

# Basic Faith

## Christian Theology for Everyone

### **Session 6: Introduction to the New Testament**

#### **If It's a New Testament, then Why Is it So Old?**

##### **. . . and Is the Bible One Book or Two?**

(1) Silly question

(2) In fact, the Bible contains 66 canonical “books”. The 39 texts of the Old Testament comprise the bible of the Jews, the bible that Jesus and his disciples knew. The 27 texts of the New Testament were added during the first few hundred years of the church.

We have only one Bible and not two because the texts of the New Testament refer to and have thematic links to the Old Testament. They function together to tell God's story.

#### **A Few Useful Definitions**

<b>Gospel</b>	- lit. Good News. One of 4 canonical texts about Jesus of Nazareth
<b>Synoptic Gospels</b>	- referring to Matthew, Mark, & Luke because they have close similarities
<b>Epistle</b>	- a letter written to a specific person or group
<b>General Epistle</b>	- a letter written to no one in particular such as an open letter posted in a newspaper
<b>Circular Epistle</b>	- a letter intended to be passed around a particular group of churches
<b>Apocalypse</b>	- lit. “revelation”. A genre of biblical literature that reveals something about God's fulfillment of prophetic promise by describing, usually in symbolic imagery, something God is or will do
<b>Known Authorship</b>	- the author is known with a high degree of certainty
<b>Pseudonymous Authorship</b>	- the author uses the name of another with whom he is assisting, apprenticed, or a disciple of

# The Texts of the New Testament

Text	Date	Author	Notes
<b>Gospels</b>			
Matthew	c. 90	anon	Synoptic gospel
Mark	c. 70	anon	Synoptic gospel
Luke	c. 85	Luke?	Synoptic gospel
John	c. 95	anon	disciples of John
<b>History/Narrative</b>			
Acts	c. 85 +	Luke?	2 <sup>nd</sup> part of single Luke/Acts
<b>Pauline Epistles</b>			
Romans	c. 54	Paul	
1 Corinthians	53-54	Paul	
2 Corinthians	54	Paul	
Galatians	50-56	Paul	
Ephesians	late 1 <sup>st</sup> C.	anon	general epistle
Philippians	c. 60	Paul	
Colossians	late 1 <sup>st</sup> C.	anon	general epistle
1 Thessalonians	51	Paul	
2 Thessalonians	late 50s	Paul?	
1 Timothy	c. 65	Paul?	Pastoral epistle. 80's-90's if anon.
2 Timothy	c. 65	Paul?	Pastoral epistle. 80's-90's if anon.
Titus	c. 65	Paul?	Pastoral epistle. 80's-90's if anon.
Philemon	55	Paul	
<b>General Epistles</b>			
Hebrews	60-95	anon	
James	50-60	James?	
1 Peter	c. 59	Peter?	90s if anon
2 Peter	c. 60	Peter?	80-90 if anon

Text	Date	Author	Notes
<b>Johannine Epistles</b>			
<b>1 John</b>	c. 100	anon	disciple of John
<b>2 John</b>	c. 100	anon	disciple of John
<b>3 John</b>	c. 100	anon	disciple of John
<b>General Epistle</b>			
<b>Jude</b>	50-150	Jude?	
<b>Circular Epistle / Apocalypse</b>			
<b>Revelation</b>	70-100	anon	connection to John's disciples?