

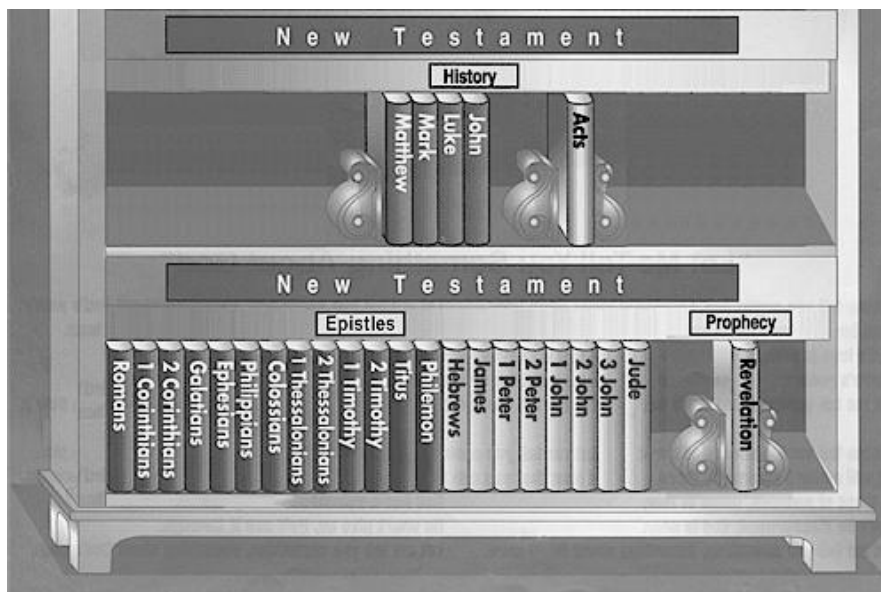
Introduction to the Bible – Week 4

Looking back on last week

New Testament

27 books:

- history (the Gospels and Acts)
- epistles (letters) (Romans – Jude)
- prophecy (Revelation)



Overview of the Life of Jesus

Eternal Preexistence (John 1:1-3, 14)

Miraculous Birth (Matt. 1 & 2; Luke 1 & 2)

Baptism and Temptation (Mark 1)

Public Ministry

Preaches a Revolutionary Gospel
 Calls Disciples
 “Signs & Wonders”
 Violates Religious Traditions
 Associates with Outcasts
 Trains His Disciples “On the Go”

His Final Week

Weeps Over the City
 Confronts and Warns the Religious Establishment
 Washes the Disciples’ Feet, eats the Last Supper, & Encourages His Disciples

Garden of Gethsemane

Betrayal

Arrest

Denial

“Trials”

Scourging & Crucifixion

“Father forgive them”

“My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?”

“It is Finished”

“Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit”

Temple Veil Torn

Burial, Sorrow & Doubt of the Disciples

Resurrection

Commissions the Disciples

The Gospels

Bible books:

Timeline:

Between the Testaments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Last Old Testament book written 	400
Jesus' 1st Coming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The birth of Christ ▪ Jesus begins his public ministry ▪ Jesus' death & resurrection 	4 B.C. 30 A.D. 33
The Church Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The birth of the Church ▪ The gospel spreads 	33
Jesus' 2nd Coming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jesus returns as King ▪ Satan's rebellion destroyed 	? ? + 1000

What is a gospel?

“Gospel” means _____.

Why are the Gospels important?

- Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises to _____ and _____ (Matt. 1:1).
- Jesus is the _____ of the Bible (John 5:39; Luke 24:44).
- Jesus explains _____.

John 1:14

John 14:9 Jesus replied, “Philip, don't you even yet know who I am, even after all the time I have been with you? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!”

“There has been a tendency for Christians to invite others into sacred space—sometimes seeker friendly sacred space. The incarnation was remarkable precisely because God in Christ invaded secular space.” Robinson and Smith, *Invading Secular Space*, 12

When you read the gospels try to ask these two questions:

What does this passage tell me about the character of God?
How does Jesus show his love for other people?

Understanding the Gospels

- Become familiar with the _____, _____, and _____ of each gospel.

