

EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT

TEST ANSWER KEY

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LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Moving from west to east, list the four geographic regions of Palestine.

- Coastal Plain
- Central Highlands
- Judean Wilderness
- Jordan Valley

2. Why is it significant that Jesus traveled through Samaria to minister to the woman at the well?

Most Jews traveling from Galilee to Judea purposefully avoided Samaria.

3. List three ways the Greek language contributed to the early church.

- A common language made it easier to share the gospel.
- It was a precise language, perfect for communicating theological concepts.
- The Greek translation of the Old Testament (the *Septuagint*) was the scripture of the early church.

4. To what does *pax Romana* refer?

Two centuries of brutally enforced peace within the Roman Empire

5. In what ways was a Jewish synagogue used?

A synagogue was used as a place of worship, a school, a religious and civil court, and a center for social activities.

6. What beliefs did Pharisees and Christians have in common?

Like Christians, the Pharisees believed in resurrection and angels and had respect for the Old Testament.

7. What part of the Old Testament did the Sadducees accept as authoritative?

Only the *Torah*

8. What beliefs did the Sadducees reject?

They rejected belief in angels, spirits, and resurrection.

9. What two issues inspired the formation of the canon?

- False doctrine
- Persecution

10. List the three standards used in establishing the New Testament canon.

- The author was an apostle or was closely associated with one.
- The message of the book must:
 - Not conflict with the Old Testament.
 - Be faithful to the message of Jesus.
 - Be spiritually edifying.
- The book had to be accepted as scripture by the entire church.

11. What question do we ask when we consider the issue of textual integrity?

Is our text faithful to the original text?

12. Write Galatians 4:4-5 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 2

MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE

1. Why are the first three gospels called the Synoptic Gospels?

They provide different perspectives on many of the same events.

2. What characteristics of the Gospel of Matthew suggest that it was originally addressed to a Jewish audience?

- Matthew does not explain Jewish customs.
- Matthew quotes the Old Testament more than any other Gospel writer does.
- Matthew gives special attention to Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.
- Matthew primarily uses the phrase "the kingdom of heaven."

3. List three major themes in Matthew.

- Jesus as the King
- Jesus as the Fulfillment of the Old Testament
- The Sermons of Jesus

4. List three major themes in Mark.

- Jesus the Servant
- Jesus the Son of God
- The Messianic Secret

5. Who were the three groups involved in the Messianic Secret? Why did Jesus command each to be silent?

- Unclean spirits: Jesus did not want any association with demons.
- Some of those he had healed: Physical healing was not the primary focus of Jesus' earthly ministry.
- The disciples: Even after Peter testified that Jesus was the Messiah, the disciples did not fully understand why Jesus came.

6. Who was Luke?

Luke was a well-educated Gentile, a doctor who traveled with Paul and was with him near the end of Paul's life.

7. What does Luke 1:4 imply about Theophilus?

Theophilus was a new believer who had been instructed about Jesus' life.

8. List four major themes in Luke.

- Jesus the Son of Man
- Jesus the Savior of the World
- The Importance of Prayer
- The Role of the Holy Spirit

9. What does the Chalcedonian Creed teach about the nature of Jesus?

Jesus is truly God and truly man.

10. Luke includes many stories about people who had little or no social status. Name three of the groups or individuals mentioned in the lesson text. (Any three)

- Shepherds
- Women
- Anna
- Mary
- Zacchaeus
- Tax collectors
- A Samaritan leper
- A thief

11. From Luke, name three examples of the Holy Spirit's involvement in Jesus' life. (Any three)

- Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at his baptism.
- The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted.
- The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus as he returned to Galilee.
- Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit.

12. Write Matthew 5:48, Mark 10:45, and Luke 19:10 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 3

JOHN

1. Why is Polycarp's testimony to the authorship of John of particular importance?

He was a disciple of John.

2. What dramatic claim is made at the beginning of the Gospel of John?

Jesus was the eternal Word of God.

3. In John 1-12, what quantities and what kinds of evidence are given to support that claim?

- Seven of Jesus' miracles
- Seven statements by Jesus that testify to his deity

4. List the signs described in John 1-12.

- Turning water into wine at Cana
- Healing an official's son in Capernaum
- Healing the invalid at Bethesda
- Feeding the 5,000
- Walking on the water
- Healing a man born blind
- Raising Lazarus from the dead

5. Give three examples of Jesus' testimony to his deity. (Any three)

- Jesus' testimony to Nicodemus
- Jesus' testimony to the Samaritan woman
- Jesus' testimony after healing the man at Bethesda
- Jesus' testimony after feeding the 5,000
- Jesus' testimony at the Feast of Tabernacles
- Jesus' testimony that "...before Abraham was, I am"
- Jesus' testimony at the Feast of Dedication

6. What was the response of the Jewish leaders to Jesus' testimony of deity?

They tried to stone him.

