

**Title** MATTHEW

**Author** Matthew

**Background:** Matthew was part of the synoptic gospels.

**Date of Writing:** 60 and 65 A.D<sup>1</sup>

**To whom it was written:** To the Jews

**Purpose of writing:** Proclaiming that Jesus as the Messiah

### **Summary**

Matthew uses the term 'kingdom of heaven' some thirty times and this is his theme throughout. The rest of the Gospels use the term, 'kingdom of God' . These words are interchangeable. Matthew starts immediately with a genealogy of Jesus starting from Abraham through David to Joseph who was betrothed to Mary. He uses more of the Old Testament than any other gospel, which was important for the Jewish reader in convincing them that Jesus was the Messiah..

The Sermon on the Mount is classical teaching outshining even Moses.

He gives a wider view for Gentile readers by mentioning the wise men (2:1-12) and the Great Commission.

**Title** MARK

**Author** Mark

**Background:** First Gospel to be written.

**Date of Writing:** 64-68<sup>2</sup>

**To whom it was written:** To the Christian Church

**Purpose of writing:** To teach the life of true discipleship

### **Summary**

The word immediately is used thirty-six times. Mark does not waste words with explanation. This is left to Matthew and Luke who take this Gospel and use all but 55 of his words and amplify his story. Mark only teaches those things that are of immediate benefit to the reader.

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<sup>2</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, revised edition, Copyright © 1979 by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Mark identifies Jesus with men by using the title of Christ as the Son of God' sixteen times although it also reveals Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus is seen as the teacher and ourselves as the disciples. The mighty works of God including miracles are demonstrated.

## **Books of the New Testament**

**Luke 3/27**

**Title LUKE**

**Author Luke**

**Background:** Luke a physician (Col 4:14)

**Date of Writing:** 58-60 A.D.<sup>3</sup>

**To whom it was written:** To the person Theophilus

**Purpose of writing:** An orderly account of the works of Jesus

### **Summary**

Luke spends time recording the full account of the pregnancy and birth of Jesus and of his cousin, John the Baptist. He uniquely covers Jesus at twelve years old. The author spends time on twenty-three parables of which 18 are original to this Gospel. Many miracles of healing are mentioned.

The genealogy of Jesus starts with him and worked back to Adam. The encounter of the Devil in the wilderness is described in detail. The Beatitudes are given followed by a whole range of teaching. Finally, the parables are the major teaching aid in this Gospel.

## **Books of the New Testament**

**John 4/27**

**Title JOHN**

**Author John**

**Background:** John is writing a long time after the events took place. He has a different approach to the other three Gospels so it is difficult to line many of the events to the synoptic Gospels.

**Date of Writing:** 90-100 A.D.<sup>4</sup>

**To whom it was written:** Christians in Asia and the whole Church universal.

**Purpose of writing:** To promote sound doctrine.

### **Summary**

This Gospel opens with a sublime account on the deity of Christ which is unique. John produces dialogues of individuals meeting with Jesus, from the woman at the

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<sup>4</sup> Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels © 1992 by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA.

well to Martha and Mary and Lazarus. The healings always have some teaching aspect added. Jesus is shown as the Bread of Life, the author of the New Birth, the Good Shepherd, the Way, the Truth and the Life and the True Vine.

### **Books of the New Testament    Acts 5/27**

**Title    Acts**

**Author        Luke**

**Background:** A record of the Early Church

**Date of Writing:** As early as A.D. 62 because it ends abruptly with Paul's imprisonment in Rome.<sup>5</sup>

**To whom it was written:** To Theophilus, a continuation to the Gospel of Luke

**Purpose of writing:**        To record the acts of the apostles and the work of the Holy Spirit

#### **Summary**

First part is dominated by Peter but Paul becomes the main character from chapter 13.

