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The New Testament *at a Glance*

All twenty-seven books in plain words: the life of Jesus, the birth of the Church, the letters and the great hope

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BIBLE STUDY

The New Testament *at a Glance*

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The New Testament is the second part of the Bible: twenty-seven books written in Greek within about seventy years of Jesus' life. It tells how the promises of the Old Testament came true in Jesus of Nazareth — His birth, teaching, death and resurrection — and how His followers carried the good news from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

If you are new to the Bible, start here. And if you only read one book to begin with, make it the Gospel of John.

SECTION	BOOKS	WHAT THEY DO
The Gospels	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John	Tell the story of Jesus.
History	Acts	Tells how the Church began and spread.
Paul's letters	Romans to Philemon (13)	Teach and encourage young churches.
Other letters	Hebrews to Jude (8)	Teach, warn and strengthen believers.
Prophecy	Revelation	Unveils God's final victory and the new creation.

FOUR PORTRAITS OF JESUS

The Gospels

Gospel means *good news*. There are four, because there are four witnesses, each telling the story to a different audience. Together they give us a full portrait of Jesus.

BOOK	WRITTEN FOR	SHOWS JESUS AS	REMEMBER
Matthew	Jewish readers	The promised King	Matt. 28:20 — I am with you alway.
Mark	Romans; the shortest	The servant who acts	Mark 10:45
Luke	Everyone; written by a doctor	Savior of the outsider	Luke 19:10 — To seek and to save.
John	Seekers and believers	The Son of God	John 3:16

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7.

THE CHURCH IS BORN

Acts

Luke's second book picks up where his Gospel ends. Jesus ascends; the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost; Peter preaches and three thousand believe. Then the message spreads — to Samaria, to an Ethiopian official on the road home to Africa (Acts 8), to the Gentiles, and across the Roman world through Paul's journeys.

> *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*
>
> ACTS 1:8 · KJV

THIRTEEN LETTERS

Paul's Letters

LETTER	IN ONE LINE	REMEMBER
Romans	The fullest explanation of the gospel: saved by grace through faith.	Rom. 8:28
1 Corinthians	Fixing a divided church; the great chapter on love (13).	1 Cor. 13:13
2 Corinthians	Strength in weakness.	2 Cor. 12:9
Galatians	Freedom in Christ, not in rule-keeping.	Gal. 5:1 — Stand fast in the liberty.
Ephesians	Who we are in Christ, and the armor of God.	Eph. 2:8

LETTER	IN ONE LINE	REMEMBER
Philippians	Joy, written from prison.	Phil. 4:13
Colossians	Christ is above everything.	Col. 3:23
1 & 2 Thessalonians	Hope in the Lord's return; keep working meanwhile.	1 Thess. 5:16-18
1 & 2 Timothy	Advice to a young pastor.	2 Tim. 1:7
Titus	Good leaders and good works.	Titus 3:5
Philemon	A personal plea to welcome a runaway as a brother.	Philem. 1:16

HEBREWS TO JUDE

The Other Letters

LETTER	IN ONE LINE	REMEMBER
Hebrews	Jesus is greater than anything before Him; the *faith hall of fame* (11).	Heb. 11:1
James	Real faith shows up in how you live.	James 2:17
1 & 2 Peter	Hope and holiness when you suffer.	1 Pet. 5:7
1, 2 & 3 John	God is love; walk in the light.	1 John 4:8
Jude	Hold on to the true faith.	Jude 1:24

THE FINAL CHAPTER

Revelation

Revelation can seem strange, with its visions, beasts and numbers. But its main message is simple and glorious: no matter how strong evil looks, Jesus wins. The Bible that began in a garden ends in a city where God lives with His

people, and every tear is wiped away.

REVELATION 21:1-5

21 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

KING JAMES VERSION

A BEGINNER'S PATH

WHERE TO *start reading*

- ☐ **John** — the best first book; read a chapter a day for three weeks
- ☐ **Mark** — the fastest-moving Gospel
- ☐ **Acts** — the adventure of the early Church
- ☐ **Philippians** — four chapters of joy
- ☐ **James** — practical faith
- ☐ **Romans** — when you are ready to go deeper
- ☐ **1 John** — assurance of God's love

SIT WITH IT

Which Gospel will I read first?

What is one question about Jesus I want answered as I read?

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"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

JOHN 20:31

Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church

"Big Wesley" · The Freedom Church · Founded June 6, 1820

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:30 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP	11:00 AM

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