7. In Jesus' high priestly prayer, he prayed for what three things?
 - For himself: that he would be glorified through the Father
 - For the disciples: that they would be preserved and sanctified
 - For all believers: that their unity would testify to the world
8. Write John 20:30-31 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 4

ACTS

1. Why was Ephesus a strategic place for Paul to plant a church?

Ephesus was the capital city of the province of Asia.

2. Why was Rome a strategic place for Paul to evangelize?

Rome was the capital city of the entire Roman Empire.

3. Which Roman emperors persecuted the early church?

- Nero
- Domitian

4. Why is it likely that Acts was written in the late 50s or early 60s?

At the end of Acts, Paul is under house arrest in Rome. He was martyred around 66 or 67 A.D.

5. What was the core message preached by the apostles?

- The lordship of Jesus Christ
- The historical truth of the gospel
- Salvation by grace through faith

6. Who was the first Christian martyr?

Stephen

7. How did the gospel spread beyond Jerusalem?

Persecution pushed the believers out of Jerusalem into the rest of Judea and to Samaria. As they fled, they carried the gospel with them.

8. Which multicultural church was the primary missionary-sending church of the mid-first century?

The church in Antioch

9. What four things did the Jerusalem Council require Gentile converts to avoid?

- Eating meat offered to idols
- Eating meat that had been strangled
- Eating meat with the blood in it
- Sexual immorality

10. What were the positive results of Paul and Barnabas's disagreement in Acts 15?

Silas became a valuable worker in the church, and the efforts of Paul and Barnabas were doubled by their separate work.

11. Write Acts 1:7-8 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 5

ROMANS

1. List Paul's three purposes for writing Romans.
 - Immediate purpose: To address concerns related to the church in Rome
 - Personal purpose: To explain his future plans for evangelism
 - Ultimate purpose: To teach how people are made right with God
2. List four truths about the gospel found in the introduction to Romans.
 - The gospel was prophesied in the Old Testament.
 - The gospel proclaims Jesus as the Messiah.
 - The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, both Jew and Gentile.
 - The gospel reveals the righteousness of God.
3. List the three groups that stand condemned in Romans 1-3.
 - Gentiles
 - Moralists
 - Jews
4. In Romans 6, what is Paul's response to someone who asks if we can continue living in sin so that grace may abound?

“By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?” (Romans 6:2).
5. In one sentence each, list three interpretations of Romans 7:7-25.
 - Paul is describing the normal Christian life.
 - Paul is describing the life of a believer who is not fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit.
 - Paul is describing the life of an awakened sinner.
6. Paul responds to the problem of Israel's unbelief with three truths. List those truths.
 - God's promises were always for believers.
 - Israel has been rejected for her unbelief.
 - Israel's rejection is temporary, not final.

7. From Romans 12-15, list three practical aspects of living out the righteousness of God.
(Any three)

- We use our spiritual gifts to serve others.
- We interact with others with Christlikeness.
- We submit to the governing authorities.
- We fulfill the law through love.
- We do not judge our brother.
- We do not exercise our freedom in a way that causes a weaker brother to stumble.
- We follow the example of Christ.

8. Write Romans 1:16-17 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 6

CORINTHIANS AND GALATIANS

1. Why was Corinth an important city for Paul's evangelism strategy?

Its location drew sailors from across the Roman Empire.

2. Who worked with Paul in planting the church in Corinth?

Aquila and Priscilla

3. What three problems in the church motivated Paul to write 1 Corinthians?

- There was division.
- Open immorality was being tolerated.
- Paul's apostolic authority had been challenged.

4. What phrase introduces each question that Paul answers in 1 Corinthians?

"Now concerning..."

5. List three themes addressed by Paul in 2 Corinthians.

- Defense of Paul's Apostleship
- Defense of Paul's Integrity
- Plans for Paul's Third Visit

6. What is Paul's purpose for writing the Galatians?

Paul's purpose for writing the Galatians is to call them away from the false gospel of the Judaizers and back to the true gospel of salvation through faith in Christ alone.