The Book begins with the ascension of Christ and the dawn of the Early Church with the falling of the Holy Spirit, initially on 120 people and the gifts of the Spirit bestowed. Peter quickly becomes the main preacher

The Church is dispersed abroad through persecution and the conversion of Paul is basic to the ministry eventually reaching the Gentiles. Ends with Paul's arrest.

### **Books of the New Testament        Romans 6/27**

**Title    ROMANS**

**Author        Paul**

**Background:** Paul writes to the Church at Rome. He had never visited them previously.

**Date of Writing:** 55-57 A.D.<sup>6</sup>

**To whom it was written:** To the Christians at Rome

**Purpose of writing:** Epistle written in anticipation of Paul visiting Rome

#### **Summary**

This is the Book of the Reformation. Its writings have possibly changed the lives of more people than any other Book.

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<sup>5</sup> Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers

<sup>6</sup> Dictionary of Paul and His Letters © 1993 by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA.

Its main theme is Justification by Faith. Paul shows how inadequate the Law is when compared to the grace and mercy of God through the death of Jesus Christ. The Law is good but its real purpose was as a teacher leading us to Christ. Christ becomes the second Adam to rescue us from the effects of the first Adam's sin.

Paul's desire that the Jews would embrace Christ is moving told.

## **Books of the New Testament**

## **1 Corinthians 7/27**

**Title** 1 Corinthians

**Author:** Paul

**Background:** Paul had heard of disputes and sinful practices and writes accordingly.

**Date of Writing:** 55 A.D.<sup>7</sup>

**To whom it was written:** To the Christian Church at Corinth

**Purpose of writing:** To challenge divisions and immorality in the Church and to re-establish his apostolic authority over a church he had founded.

### **Summary**

Paul establishes a series of teachings which if obeyed leads to a fruitful and successful Christian life. He deals with marriage, divorce, separation and relationships between husband and wife as well as celibacy. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are brought under control of the leadership. The Lord's Supper is described in great detail so that his words are used in every Communion Service. The certainty of the resurrection of Christ is clearly demonstrated.

## **Books of the New Testament**

## **2 Corinthians 8/27**

**Title** 2 Corinthians

**Author:** Paul

**Background:** Paul had heard of disputes and sinful practices and writes accordingly.

**Date of Writing:** 56 A.D.<sup>8</sup>

**To whom it was written:** To the Christian Church at Corinth

**Purpose of writing:** Having sent Titus to Corinth together with Paul's first letter, things have improved so he writes to encourage them.

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<sup>7</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, revised edition, Copyright © 1979 by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

<sup>8</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, revised edition, Copyright © 1979 by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

## Summary

Paul reveals the way in which the New Covenant is superior to the Old Covenant. The Gospel is shown to be the driving force of his ministry. The centre of his message is the transforming power of the New Life.

An essential part of this Epistle is given to the Christian way of giving to the needs of others like it to the poverty Jesus took on himself voluntarily.

Paul defends and explains his own personal apostolic ministry and discloses his personal visitation to heaven and the consequential 'thorn in the flesh'.

### Books of the New Testament

### Galatians 9/27

**Title** Galatians

**Author:** Paul

**Background:** Paul founded this Church and visited it four times.

**Date of Writing:** 50/51 A.D.<sup>9</sup>.

**o whom it was written:** To Churches in Galatia.

**Purpose of writing:** False teachers had demanded that circumcision and obeying the Law was essential for Gentile Christians.

## Summary

Paul was angry with the churches that seemed to follow any teaching that sounded right even if it was challenged by the written word. This is the power of personality over sound doctrine. He shows them that the new teaching was in fact heresy and if even he came along with doctrine like this then it was cursed.

He must have based the Book of Romans on Galatians. They have a similar message. The Justification by Faith is again raised and he develops the history of faith starting with Abraham. He finally teaches them to live in the freedom of Christ.

### Books of the New Testament

### Ephesians 10/27

**Title** Ephesians

**Author:** Paul

**Background:** Paul spent more time in this church than any other. Ephesus was a major port and contained 250,00 people.

