

INTRODUCTION:

1) TODAY WE WILL BE LOOKING AT *GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW TESTAMENT*

THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1) PREPARATION FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT
- 2) SETTING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
- 3) BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
- 4) CHRIST IN EVERY BOOK OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

PART 1 – PREPARATION FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT:

Q 1) WHAT IS THE TIME BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT KNOWN AS?

Q 2) HOW MANY YEARS WERE THERE BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT?

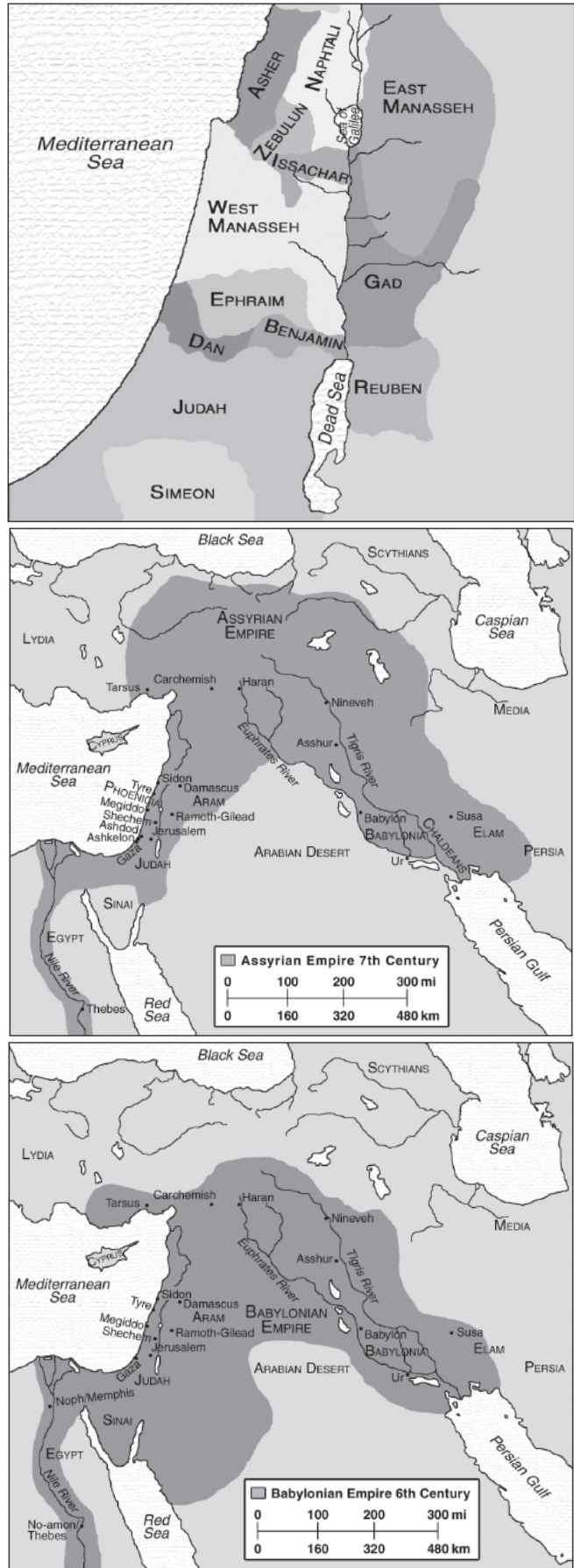
Q 3) WHO RULED THE WORLD AT THE TIME OF THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Q 4) WHO DID GOD USE TO PREPARE THE WORLD FOR CHRIST?