7. What did the Judaizers teach about how we are justified? (Either answer is acceptable)

They taught that we are justified by faith in Christ plus obedience to the Jewish Law.

or

We are justified by faith plus obedience to the Law.

8. What is a legalist?

A person who attempts to earn salvation by obeying God's law.

9. To what four things did Paul point in his argument against legalism?

- His experience
- The Galatians' experience
- Abraham's experience
- The Law itself

10. According to Paul, how is the Law valuable for believers?

Through it we know how to live in a manner that pleases God.

11. Write 1 Corinthians 1:20-21 and Galatians 5:22-23 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 7

EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, AND PHILEMON

1. When and from what city were the Prison Epistles written?

In the early A.D. 60s from Rome

2. Why are no personal greetings included in Ephesians?

The most likely reason is that Ephesians, like Colossians, was intended to be shared among several churches in Asia Minor.

3. Name the two large sections of Ephesians.

- Doctrine: What God has done for the church
- Application: What God is doing in the church

4. According to Ephesians 1, what is the Father's role in our salvation? The Son's? The Spirit's?

- The Father: Election
- The Son: Redemption
- The Spirit: Preservation

5. Define *election*.

Election is God's sovereign choice for faith in Christ to be the only means of salvation.

6. According to Ephesians 3, what is the mystery of the gospel?

The church is made up of both Jews and Gentiles in Christ.

7. List two dangers faced by the Philippian church.

- External danger: The false teaching of Judaizers
- Internal danger: Division between church members

8. In Philippians 2, what does it mean that Christ Jesus "humbled himself"?

He gave up the privileges that belonged to him as king of the universe. He humbled himself by taking on humanity.

9. The Colossian heresy included a mixture of false ideas from which three influences?

- Orthodox Judaism
- Jewish mysticism
- Paganism

10. To what does *syncretism* refer?

Syncretism refers to the blending of more than one religion.

11. Name three things the Prison Epistles teach today's church.

- Doctrine must be applied in daily life.
- Spiritual warfare is real, but Christ has already won the final victory.
- The gospel of reconciliation must be lived out in the real world.

12. Write Ephesians 4:11-16 and Colossians 3:1-4 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 8

THESSALONIANS

1. Why were the Thessalonians familiar with suffering for the name of Christ?

The church at Thessalonica was born in a time of persecution.

2. List three ways in which Paul encourages the church at Thessalonica in the face of opposition.

- Assuring them of his prayers
- Reminding them of his own example of faithfulness in suffering
- Thanking God for their faithfulness

3. What do the Thessalonians already know about the timing of Christ's return?

Christ will return at an unexpected time.

4. Who makes and keeps believers holy?

God, who calls believers to holiness, is the one who makes and keeps us holy.

5. If a primary message of 1 Thessalonians is "Christ will return," what is the primary message of 2 Thessalonians?

Christ has not yet returned.

6. When we preach on the Lord's return, what message should we emphasize?

Christ will return; make sure that you live in the way you want to be found when he returns.

7. Write 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 9

TIMOTHY AND TITUS

1. What is the most likely date range for the writing of the Pastoral Epistles?

A.D. 64-67

2. What were Paul's two purposes for writing 1 Timothy?

- To give Timothy instructions regarding false teachers, matters of church policy, and the appointment of church officers
- To encourage Timothy in his position as pastor

3. How is Paul's testimony an encouragement to Timothy when facing false teachers?

Paul's testimony gives Timothy confidence in the power of Christ to change lives.

4. What did bishops do? What were their responsibilities?

Bishops taught and preached. They were responsible for caring for the flock and guarding believers from spiritual harm.

5. What were deacons specifically responsible for? What does the Greek word *diakonos* mean?

Deacons were specifically responsible for areas of physical service. *Diakonos* means "servant."

6. Who was Titus?

Titus was a Gentile believer, probably converted under Paul's ministry, who assisted Paul in ministry.

7. For what purpose was the Epistle to Titus written?

Titus was written to guide a young pastor in building up the local church.

8. What are the two motivations for good works that Paul gives in Titus?

- That no one blasphemes God's Word because of a believer's bad behavior.
- That a believer's behavior brings honor to the doctrines of God.

9. Why is it significant that Paul wants Mark to come to him (2 Timothy 4:11)?

Mark had been unreliable in the past, but he has now proven himself faithful.

