

Answer Key for Students

The New Covenant in Christ: A Survey of the New Testament

Course NT1

Mount Zion Bible Institute

Lesson 1 Historical Background

Chapter 1 - In the Fullness of Time

1. The Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament Scriptures, translated in about 250 BC. [Seventy scholars did it, therefore abbreviated to *LXX* when written (Greek: septuagint means '70').]
2. 1) A world in which he had disseminated Greek language, culture, and philosophy. 2) A fragmented empire [that brought civil war and regional contention].
3. A Jewish family was able to lead a successful revolt against the Syrian Ptolemies, restore Temple worship, establish peace, and consolidate power into their own political dynasty.
4. 1) Jesus was born in the reign of Augustus Caesar (27 BC-AD 14) according to Luke 2:1. 2) His accomplishments included ending civil war after the assassination of Julius Caesar, bringing many needed reforms, saving resources, encouraging morality, and fortifying the defense of the empire's frontiers.
5. It allowed Rome to accomplish an outward expansion, bringing Roman authority, government, culture, and peace.
6. 1) The Greek 'trade' language became common throughout the Roman Empire, later enabling clear and rapid communication of the gospel. 2) The peace of Rome allowed the gospel to be proclaimed freely. And, people could travel all over the Mediterranean world freely.
7. REFLECTION Note: There are no given answers for *Reflection* or *Making It Personal* questions. These are designed to encourage your own thought and personal application to your heart and life.

Chapter 2 - The Conception of Christianity

8.
 - a. Torah - Literally, *law*. A title for the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.
 - b. Targum - A collection of the translations of Hebrew Old Testament books into the Aramaic language.
 - c. Talmud - A Hebrew civil and canonical interpretation of the Scriptures.
 - d. Synagogue - [Greek, *a gathering, assembly*.] was first established in the homes of the exiles of Babylon as Jewish centers for meeting, study, and social life. Ten males in a community were needed for a synagogue to be established.
 - e. Pharisees - wanted to keep the Law perfectly.
 - f. Sadducees - the liberals of their day. They were worldly-minded priests who observed the letter of the Law, but denied essential truths such as the resurrection and future retribution.
 - g. Scribes - Their primary job was to copy the Holy Scriptures. They became teachers of the Law because of their long hours of experience in copying the Law.
 - h. Zealots - Radical Jews who would kill Romans at random, hoping to gain freedom through rebellion.
9. 1) The Gospels, 2) Acts (as history), 3) the Pauline Epistles, 4) the General Epistles, and 5) The Revelation (as prophecy).

Lesson 2 The Synoptic Gospels and Matthew

Chapter 3 - The Synoptic Gospels: Behold the Lamb!

1. The four column chart (from page 30):
 - a. Who was Jesus portrayed as
 - b. To which audience (world) was the book written
 - c. What characteristic of Jesus is emphasized

- d. What is a focus of the content in the book: *what Jesus* _____
- e. What types of events or teachings are mentioned most

Answer:

| Matthew | Mark | Luke | John |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. <i>The Messiah</i> | <i>A servant</i> | <i>The Perfect Man</i> | <i>The Son of God</i> |
| b. <i>To the Jewish world</i> | <i>To the Roman world</i> | <i>To the Greek world</i> | <i>To all the world</i> |
| c. <i>His Authority</i> | <i>His ministry to people</i> | <i>His integrity</i> | <i>His Deity</i> |
| d. <i>What Jesus <u>said</u></i> | <i>What Jesus <u>did</u></i> | <i>What Jesus <u>thought</u></i> | <i>What Jesus <u>was</u></i> |
| e. <i>Sermons and messages</i> | <i>Miracles</i> | <i>Parables</i> | <i>Personal interviews</i> |

2. Cana, Capernaum (Matt. 8:5), Nain, [Gergesenes (Matt. 8:28)], Nazareth (Matt. 9:1), [Bethsaida (Matt. 11:1)]. Cities in brackets are not mentioned in the text. [Jesus also visited Jerusalem.]

