

Episode: Other Letters Series No. 04

Narrator: Paul

Primary Scriptures: John 1:1-5

Story Summary: An introduction to the New Testament

Location: Israel

Time: circa 50 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: John 1:1, John 3:16

The New Testament is a continuation of the story told in the Old Testament that God loves mankind and wants to be in close relationship with them. However, people continually separate themselves from God by their actions and beliefs.

The New Testament reveals that God is three spirits in one being – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father sends the Son (Jesus) to earth so that all people can be reconciled to God. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus provides the way for all people to be reconciled to God by believing in Jesus and being his follower.

The Bible is separated into two sections named the Old Testament and the New Testament. The New Testament tells of the life and teachings of Jesus, the history of the Church, and letters from early church leaders. The writings of the New Testament are called “books.”

The first four books of the New Testament (*Matthew – John*) are named Gospels. *Matthew*, *Mark* and *Luke* are written in similar fashions have contain much of the same material, often verbatim. The book of *John* was written much later and tells many other stories of Jesus and has a different viewpoint. These four books tell of the births, lives, teachings and ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus. They also tell of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. These books cover the time period of about 5 BC to 30 AD.

The next book is named *Acts* or *Acts of the Apostles*. It tells of the history of the early Church and first Christians from about 30 AD to 62 AD. Much of *Acts* tells of the actions and decisions of the early church leaders such as Stephen, Peter, James, and Paul. Acts 13-28 tell of Paul’s three missionary journeys and his first imprisonment in Rome. It is in those chapters that the many of the early churches are established.

The next 21 books (*Romans – Jude*) are letters from the early church leaders explaining the teachings of Jesus and how Christians should act and believe.

- The first 13 books, from *Romans* to *Philemon*, are letters written by Paul to churches and individuals
- *Hebrews* is a letter written by an unknown author
- Following are one book by James, two by Peter, three by John, and one by Jude.

The last book of the New Testament is named *Revelation*. It is a letter to seven churches and to early Christians using apocalyptic language to tell them what will happen in the future, and encouraging them to remain faithful followers of Jesus.