**Date of Writing:** 50 s or early 60 s A.D.<sup>10</sup> .

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<sup>9</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, revised edition, Copyright © 1979 by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

<sup>10</sup> Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers

**To whom it was written:** To the Church at Ephesus but it would be circulated to other churches in the area.

**Purpose of writing:** Paul writes mature themes to a mature church

### Summary

The major theme of this Epistle relates the Lord Jesus Christ with his Church. The writer reminds them of the privilege they have in having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He teaches the privileges a believer has in Christ: being saved by grace, and the mystery of the Gentiles forming the Church. Duties in marriage and family, and the giving of ministry gifts to the Church are described. Finally, the whole armour of God is offered to the believer.

**Books of the New Testament**

**Philippians 11/27**

**Title** Philippians

**Author:** Paul

**Background:** Paul is intimately connected with this Church. He writes as a friend. Note, no use of the word apostle and no discipline to this church.

acknowledges a gift send by the Philippian Church.

**Date of Writing:** A.D. 61<sup>11</sup>

**To whom it was written:** To the Church at Philippi.

**Purpose of writing:** The author acknowledges a gift send by the Philippian Church.

### Summary

The key verse on which the Epistle rests is found in 3:10,11. That I may know him and the power of his resurrection...<sup>12</sup> The author makes sure that those who wish to live a life of power must pay a price. It is not only suffering but death to self. There is a lot of discussion about keeping the unity of peace among the members and instructions on how to behave in difficult circumstances. The believer is encouraged to mediate on good things

**Books of the New Testament**

**Colossians 12/27**

**Title** COLOSSIANS

**Author** Paul

**Background:** Possibly written by Paul while in prison in Rome.

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<sup>11</sup> The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright © 1988.

<sup>12</sup> Phil 3:10-11 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead

**Date of Writing:** Mid 50's to 60 A.D.<sup>13</sup>

**To whom it was written:** To the Church at Closse.<sup>14</sup>

**Purpose of writing:** Letter from prison to people whom he knew from his days in Ephesus.

### **Summary**

Paul divides his letter into two parts. First doctrinal (1-2) then working out of faith in practical ways (3-4).

The author first explains who and what they are in Christ before he describes his function as Head of the Body, the Church. We find that all trespasses of Christians are nailed to His cross and His people are forgiven of all their sin. Christians in turn have to die to self. Advice is given about family relationships.

## **Books of the New Testament**

## **1 Thessalonians 13/27**

### **Title 1 Thessalonians**

**Author:** Paul

**Background:** Paul founded this church on his second missionary journey (Acts 17.10)

**Date of Writing:** 50 to 54 A.D.<sup>15</sup>

**To whom it was written:** To the Church at Thessalonica.<sup>16</sup>

**Purpose of writing:** Paul responds to a report of Timothy.

### **Summary**

The Church consisted of Jews and Greeks working in harmony which Paul recognises and commends their brotherly love.

He requires them to give heed to those who lead and teach and not to be critics. His major concern was the belief that those who are alive at the coming of the Lord will gain advantage over those who had died. In a clear and unequivocal statement, he lays down the major doctrine of the Second Coming, indicating that in fact the dead in Christ will rise first then those who remain will experience the same joy of seeing Christ in his risen glory.

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<sup>13</sup> Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers

<sup>14</sup> The site of this city is now a mound of earth but awaiting excavation.

<sup>15</sup> Bible Knowledge Commentary/Old Testament Copyright © 1983, 2000 Cook Communications

<sup>16</sup> In Paul's day this city in Greece had a population of about 200,000 people and a mixed population of Greeks, Romans and Jews

**Title 2 Thessalonians****Author: Paul****Background:** See 1 Thessalonians**Date of Writing:** 50 to 54 A.D.<sup>17</sup>**To whom it was written:** To the Church at Thessalonica.**Purpose of writing:** Paul writes this second Epistle a few months after the first because error had crept into the church.**Summary**

Paul's major concern was that some had been teaching that the Day of Christ had already passed. Unreasonable and wicked men (3:2) had misinterpreted Paul's first letter to them. To counter this he says that the evidence that the Day is approaching includes a falling away from the faith, the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition. This was the Devil who will reveal himself and oppose God, showing himself as God. He promises God's retribution upon those who work against the Church. Nevertheless, He praises them for their constancy but warns them to shun those who will not work.