See the handout titled: *Overview of the Four Gospels*.

The theme of Luke's Gospel: _____

See Luke 19:10

- Learn about Jesus' _____.

See the handout titled: *The Gospels: Jesus' Supporting Cast*.

See Craig L. Blomberg, *Jesus and the Gospels* (Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1997) pp. 5-71.

Parables

Definition:

Parables almost always make a single point and are designed to illicit a response.

Jesus' parables are _____.

He reverses expectations about wealthy, powerful, & religious people.

He actively pursues those "outside the margins."

He calls us to "lose our self to find it."

Jesus' parables *undermine, challenge, threaten, weaken, & destabilize our personal agenda*

An example of a revolutionary parable:

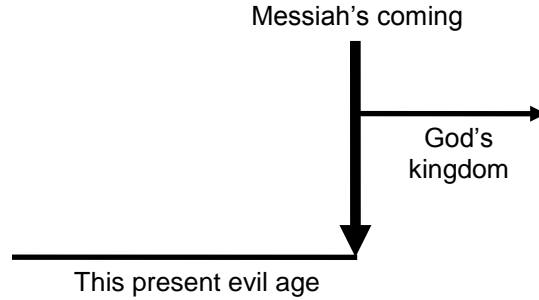
“Jesus told this story to some who had great self-confidence and scorned everyone else: ‘Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a dishonest tax collector. The proud Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: “I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there! For I never cheat, I don’t sin, I don’t commit adultery, I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.” But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, “O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.” I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For the proud will be humbled, but the humble will be honored.’” – Luke 18:9-14

Another revolutionary parable: Luke 15

- Understand Jesus’ teaching on the _____.

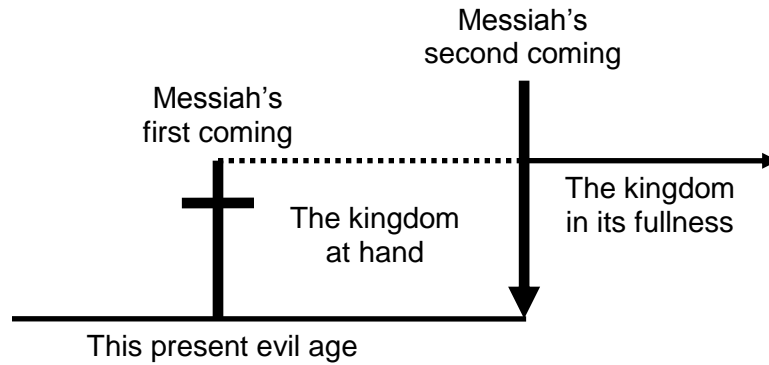
“Jesus traveled throughout Galilee teaching in the synagogues, preaching everywhere the Good News about the Kingdom” – Matthew 4:23

The Jews' view of the kingdom of God:



Jesus and the "Kingdom at hand":

“And after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, 15 and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God is at hand**; repent and believe in the gospel.’” – Mark 1:14,15



The kingdom parables: contrasting “the kingdom at hand” with “the kingdom in its fullness”

Matthew 13:24-30

The Kingdom at hand	The Kingdom in its fullness

Why didn't the disciples "get it?"

“He said to them, ‘The Son of Man is going to be betrayed. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead.’ But they didn't understand what he was saying, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.” – Mark 9:31,32

Between the Kingdoms: The “Church Age”

Matt. 24:14

The fundamental application of the kingdom of God is to:

Matt. 6:10, 33

Acts

Timeline: 33 – 60 A.D.

Key events:

Acts provides an account of how Jesus guided the growth of the early church through the Holy Spirit.

See 1:8

- Jesus ascends to heaven.
- Birth of the church at the day of Pentecost.
- Rapid growth of the early church.
- Counter-attack by God’s enemy: persecution, hypocrisy, division.
- Gospel spreads to the Samaritans and Gentiles.
- Paul’s conversion.
- Paul’s missionary journeys.
- Paul’s imprisonment and journey to Rome.

Assignment: Continue following the reading plan in the *Bible Reading Assignment*.