FIGURE 1)

Four Time Periods from Malachi to Christ (Barker 1985, 1430)		
Period	Date	Event
Persian (539–330 BC)	430–420	Malachi, a prophet during the time of Nehemiah, wrote the last book of the Old Testament. The Persians controlled Judah for about one hundred years after Nehemiah, but they allowed the Jews to worship God.
Greek or “Hellenistic” (330–166 BC)	334–323	By conquering the Persian armies in Macedonia, Alexander the Great gained control of Europe and the Middle East. He allowed the Jews to follow their religion.
	323	At Alexander’s death, his kingdom split. Two of his generals, Ptolemy and Seleucus, started dynasties (kingdoms in which one family ruled for several generations).
	320–198	Ptolemy and the kings who ruled after him reigned in Egypt and controlled Israel. Still, they allowed Jews to worship the God of Israel. Seleucus set up his kingdom in Antioch, Syria.
	198	The Seleucids gained control of Palestine* and, for a time, gave the Jews relative religious freedom.
	175–164	A Syrian tyrant named Antiochus IV Epiphanes (meaning “God revealed”) began to rule. He attempted to Hellenize the Jews; that is, he tried to force them to forsake Jewish ways and follow Greek (Hellenistic) ways. He tried to destroy all copies of the Torah or Pentateuch. This caused most Jews to rebel in 167.
Maccabean or Hasmonean (166–63 BC)	167	A messenger from Antiochus IV ordered a Jewish priest named Mattathias to offer a Greek sacrifice. Mattathias refused. When another Jew stepped forward to offer it, Mattathias killed both him and the king’s messenger. The priest and his five sons destroyed the Greek altar and fled to the mountains. Thus began the Maccabean revolt. <i>Maccabeus</i> , meaning “hammer,” was the name some gave to Judas, one of Mattathias’ sons. Others refer to this period as the Hasmonean period, based on the name Hasmon. He was the great-grandfather of Mattathias.
Maccabean or Hasmonean (166–63 BC) (continued)	167	Another Jewish group of this period was the <i>Hasidim</i> , which means “holy ones.” Members of this group were loyal to the law of Moses and joined with the Maccabeans in their revolt. In time, the Hasidim split into two groups: (1) the Essenes, who withdrew from society and lived alone, and (2) the Pharisees, who comprised the larger group from the Hasidim (Douglas 1978, 981).
Roman (63 BC through the time of Christ)	63	When the Roman General Pompey conquered Jerusalem, the provinces of Palestine came under Rome. Herod the Great was the ruler of all of Palestine when Christ was born.

FIGURE 2)



Q 5) IN WHAT TWO WAYS DID THE JEWISH RELIGION PREPARE THE WORLD FOR CHRIST?

Q 6) IN WHAT WAY DID THE SEPTUAGINT PREPARE THE WORLD FOR CHRIST?

Q 7) WHAT DID THE PHARISEES BELIEVE?

Q 8) WHO DID THE SADDUCEES BECOME AN OPPOSITION TO?

Q 9) WHAT TYPE OF LEADERS WERE THE SADDUCEES?

Q 10) WHAT HAPPENED AS A RESULT OF GREEK BEING THE COMMON LANGUAGE OF THE WORLD?

FIGURE 3)