**Title 1 Timothy<sup>18</sup>****Author: Paul****Background:** Paul had discipled Timothy and is now writing to him as he works in the church at Ephesus.**Date of Writing:** 63-64. A.D.<sup>19</sup>**To whom it was written:** Timothy<sup>20</sup>**Purpose of writing:** Giving instructions and guidance to the young man Timothy.**Summary:**


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<sup>17</sup> Bible Knowledge Commentary/Old Testament Copyright © 1983, 2000 Cook Communications Ministries; Bible Knowledge Commentary/New Testament Copyright © 1983, 2000 Cook Communications Ministries.

<sup>18</sup> The Epistles of Timothy and Titus are collectively known as the Pastoral Epistles  
<sup>19</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, revised edition, Copyright © 1979 by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co

<sup>20</sup> Timothy's life is fully documented in the NT. See the following texts. Acts 16:1; 17:14,15; 18:5; 19:22; 20:4; Rom 16:21; 1 Cor 4:17; 16:10; 2 Cor 1:19; Phil 1:1; 2:19; Col 1:1; 1 Thess 1:1; 3:2,6; 2 Thess 1:1),



There was a real danger that teachers were trying to corrupt the simple act of faith in Christ. Arguments centred round genealogies and matters relating to the law. Paul admits that his past life was as a blasphemer, but he points to the simple gospel that should be preached.

The character aspects of leadership are given in some detail for overseers and deacons and their wives. It makes it clear that character is the stable foundation for leadership not charismatic personality. He returns again to those who speak heresy and gives examples. He also gives advice on certain family relationship matters.

## **Books of the New Testament**

## **2 Timothy 16/27**

**Title** 2 Timothy

**Author:** Paul

**Background:** Paul writes a second time to Timothy who is at Ephesus.

**Date of Writing:** 63-64. A.D.<sup>21</sup>

**To whom it was written:** Timothy

**Purpose of writing:** Encouraging Timothy to keep pure and preaching the Word faithfully. Keeping away from certain people.

### **Summary:**

The legacy of faithful family Christians influencing children cannot be over emphasised. Paul encourages Timothy not be ashamed of preaching the gospel. Paul uses his ministry as an example to encourage him. Timothy was to protect himself from a range of people who would affect his ministry which was given by the laying on of hands. He was to be a workman approved by God rather than people.

Hendriksen summed up this Epistle by saying as regards sound doctrine Timothy was to Hold on to it (Chapter 1), Teach it (Chapter 2), Abide in it (Chapter 3), and preach it (Chapter 4).<sup>22</sup>

## **Books of the New Testament**

## **Titus 17/27**

**Title** Titus

**Author:** Paul

**Background:** Paul awaiting execution writes to encourage a young minister

**Date of Writing:** From Rome 67-68 A.D.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, revised edition, Copyright © 1979 by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co

<sup>22</sup> Hendriksen, William. New Testament Commentary. 1&2 Timothy and Titus. Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh (1976) p.219

<sup>23</sup> The Applied Bible Dictionary. Kingsway Publications, Eastbourne. (1990). p. 982

**To whom it was written:** Titus

**Purpose of writing:** Advising a young minister in his duties.

**Summary:**

Paul realising that he faces execution is keen to prepare his young ministers to preach sound doctrine and appoint the right people into eldership. He knows few of them will receive the type of supervision he has given. He writes to Titus who is in Crete.