10. What four things do the Pastoral Epistles teach believers today?

- The importance of right doctrine
- Qualifications for church leaders
- The importance of good works as a demonstration of the gospel
- Our calling to lifelong faithfulness

11. Write 2 Timothy 4:7-8 and Titus 2:11-14 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 10

HEBREWS AND JAMES

1. Why are the letter to the Hebrews and the letters written by James, Peter, John, and Jude called “General Epistles”?

They are called General Epistles because they have no specific audience or they were written to people about whom we know little.

2. Name two arguments in favor of Paul’s authorship of Hebrews. (Any two)

- Hebrews emphasizes the person and work of Christ.
- The author is associated with Timothy.
- The benediction in the final chapter is similar to Paul’s other benedictions.

3. Name two arguments against Paul’s authorship of Hebrews. (Any two)

- Hebrews never uses the phrase “Christ Jesus.”
- The author says that he heard the gospel from the apostles.
- Hebrews does not begin and end with the personal greetings typically found in Paul’s letters.

4. List two ways in which the book of Hebrews shows great respect for the Old Testament.

- The heroes in Hebrews 11 are people from the Old Testament.
- The lessons taught in Hebrews are based on texts from the Old Testament.

5. Why is the new covenant better than the old covenant?

The new covenant is better because it fulfills the promise of the incomplete old covenant.

6. What is the difference between a backslider and an apostate?

A backslider has fallen into sin but still accepts the truth of the Christian faith. By contrast, an apostate denies the truth of the Christian faith.

7. When did James, the half-brother of Jesus, come to believe in Jesus as Messiah?

He came to believe in Jesus as Messiah after the resurrection.

8. To whom is James referring with his use of the Greek term *diaspora*?

James is referring to persecuted Jewish believers who live outside of Judea.

9. In 1-2 paragraphs, explain to whom Paul and James were writing and what they each meant by using the word “justified” in Romans 3:28 and James 2:24. (Students should write something similar to the following.)

Paul addresses people who are attempting to earn salvation through works (obedience to the Law). Paul says that we are justified—made righteous before God—by God’s grace, which is received by faith.

James addresses people who view faith as nothing more than mental belief. James says we are justified—shown to be believers—by our actions.

10. Define *antinomianism*.

Antinomianism is the false teaching that believers are free to follow their fleshly desires because they are justified by faith, not by obedience to the Law.

11. Write Hebrews 4:14-16 and James 2:17-18 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 11

PETER, JOHN, AND JUDE

1. How does Peter use the word *Babylon* in 1 Peter 5:13?

Peter uses *Babylon* to refer to Rome as the enemy of God's people.

2. What was the external danger faced by the church in 1 Peter?

Persecution

3. What was the internal danger faced by the church in 2 Peter?

False teaching

4. 2 John is addressed to "the elect lady..." To which two things could this refer?

- A lady who allowed a church to meet in her house
- A local church known to John

5. What two truths are important in 1 John's teaching about sin?

- God provides strength for a victorious life.
- God provides grace for those who fall.

6. According to 1 John, by what three things are the lives of God's children characterized?

- Obedience to truth
- Freedom from willful sin
- Love for fellow believers

7. What is the primary purpose of 3 John?

The primary purpose of 3 John is to teach about Christian hospitality.

8. How was Jude related to Jesus?

Jude was a half-brother of Jesus.

9. Write 1 Peter 1:6-7, 1 John 1:6-7, and Jude 1:24-25 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)

LESSON 12

REVELATION

1. The Roman Empire required people to refer to Caesar as *dominus et deus noster*. What does that Latin phrase mean?

Our lord and god

2. Revelation was most likely written during the later years of which emperor's reign? Which years did he reign?

Domitian (A.D. 81-96)

3. Where is the island of Patmos?

In the Aegean Sea

4. List three ways in which John presents the truth that Jesus is Lord.

- In messages to the seven churches
- In visions of God on his throne and of Christ as the triumphant Lamb
- In a view of history from heaven's perspective

5. Name two characteristics of apocalyptic literature.

- Symbols
- Visions

6. In one sentence each, define the four views of Revelation.

- Preterist View: Revelation took place in the Roman Empire.
- Historicist View: Revelation is a symbolic view of church history.
- Idealist View: Revelation is purely a symbol of the battle between good and evil.
- Futurist View: Revelation 4-22 describes future events.

7. List four views of the future among futurists.

- Classical premillennialism
- Dispensational premillennialism
- Postmillennialism
- Amillennialism

8. List the three major themes in Revelation.

- Jesus Is Lord
- God Is in Control
- Victory for the People of God

9. Write Revelation 3:20-21 from memory.

(Check memorized verses against Bible.)