

# The New Testament

## Bible Overview 19

‘In the Old the New is concealed,  
In the New, the Old Revealed’

St Augustine, c. 400 A.D.

‘The New Testament just explains everything the Old Testament said anyway,’  
Dave O’Brien, Belper Sports centre Hot Tub, c. 14 March 2009 A.D.

### **1. Between the Testaments**

We left the Jews under the power of the Persian Empire. Some remained in exile around the Middle East, others returned to Judea. After the Persians came the Greeks (Alexander the Great), who introduced Greek language and culture to the region. During this period, for example, the OT was translated into Greek. From c198 B.C. the Syrian Seleucid empire took control of Palestine, and banned all Jewish religious practices, until the Jews rebelled in 164 and restored temple worship. They then were ruled by the Jewish Maccabean family, but after a glorious start soon started fighting amongst themselves. They thus invited the Romans in (!). In 63A.D. Pompey entered the temple and brought Roman dominance that would last until the fall of the Roman empire in 4<sup>th</sup> Century. In 66A.D. the Jews rebelled and were crushed, the Temple being destroyed in A.D 70. From then on Jerusalem was a Gentile city.

Assyrians	→	Babylonians	→	Persians	→	Greeks	→	Maccabeans	→	Romans
Destroy Israel		Exile Judah		Return					Jesus	Temple Destroyed

### **2. From Shadow to Reality**

Jesus is Adam who obeyed.

Abel who was innocently slaughtered by his brothers.

Enoch who was taken up to be with God.

Noah who saves the world through God’s judgment.

Abraham who faithfully obeys.

Isaac, who actually is sacrificed by his Father.

Job who suffers innocently, but never questions God.

Joseph who rules over his brothers, and is exalted after suffering.

Moses who leads his people to the Promised Land.

Aaron the High Priest, who brings people into the presence of God.

David the true King, and conqueror of his people's enemies.

Solomon, the wisest of men.

Jonah

Eve's Son

Ezra

Samuel

Daniel

Jeremiah

Ehud

Hosea

The Queen of Sheeba

The Passover Lamb

The Temple

Prophet

Priest

King

Israel

### **3. The New Israel: Son of God**

What of God's promises to Abraham, that his people would have a land, be of great number, be a blessing to the nations, and be in relationship with God? What had happened to Israel?

Matthew 1: 1 A Son of Abraham

2:13-18 Flight to and from Egypt, slaughter of babies.

3:13 River Jordan Baptism

4:1-2 Guided by Spirit into wilderness for forty days.

4:3-10 Israel and Adam-like tests met.

5 begins ministry by teaching and gathering a crowd at a mountain.

→ Hosea 2:15 'Out of Egypt I have called my Son'

→ Isaiah 1:2 'Sons have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me'

→ Matthew 1:17 'This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased'

#### **Spot the Difference**

'Jesus defeats the devil by quoting Scripture. We must follow in his footsteps and defeat the devil too, also by quoting Scripture.'

From what we've seen so far, how could this thought be improved?

**We're good at knowing Jesus died for us: it's also important to remember Jesus lived for us too! If we'd looked at Luke, we'd see that Jesus is also 'Son of God' in place of Adam: so he is living for every human being (cf Luke 3:38-4:12)**

#### **4. The New David Son of God**

Romans 1:3-4:

(God's) Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup>and who through the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God<sup>[b]</sup> by his resurrection from the dead

How can Jesus be declared Son of God because of the resurrection? Hasn't he always been God's Son?

Remember God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:

When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son.

**Jesus is the King who will reign forever: only possible if he can beat death! At his resurrection it was shown (or 'declared') that Jesus was this *human* Davidic king. This King the OT promised would rule the world and conquer his enemies, bring the Jews into safety.**

#### **5. The Day of the Lord**

The OT prophets had looked forward to the day when judgment would come and the world be righted. On this day all God's promises would be fulfilled. As we come to the NT we see that Jesus re-defines the 'day'.

The 'Day' turns out to be in three stages:

Beginning: Jesus

Jesus lives as the perfect human and perfect Israelite, and dies as the 'covenant breaker'. He rises from the dead to be the Davidic world ruler.

Continuation: Church through Spirit

At Pentecost (Acts 2) the church is filled with the Spirit to go and make disciples of all nations, 'conquering' them with the Gospel. The Spirit will bring dead people to life, and allow believers to (often slowly!) grow in holiness.

Finish: Second Coming and New Creation

Jesus will return to judge everybody, and separate sheep from goats. Everyone will then recognize him as king, and people will spend eternity in hell or the New Creation: a renewed earth.



Day of Lord  
Begins: Jesus  
dies and rises,  
Spirit given.

Church  
continues his  
mission.

Jesus returns to  
judge and  
separate. Earth  
renewed.

So as those living in the church age or ‘the last days’, we inherit the promises of Abraham. People of all races are God’s people, we live ‘in Christ’, are used to bring blessing to the ends of the earth, and have God dwelling with us through the Holy Spirit. The Kingdom of God is the phrase used in the gospels to describe the place where believers live: not a geographic Kingdom (yet) but the place where Jesus rules. The Kingdom advances when, and only when, people become Christians, servants of the King.

The letters in the NT teach how to live in this in between age, as in between people. We need to remember we have been saved completely, but still await perfection. For individuals we too have the ‘Day of the Lord’ pattern:

**Beginning:** Forgiven, Justified (declared good and pure) in Christ. Free from penalty of sin

**Continuation:** Sanctified (Becoming more holy and Christ like). Free from power of sin

**Future:** Glorified (*Made* good and pure). Free from presence of sin.

So for e.g. Hebrews: Don’t go back to Jewish practices: see they pointed to Jesus.

1 Corinthians: You haven’t arrived yet, you’re not fully ‘spiritual’.

Ephesians: You have been saved, so live it out!

## 6. And Finally...The Beginning

Revelation 21-2

We await not a ‘spiritual’ heaven but a (re-) new Earth. Soul and body will be reunited, and there will be no more covenant breaking or curses. Covenant breakers and Satan will be eternally kept outside, in hell. We are thus in one sense back at the beginning, in Eden (Rev 22), but have now progressed to a Garden city which cannot be ruined. Really this should be no surprise: God’s plan from Genesis 1 has not failed!

## Propitiation: The Heart of the Cross

**Reconciliation**  
Jesus makes us friends with God again as His wrath is gone.

**Justification**  
We are declared 'not guilty' because we, in Jesus, have served our sentence.