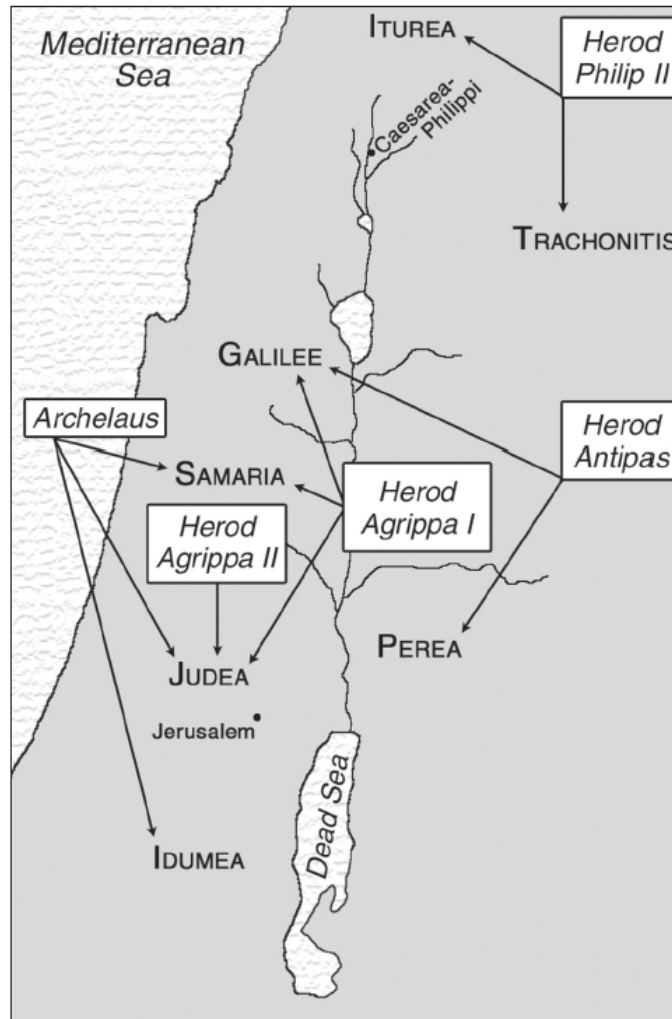
Q 11) IN WHAT TWO WAYS DID GOD USE THE ROMANS TO PREPARE THE WORLD FOR CHRISTIANITY?

FIGURE 4)

Roman Caesars or Emperors Related to the Early Years of the New Testament			
Date	Caesar	Explanation	Bible Reference
30 BC–AD 14	Caesar Augustus	Ordered a census at the time of Jesus' birth	Luke 2:1
AD 14–37	Tiberius	Ruled during Jesus' ministry and death	Luke 3:1
AD 37–41	Caligula	Demanded that people worship him	none
AD 41–54	Claudius	Ruled during a great famine Expelled the Jews from Rome	Acts 11:28 Acts 18:2
AD 54–68	Nero	Persecuted Christians; Peter and Paul were martyred during his rule. Was the Caesar at Paul's trial	2 Tim. 4:16–17 Acts 25:10–12 Acts 27:24
AD 69–79	Vespasian	Ordered his son, Titus, to destroy Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70	Luke 21:20
AD 81–96	Domitian	Was probably the Caesar persecuting believers when John wrote Revelation	Rev. 17:8–11

PART 2 – SETTING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

FIGURE 5)



Q 12) WHO RULED OVER JEWISH RELIGIOUS MATTERS DURING THE NEW TESTAMENT TIMES?

Q 13) WHO WERE THE THREE HIGH PRIESTS MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Q 14) WHAT WERE THE TWO PLACES OF WORSHIP MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AND WHAT WERE THEIR FUNCTIONS?

PART 3 – THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

FIGURE 6)

The New Testament				
Group	Book Title	Book Subgroup	Date*	Author
Historical Books (5)	Matthew	Synoptic Gospels	60–69	Matthew
	Mark		55–65	Mark
	Luke		60–63	Luke
	John		80–95	John
	Acts		63	Luke
Paul's Epistles (13)	Romans	Salvation Epistles	57	Paul
	1 Corinthians		55–56	
	2 Corinthians		55–56	
	Galatians		48–49	
	Ephesians	Prison Epistles	60–62	
	Philippians		60–62	
	Colossians		60–62	
	Philemon		60–62	
	1 Thessalonians	Epistles about the future	51–52	
	2 Thessalonians		51–52	
	1 Timothy	Pastoral Epistles	62–66	
	2 Timothy		67	
	Titus		62–66	
Hebrews and the General Epistles (8)	Hebrews	Epistles to suffering believers	67–69	Unknown
	James		45–49	James
	1 Peter		60–63	Peter
	2 Peter	Epistles to correct false teachings	66–68	Peter
	1 John		85–95	John
	2 John		85–95	John
	3 John		85–95	John
	Jude		70–80	Jude
Apocalyptic	Revelation		95	John

*Approximate only. Exact dates are not certain.

