

BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT



Gospel means "good news" and tells the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The gospel is told in four unique books called Gospels.

Epistles are letters written by church leaders to individuals and communities. They include theology, practical instructions, hymns, sermons, prayers, and personal notes.

Modern scholars agree that Mark was written first, ca. 70 CE. Matthew and Luke were written about 10 years later, adding stories of Jesus' birth and post-resurrection events. John was written ca. 90 CE, adding a hymn that offers a cosmic view of Jesus Christ.

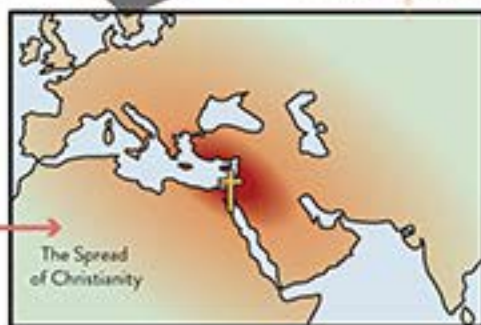
The New Testament was written in Greek, the common language of the first century.



The Old Testament is in the New Testament.

The writers of the New Testament knew and referenced the Hebrew Scriptures. Therefore, references and verses from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) can be found in the New Testament.

Acts is an account of the early church and its growth by the work of the Holy Spirit.



The Spread of Christianity

Christianity spread throughout the Mediterranean region as the stories of Jesus were told and the Letters of Paul and other church leaders were circulated.



The Pauline Epistles, written by the apostle Paul and his followers, are often directed to specific communities or people. Many were written before the Gospels.

The Pastoral Epistles are written to church leaders about their role and work.

The General Epistles are addressed to the "whole church" rather than just one community.

The Gospel of John, John's Epistles, and Revelation are addressed to similar communities.

When the early church was debating which books belonged in the Bible, Hebrews and Revelation were the most contested.

Revelation: In the face of destruction and evil, Christians are reminded that God is at work and sovereign in the world.

Spoiler alert: God wins!