Chapter 4 - Matthew: Presenting Christ as the King of the Jews

3. Matthew wanted the Jewish people to see that Christ was in fact their promised Messiah, the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies.
4. Matthew (lit. gift of God) was a tax collector who was called to be a disciple of Christ. According to legend, he was killed with a halberd in the city of Nadabah, AD 60.
5. Jesus was baptized in order to fulfill the righteousness of the Law (Matt. 3:15), which required priests to be ceremonially cleansed prior to assuming their duties (Ex. 29:4-7; Lev. 8:6-36).
6. 1) That the righteous requirements of the Law could never be fulfilled in external obedience only, but applied equally to the thoughts and intents of the heart. And, 2) that God demands internal as well as external obedience. [As such, all men are hopelessly guilty of breaking the Law, and are in desperate need of a Savior outside of themselves.]
7. The Church is built upon Christ as the cornerstone. The true foundation is Christ Himself (1 Pet. 2:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11).
8. **1) Ecclesiastical Trials** - Preliminary hearing before Annas (John 18:12-14, 19-23); Hearing before Caiaphas and select members of the Sanhedrin (Matt 26:57); Before the whole assembled body of the Sanhedrin (Matt. 27:1-2); **2) Civil Trials** - Before Pilate (Matt. 27:11-26); Before Herod Antipas (Luke 23:6-12); Return to Pilate (Luke 23:11-25); **3) Theocratic Trial** - At Calvary – God exercised His righteous punishment upon sin.

Lesson 3 Mark and Luke

Chapter 5 - Mark: Presenting Christ as the Servant of All

1. John Mark wanted to reach the Roman world with the good news of redemption [from the penalty of sin through Christ's perfect sacrifice].
2. Mark records twenty-eight miracles of the Master to impress his Roman readers that Jesus Christ was powerful, the Son of the Living God. His power exceeded even what the Romans conceived as their own mighty power!
3. John Mark came from a wealthy family which enjoyed having its own house and servants. At a young age, he came to faith in Christ and befriended Peter, Paul, and Barnabas. Through his own personal failure he caused an argument to erupt between Paul and Barnabas but was later reconciled to the Apostle to the Gentiles. In the providence of the Lord he was chosen to write a narrative of the life of Christ.
4. a. Sometime during the First Missionary Journey, John Mark had deserted the company. Whatever the reason, it was not good enough for Paul not to become angry with the young man and not want to take him along on a Second Missionary Journey.
b. Twelve years later Paul was reconciled with John Mark and the past had been forgiven (cp. Col. 4:10 with Philemon 1:24).
5. a. Yes, the long list of factual events is abundant proof of the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus. [The rest is a personal answer.]

b. Personal answer.

Chapter 6 - Luke: Presenting Christ as the Perfect Man

7. Luke wants to reach the Greek mind. The Greeks upheld reason, high achievement, and perfection. Thus Luke emphasizes Jesus' parables, masterful teaching, and His super-human intellect.
8. 1) Luke was a close friend of Paul (Phil. 1:24; 2 Tim. 4:11), 2) he was a man of culture and education, and 3) he was a well respected physician (Col. 4:14).
9. As a Roman citizen, Paul had the right to appeal his legal case personally before the court of the Emperor in Rome itself.
10. Angels 1) announced His birth (Luke 1:26-37), 2) protected His life during the days of His infancy (Matt. 2:13,20), 3) under-girded Him following His temptation by the Devil (Matt. 4:11), 4) encouraged Him in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43), and 5) rolled the stone away to let the world in to see the resurrected Lord (Matt. 28:2, 5-7; John 20:11-14).

Lesson 4 John: Presenting Christ as the Son of God

1. John presents Christ as the Son of God in His Deity, to convince all the world that Jesus was who He claimed to be: God Himself! As such, there could be no middle ground to accept Christ as a good teacher: He was either a liar to be rejected, or God Incarnate - to be worshipped and served in all humility!
2. In the Temple in Jerusalem, and in the surrounding vicinity.
3. This is a direct confirmation of His Deity, as Jesus repeated the very words of Jehovah God from Exodus 3:14. This expression in Exodus became the most sacred Jewish name for God: YHWH, or Yahweh (transliterated to Jehovah) – the Self-existent One – the Great I AM. The Jews understood the meaning of His words and sought to kill Him for blasphemy – claiming to be God.
4. 1) The Gospel of John, 2) First John, 3) Second John, 4) Third John, 5) The Revelation of Jesus Christ.
5. In order to explain why men sin, the Gnostics believed that all matter was evil. The spiritual had to be free from everything material. They came to believe that freedom from material sin lay in knowledge of spiritual things, which was only available to the intellectuals. Their major error was in denying the deity of Christ (since He came in the flesh and had a body).
6. Jesus is God, He created all things, He is life itself, He gave light to men's darkness, but He was rejected by men in darkness, yet He gave life to become sons of God to those who receive Him and are born of God (not their own acts), He became flesh in order to declare God to us.
7. 1) He has faced realistically the problem of his own personal sin; 2) he has seriously considered the one divine remedy for sin; 3) he has wholeheartedly complied with God's terms for obtaining forgiveness for sin (to "receive" Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord); 4) he manifests in his life that his claims to repentance and faith are real; i.e., he leads a holy life.