Instructions are given on the type of people to appoint to eldership. These were the same as for Timothy. Hendriksen has cross referenced them with Timothy in detail.<sup>24</sup> All the indicators are character references plus he must be an able minister of sound doctrine.

He proceeds to explain how people should be encouraged to behave specifically included are older men and women, young women and young men.

### **Books of the New Testament**

### **Philemon 18/27**

**Title** Philemon

**Author:** Paul

**Background:** Unique. The only letter Paul wrote to an individual<sup>25</sup>

**Date of Writing:** From Rome 62 A.D<sup>26</sup>

**To whom it was written:** Philemon

**Purpose of writing:** To request Philemon welcomes back a runaway slave Onesimus

**Summary:**

Paul had met up with a runaway slave Onesimus and he had been converted under his ministry and had been of great help to Paul while in prison. He is sending him back with a glowing reference and requests that he be treated more as a brother than a slave. Knox suggests that the hidden message in the letter was that Paul may keep him as he was very beneficial to him particularly as he was chained in prison.<sup>27</sup> Otherwise, why say he was 'aged', to gain sympathy? Seems out of character for this writer. The key verse is verse 13 'Whom I wish to keep with me'.

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<sup>24</sup> Hendriksen, William. New Testament Commentary. 1&2 Timothy and Titus. Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh (1976). P.347-349.

<sup>25</sup> Barclay, William. Timothy, Titus & Philemon. The Daily Study Bible. The Saint Andrew Press. Edinburgh.(1991) p.269

<sup>26</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, revised edition by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1979

<sup>27</sup> Know, J. Philemon. The Interpreters Bible. Abingdon Press, Nashville.(1955) p. 556

**Title** Hebrews

**Author:** Unknown

**Background:** Unknown

**Date of Writing:** Possibly before 70 A.D.<sup>28</sup>

**To whom it was written:** Not known

**Purpose of writing:** To show forth the mediatory work of Jesus Christ

**Summary:**

Hebrews shows that Christ and his sacrifice are better and superior to the Old Testament sacrifices and its priests. He was the fulfilment of all prophetic utterances that God had spoken to them about Christ. He is shown as superior to Melchizedek and brings in a better promise.

Christ is shown as a faithful Son and for a time made a little lower than the angels. Now, however, he holds a supreme position with the Father and even God calls Jesus, God (1:8).

A new way had been opened through the torn veil of Christ's flesh so that all may come boldly to the throne of God in time of need. Finally, faith is defined in detail.

**Title** James

**Author:** James the brother of Jesus<sup>29</sup>

**Background:** The Church is growing and Jewish believers in particular have taken the view that Christian living is an intellectual pursuit.

**Date of Writing:** Between 48-62 A.D.<sup>30</sup>

**To whom it was written:** Through persecution the Church had spread out to other countries. James writes to those congregations.

**Purpose of writing:** To produce a balance between the theory of faith and justification and works.

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<sup>28</sup> Guthrie gives a suitable commentary on why this Book is so difficult to categorise in terms of date, who it was written to and why it was written. Most of these facts are hidden from the reader. To put statements above would be speculation. See Guthrie, Donald. Hebrews. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Inter-Varsity Press, Leicester. (1983)

<sup>29</sup> There are four other contenders for the writing of this Epistle. They are James, the father of one of the 12 disciples (Lk. 6:16) James, son of Alphaeus, one of the twelve (Mt. 10:3, Mk. 3:18 & Lk. 6:15). James called James the younger (Mk. 15:40) and James the brother of John and son of Zebedee (Mt. 10:2, Lk 3:17, Lk 6.14 & Acts 1:13).

<sup>30</sup> Introduction to Book of James. New Spirit Filled Bible. Thomas Nelson Inc. (1982)..p.1749

## Summary:

James follows Jesus' teaching in many ways. He mentions the practical issues of being a Christian. It is showing works after faith not earning faith by good works. For instance, trials are genuine tests of patience. The tongue has to be controlled. James wants believers to be doers of the word not only hearers. We are told to hold all people equally, not allowing riches to influence us. The work of elders is also defined.

