

Top Ten Things You Need to Know About the New Testament

How They Just Might Change Your Life

1. Its All About Jesus

“The Word of God, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, is set forth and displays its power in a most wonderful way in the writings of the New Testament which hand on the ultimate truth of God’s Revelation.”
DV 17/ CCC124



1. Its All About Jesus

“Their central object is Jesus Christ, God’s incarnate Son: his acts, teachings, Passion and glorification, and his Church’s beginnings under the Spirit’s guidance.”
DV 20/ CCC124



2. Order of the New Testament

- 63BC Conquered by the Roman Empire
- 4BC Jesus is born
- 30AD Jesus crucified and rises from the dead.
- Epistles begin to be written.
- 70AD Gospel of Mark is written
- 70-90AD Gospels of Luke and Matthew are written and more epistles (*non-pauline*)
- 100 AD Gospel of John written
- 100AD Book of Revelation written



2. Order of the New Testament

- Contemporary of Jesus
- Born about 4-6 BC
- Arrival in Jerusalem for Study: 15 AD
- Conversion 33 AD
- Arabia 34 AD
- Damascus 34-37 AD
- Jerusalem: Visit ADphas : 37 AD
- Mission 1: Syria and Cylcia: 37+ AD
- Wrote 1Thessalonians (?) 50 AD
- Jerusalem : “Council” 51 AD



2. Order of the New Testament

- Antioch 45-46 AD
 - Galatia: 46-48 AD
 - Macedonia (Philippi) : 48-50 AD
 - Corinth: 50-51 AD
 - Antioch: 51-52 AD
 - Ephesus: 52-54 AD
- Wrote Galatians/ Philippians
Philemon/ Corinthians



2. Order of the New Testament

- Macedonia 54-55 AD
- Illyricum 55 AD
- Corinth 55-56 AD
- **Wrote Romans**



2. Order of the New Testament

- Jerusalem – Caesaria 57-61 AD
- Rome: 61-64 AD
- Spain: 64AD Maybe
- Aegen: 64-66 AD Maybe
- Death in Rome under the persecution of Nero 67 AD



*Dates: Jerome Murphy- O'Connor
Paul: A Critical Life*

2. Order of the New Testament

- **Paul's Letters:**
- Galatians/ Philippians/ Philemon/ 1&2 Corinthians/ 1 Thessalonians / Romans
- **Deutero-Pauline:**
- Ephesians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians
- "The Pastorals" → 1 & 2 Timothy/ Titus



3. Paul (and Not Paul)

- Don't know when exactly they wrote
- Don't know why they wrote
- Don't know context in which they wrote
- Different styles
- Different tone

3. Paul (and Not Paul)

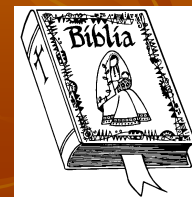
O stupid Galatians!
Galatians 3:1



Love is patient, Love is kind.
1 Corinthians 13:4

4. Gospels – Not Written As Occurring

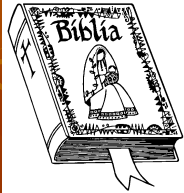
- First oral tradition, then written. (See CCC126+)
- Then written tradition, beginning with PDR
 - Then teachings
 - Then infancy (Maybe)



5. "Gospel" – What is it?

- A literary form.
- Not history or science
- A proclamation of Jesus Christ, Son of God.

Mark 1:1



6. Gospel – Different authors

- Different authors
- Different sources
- Different perspectives



6. Gospel – Different authors - Mark

- Jew writing for Gentiles probably in Rome – see explanation for Jewish customs
- People are not familiar with Palestinian geography
- Approx 65-70CE
- Speaks of Suffering Jesus – relate to persecutions, probably of Nero
- Gospel of the Cross
- Human Jesus



6. Gospel – Different authors - Matthew

- Jew writing for Jews probably in Antioch, Syria (85CE)
 - having difficulty accepting the Gentiles.
- So: pattern on Jewish tradition, quotations of OT etc.
- Pattern in 5 books, like Torah, Jesus as Moses
- Teaching Jesus
- Delayed parousia
- Salvation to Jews and now to gentiles
- "Church's gospel" – only gospel to use the word church



6. Gospel – Different authors - Luke

- Gentile writing for Gentiles, Probably in Antioch in 85 CE
- Shows continuity with Judaism
- Compassion Jesus: Esp for society's unexpected: ie women, Samaritans
- Delayed parousia
- Gentile convert
- Acts: continuation of LK
 - gospel of the Spirit



6. Gospel – Different authors - John

- Written for all from Asia Minor (Ephesus)
- Very different
- High Christology
- Philosophical
- Life-giving Jesus
- Symbolic

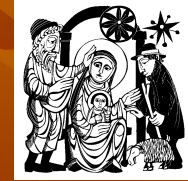


6. Gospel – Different authors – Q?

What is Q?

If you examine the synoptic gospels you see that Matthew and Luke use material from Mark. However, there are other similarities between Matthew and Luke not found in Mark. These are “sayings” of Jesus. So, theologians believe that there was another collection of the sayings of Jesus, which we do not have, from which both Matthew and Luke copied. This is Q. The easiest example is Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount and Luke’s Sermon on the Plain.

7. Gospel – Can’t Mix Together



8. There Is A Growth In Faith

“ And when Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch , I opposed him to his face because he was clearly in the wrong.”

Galatians 2:11



- Acceptance of the Gentiles
- Differences of Opinions

9. The Book of Revelation – It’s Probably Not What You Think



**Apocalypse
Now?**

9. The Book of Revelation – It’s Probably Not What You Think



Written approx. 100CE
by John of Patmos
Apocalyptic style is common in
200BC—200AD
Uses especially Daniel, Ezekiel,
Zechariah
Poetic
Rooted in prophecy/ drama/ letters
A way of interpreting present events,
to persuade hearers to live
in a certain way.
Why this style and language?
It expresses
the mystery of God

9. The Book of Revelation – It’s Probably Not What You Think



Basic Themes:
Coming reign of God to a
persecuted people --
Day of the Lord
Holy War
Stand firm
Do not compromise
Cosmic/ Christological
understanding of reality
Time is Christological/
not Chronological

10. "Ignorance of the Scriptures is Ignorance of Christ."

- "The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she venerated the Body of the Lord" (DV 21) : both nourish and govern the whole Christian life.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119:105; cf. Is 50:4).

CCC 141