**PART 4 – CHRIST IN EVERY BOOK OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:
FIGURE 7)**

New Testament		
Group	Theme	
History (Matthew–Acts)	The Gospels record Christ's appearance and tell of Christ's working in human flesh. Acts shows the continuing ministry of Christ and tells of Christ's working through His body, the church.	
The Epistles (Romans–Jude)	The Epistles interpret and apply Christ. They describe the meaning of His death and resurrection, explain and apply redemption and sanctification, defend our freedom in Christ, explain our sufferings for Christ, and describe our blessings in Christ.	
Prophecy (Revelation)	Revelation announces Christ's return as King of kings and Lord of lords. Whereas Genesis records what God started through Christ, Revelation records what God will finish through Him. Jesus will complete what God started in Eden. He will judge evil, and all of creation will worship Him.	
Christ is the theme of each group of books in the New Testament.		
Pictures of Christ in the Gospels and Acts		
Book	Picture or Description of Christ	Reference
Matthew	The Messiah—King of the Jews	2:1–2; 27:37
Mark	The Servant who came to redeem us	entire book
Luke	The Son of Man and Savior for all	6:5; 19:10
John	The Son of God who gives eternal life to all who believe in Him	3:16–17
Acts	The One who baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit The One who empowers believers to witness for Him The ascending Lord The One standing at the Father's right hand	1:5; 2:4 1:8 1:9 7:56
Pictures of Christ in Paul's Thirteen Letters		
Book	Picture or Description of Christ	Reference
Romans	Our righteousness The One who delivers us from being slaves of sin	3:22 6:15–18
1 Corinthians	The Firstfruits from among the dead	15:20
2 Corinthians	The One who was made to be sin for us	5:21
Galatians	The End of the Law	3:10, 13
Ephesians	The Head over all powers and authorities for the church	1:20–23
Philippians	The One through whom God supplies all our needs	4:19
Colossians	The Image of the invisible God The Creator The Head of the body, the church	1:15–18 2:9 1:18
1 Thessalonians	Our returning Lord	4:15–18
2 Thessalonians	The world's returning Judge	1:6–10
1 Timothy	The only Mediator between God and humanity	2:5
2 Timothy	The Giver of crowns to faithful shepherds and believers	4:8
Titus	Our great God and Savior who gives us grace to be holy	2:13
Philemon	Our Lord and Master	entire book

FIGURE 8)

Pictures of Christ in the Eight Letters for All		
Book	Picture or Description of Christ	Reference
Hebrews	The One who represents God perfectly and is better than all Our Great High Priest who offered His own blood	1:3 9:11–15
James	The One who demands faith that works The Healer of the sick	1–5 5:15
1 Peter	The Shepherd of our souls who suffered for us	2:22–25
2 Peter	The patient Lord who will return to judge the earth	2:8–10
1 John	The Word of life who came by water and blood Our Standard for truth and practice	1:1; 5:6 1:5–7; 3:3, 16; 4:17
2 John	The union of truth and love	3
3 John	The One who changed the “Son of Thunder” into the apostle of love and truth	entire book
Jude	The Lord coming with thousands upon thousands of His saints	14
Pictures of Christ in Revelation		
Book	Picture or Description of Christ	Reference
Revelation	The One coming with the clouds and whom all nations will see	1:7
	The One walking among the lampstands, who was dead but is alive for ever and ever	1:13, 18
	The One who holds the keys of death and Hades	1:18
	The One who hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans	2:6
	The One with a sharp two-edged sword	2:12
	The Son of God with eyes like blazing fire and feet like polished bronze	2:18
	The Lamb who takes the scroll from the Father’s right hand	5:6–7
	Israel’s Son who will rule the nations with an iron rod	12:5
	The Bridegroom who will come for His bride	19:7
	The King of kings and Lord of lords	19:16
	The Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End	22:13