### Books of the New Testament

### 1 Peter 21/27

**Title** 1 Peter

**Author:** Peter

**Background:** Claudius then Nero had begun a persecution of Christians and Jews causing a movement of believers into Asia Minor (Turkey).<sup>31</sup>

**Date of Writing:** 67 A. D.<sup>32</sup>

**To whom it was written.** To the widely dispersed Church

**Purpose of writing:** To encourage Christians who were being persecuted at home and abroad when they fled.

## Summary:

The position of Jesus Christ being at the centre of a Christian's life is prominent throughout this sublime letter. Peter is preparing the readers to go through fiery trials of persecution. He exalts the person of Christ and indicates an inheritance in the future. He encourages them to honour those in authority and not give occasion for criticism of their life-style. He uses Christ as an example of patiently suffering. Advice is given on family matters and he advises elders to be faithful to the flock God has given them.

### Books of the New Testament

### 2 Peter 22/27

**Title** 2 Peter

**Author:** Peter

**Background:** It is possible Peter was waiting execution in Rome

**Date of Writing:** 64-68 A. D.<sup>33</sup>

**To whom it was written.** To the widely dispersed Church

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<sup>31</sup> The Applied Bible Dictionary. Kingsway Publications, Eastbourne. (1990). P.779

<sup>32</sup> Barclay, William. The Letters of James and Peter. The Daily Study Bible. The St Andrew's Press. Edinburgh. (1990). P. 138

<sup>33</sup> Green, Michael. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Inter-Varsity Press. Leicester. (1994) p. 41

Green indicates the problem with dating this Epistle see pages 39-41.

**Purpose of writing:** Written to warn Christians of false teachers infiltrating the Church.

**Summary:**

This Epistle found great difficulty in being included in the Canon of Scripture. The authorship is constantly questioned.

The author mentions his soon approaching death describing it as 'put of my tent' and then persuades believers to grow in all Godliness and purity. Study of the prophetic word prepares the believer to discern false teachers. He spends most of the Epistle to describing false and deceptive teachers. Although his description is startling we must remember that they are only revealed as such by the Holy Spirit otherwise no one would follow them. The Second Coming of the Lord is described and not delayed.

**Books of the New Testament**

**1 John 23/27**

**Title** 1 John

**Author:** Apostle John

**Background:** As the Church reached into the second century false teachers were influencing the Church.

**Date of Writing:** 90 A.D.<sup>34</sup>

**To whom it was written.** John writes to the churches under his influence in Asia Minor

**Purpose of writing:** John was concerned about Gnostic teaching which indicated that all flesh was evil and the spirit good.

**Summary:**

Although not shown, the writer was John, indicated by his distinctive writing. He emphasises that Christ was the incarnate Son of God. He clearly deals with sin and shows it is important to realise the God forgives us through our advocate, Jesus Christ. He writes individually to little children, fathers, and young men in terms of their level of experience in Christ. He warns about becoming part of the world's culture, warns about the Antichrist and shows how to test the spirits if they be of God.

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<sup>34</sup> 1 John. New Spirit Filled Bible. Thomas Nelson Inc. (1982)..p.1781

**Title** 2 John

**Author:** Apostle John (or John the Elder<sup>35</sup>)

**Background:** The Church was now established and John writes to keep the Church free of false doctrine.

**Date of Writing:** 90 A.D.<sup>36</sup>

**To whom it was written.** To the Elect Lady

**Purpose of writing:** Towards the end of the first century false touring preachers were bringing false teaching into the Church.

**Summary:**

Most theologians believe that the Elect Lady is in fact the Church and the children members.<sup>37</sup> There was a tradition of travelling preachers and prophets visiting churches. He first identified the members as in the truth and in love one towards another. That is important if false teachers come and try to divide the church. Love should bring loyalty not division. Part of the false teaching was to deny the incarnation of Jesus Christ which was a form of Gnosticism. They were forbidden to accept them.

