spirit in you...”
- Luke 22:20 (NT)
  - “This is the Cup of the new Covenant”

# A New Covenant?

- Super  
Secessionism
- Typology
- Covenant

**Ways of  
Reading  
New  
Testament**



# Supersecessionist Reading

Is the assertion that God has rejected the Jews and replaced them for the Church.



# Typological Reading

Is the idea that a person or event in the Old Testament foreshadows a greater person or event in the New Testament

# Covenantal Reading

**Denies that God has abandoned his promises to Israel, but see the fulfillment of the promises to Israel in the person and the work of Jesus who establishes the church in organic continuity with Israel, not as a separate replacement.**

- The primary purpose of the New Testament is to testify of the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- NT serves as a record of the New Covenant that God promises God's people.

**Purpose**

# NT Breakdown

- Gospels (4)
  - Synoptic ; Johannine
- History of the Church [Acts] (1)
- Epistles
  - Pauline Epistles (13)\*
  - General Epistles (8)
- Revelation (1)

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John
- Acts
- 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
- Revelation

# NT Books (27)

## Dating of Writings

- All 27 canonized books were written by the end of 1<sup>st</sup> Century/ beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> Century
- However, it is not until 1672 where the Protestant Canon is agreed upon



- Gospels
  - 70 – 90 AD
  - Death of Jesus 33AD
- Acts
  - 80 – 90AD
- Epistles
  - Pauline 49 – 65AD
  - General 49 – 90AD
- Revelation
  - 90 – 96AD

## Dating of Writings



- New Testament is not written nor compiled in Chronological order

- Epistles written by 65 AD

- The Gospel & Acts by 90 AD

- Revelation by 90 AD

- Pauline Letters are ordered by length not chronology

- When Paul writes his letters, the 4 Gospels have not yet been written

Structure

- Written in Koine Greek, which is not high-class or classical Greek, but rather a very common form of everyday Greek.

- Style of Greek becomes important when authorship is considered.

- Accounts Not Biographies

- Letters to Churches addressing specific concerns



# Style

- As disciples and eye-witnesses began to die, it became even more important to write down the stories of Jesus.

Style

# Canonization

- Gk: kanon (straight, inflexible rod use for measurement (measuring stick))
- Collection of writings were in circulation prior to canonization.
  - Colossians 4:16
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:27
- Marcion and the reason for Canon
  - Gnosticism 2<sup>nd</sup> Century
- Quotes from Early Church Leaders
- QUESTION OF AUTHORITY
- Augustine 367 AD

# Canon

- Was the author an apostle or have a close connection with an apostle?
- Is the book being accepted by the body of Christ at large?
- Did the book contain consistency of doctrine and orthodox teaching?
- Did the book bear evidence of high moral and spiritual values that would reflect a work of the Holy Spirit?



**Canon**

# NT Breakdown

- Gospels (4)
  - Synoptic ; Johannine
- History of the Church [Acts] (1)
- Epistles
  - Pauline Epistles (13)\*
  - General Epistles (8)
- Revelation (1)



- Are not biographies; each Gospel writer wants to say something about who Jesus is.
- Gospels are written to a particular context and community, which is why certain Gospels contain information that others do not.
- John 21:25 – not exhaustive
- Synoptic Gospels (Mt., Mk., Lk.) and Johannine Gospel (Jn.)
- Mark is commonly attributed as having been written first
- Q-source

# Gospels

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

- Covers the time period of 30-62 AD
- Typically dated from 80-90 AD
- Very narrative written
- Account of the history of Christianity from post-resurrection to Paul's imprisonment

# History

- Acts

- Written to Churches
- Written to People  
“Pastorals”
- Ordered by length  
(except if numbered...  
i.e. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians)

## Epistles

- Pauline  
(13)

# Deutero-Pauline

**Refers to work attributed/included in the Pauline corpus, but are viewed by scholars as products, not of the Apostle Paul, but rather followers of Paul or a Pauline School of thought.**

**“I Tertius, who wrote this  
epistle, greet you in the  
LORD”**

**Romans 16:22**

- All Scripture is inspired
- All Scripture is authoritative
- Scripture contains all things necessary for salvation

## Our Affirmation

# ○ Undisputed Pauline Letters

- 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians
- Galatians
  - (6:11)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians
  - (16:21)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians
- Philippians
- Philemon
- Romans

**Pauline Letters**



- Deutero-Pauline
  - 2 Thessalonians
    - (3:17)
  - Colossians
    - (4:18)
  - Ephesians
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy
  - Titus

**Deutero -  
Pauline**

- Written from 49AD – 90AD

- Addresses issues such as:  
Jesus Christ as the High Priest, practical Christian living, suffering as a believer

# Epistles

- General (8)

# Revelation

- Written 90-96 AD
- Attributed to John,  
same writer of John,  
1,2,3<sup>rd</sup> John