**Title** 3 John

**Author:** Apostle John (or John the Elder<sup>38</sup>)

**Background:** The Church was now established and John writes to keep the Church free of overpowering leaders

**Date of Writing:** 90 A.D.<sup>39</sup>

**To whom it was written.** Gaius leader of a church

**Purpose of writing:** Gaius was having problems with an overbearing leader in the church.

**Summary:**

John recognises the character of this beloved Gaius whom he loved in truth. Gaius entertained strangers and fellow workers. He behaved faithfully both to the brethren

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<sup>35</sup> Several theologians are convinced that both 1 & 2 John were written by a respected aged Elder who had authority to write and visit churches in Asia Minor.

<sup>36</sup> Introduction to 12 John. New Spirit Filled Bible. Thomas Nelson Inc. (1982). p.1793

<sup>37</sup> Marshall, I. Howard. The Epistles of John. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Grand Rapids. (1978) p. 59-61.

<sup>38</sup> Several theologians are convinced that both 1 & 2 John were written by a respected aged Elder who had authority to write and visit churches in Asia Minor.

<sup>39</sup> Introduction to 12 John. New Spirit Filled Bible. Thomas Nelson Inc. (1982). p.1793

and strangers. Two people stand out in this church. Diotrephes seems a self-important person banning some from the church and being critical of others even putting some out of the church if they disagreed with him. The test is he who does good is of God those that do evil are not of God. Demetrius however, is termed good because of his testimony from everyone.

## **Books of the New Testament**

## **Jude 26/27**

**Title** Jude

**Author:** Jude<sup>40</sup>

**Background:** False teachers had made their way into the congregation.

**Date of Writing:** Between 67-80A.D.<sup>41</sup>

**To whom it was written.** To a specific church who had allowed a person to dominate the church and also tolerated heretics.

**Purpose of writing:** Give advice on how to deal with the problems Jude had identified in the church.

**Summary:**

Jude is known almost entirely because of its sublime doxology in vs 24-25. The warning was that individuals had crept into the church unnoticed by the leaders until they had gained control. These people are reminded how God worked in the past with such situations. It was three fold. They are reminded about the judgement on those who left Egypt but failed to enter the promised land. Angels who visited women and are now held in chains and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. He adds those who grumble and complain.

## **Books of the New Testament**

## **Revelation 27/27**

**Title** Revelation or Apocalypse

**Author:** Apostle John

**Background:** John had been banished on the Isle of Patmos for his faith.

**Date of Writing:** 81-96 A.D.<sup>42</sup>

**To whom it was written.** To the leaders of the seven Churches in Asia Minor (Western Turkey)

**Purpose of writing:** To reveal future events as believers will be persecuted but eventually triumph by Christ coming again.

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<sup>40</sup> Jude describes himself as the brother of James and therefore likely to be the brother of Jesus. See Acts 15:13, 21:18. Gal 1:19, 2:12. See also Mk 6:3.

<sup>41</sup> The Applied Bible Dictionary. Kingsway Publications, Eastbourne. (1990).p. 594

<sup>42</sup> Revelation The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible (R-Z) Abingdon Press. Nashville. (1962) p. 60-61

## Summary:

There are superb statements about who Jesus is and how he will come to redeem his people. Three chapters are given to specific letters to seven churches, overseen by John. Many statements about the churches fact not symbolic.<sup>43</sup> Some theologians have formed the doctrine of Dispensationalism from these churches. There is nothing to suggest such a doctrine. There are constant revelations about heaven, the role Jesus will play in history. The contents include seven seals, seven trumpets, six bowls ending with marriage supper of the Lamb. 148 words

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<sup>43</sup> The author has visited the seven sites on two occasions and spoken to local monks who protect the cave where John received the revelation. For instance, the Laodicean Church only had warm water in their homes through a pipeline from Hierapolis six miles away. They would know about being lukewarm.