Lesson 5 Acts: Witness to the World

1. "The Acts of the Holy Spirit."
2. Peter is very emotional with a penchant for talking. He and his brother Andrew were partners in a fishing business in Galilee (Mark 1:16); he was married (Mark 1:29-31; 1 Cor. 9:5) and had a residence in Capernaum (Mark 1:21,29). Peter had been a disciple of John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). Peter was a leader among men. The worst moment in Peter's life came when he denied the Lord of glory (Mark 14:66-72). However, he was restored to fellowship and given a place of leadership in the Church of Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:17-19; John 21:15-19; Mark 16:7) in Jerusalem. His wise counsel and leadership allowed him to serve as a unifying force between those who ministered to the Jews and those who ministered to the Gentiles (Acts 10-11)
3. Born of Jewish parents (who were also Roman citizens) from the tribe of Benjamin, Paul was reared in the city of Tarsus, in Cilicia. A capable student filled with religious zeal, Paul became "a Hebrew of the Hebrews" (Phil. 3:5). As an adult, Paul persecuted those Christians of "The Way" until he was converted to Christ himself, c AD 34. Soon after his salvation, Paul began to preach Christ intensely. God taught Paul that if belief in Christ was the true object of saving faith, then even the Gentiles could believe. Paul preached to the Gentiles for over thirty years, despite much hardship and sorrow.

Lesson 6 Romans through 2 Corinthians

Chapter 9 - Romans: Faith Alone

1. He hoped to visit them after traveling to Jerusalem, and therefore wanted to prepare them. Thus he sets out the most complete and well-developed presentation of the great fundamental Christian doctrines [the nature of sin, Christ's redemption, our justification, identification with Christ in His death and new life, the victorious Christian life via the Holy Spirit, assurance of salvation, and principles for holy living].
2. By putting his whole trust (belief) in the finished work of Christ at Calvary (where Christ's shed blood was the acceptable sacrifice to pay for all his sin), depending not in even one small bit on his own works to earn God's favor, accepting God's gift as an act of His free grace.
3. No!! We are dead to sin via new birth into Christ's life. How then can we still live in sin?!
4. a. To submit to all authorities, without exception in the *Romans* instructions. We know from Acts 5:29 that there is one exception: when men command us to directly violate God's commands in Scripture. [If we are to claim Acts 5:29, the key is that our motivations must be Spirit-filled and not selfish in any way.]
b. Personal answer [hopefully to include: God Himself, government authority (and prison officials if incarcerated), church authority, employers, and family (if not a head of own household)].
c. Personal answer.

Chapter 10 - 1 Corinthians: The Cross for the Church

7. Originally a Phoenician settlement, the Greeks came to dominate the city and the region. In 146 BC Corinth was destroyed by the legions of Rome. One hundred years later, in 46 BC, the Romans rebuilt the city in pure white marble under the imperial order of Julius Caesar.
8. The Corinthian believers, after straying far away from holiness, had received Paul's 'lost letter' and made some changes. But the people still had major problems in their church, and they had asked Paul a number of questions as well. So Paul writes them 1) to admonish them to correct real problems, and 2) to answer their questions about church practices.
9. Paul admonished them for their problems: 1) favoring one man over another(1:10-16), 2) relying on human wisdom (1:17-2:31), 3) carnality – allowing themselves to be motivated and enjoy the old lusts of the fleshly nature (3:1-22), 4) incest (5:1-13), 5) going to court (6:1-8), 6) promiscuous sexual indulgence (6:9-20),
In addition, Paul tried to answer some of their questions about church practices: 7) marriage (7:10-40), 8) "gray areas" – in this case eating meats sacrificed to idol (8:1-9 cp. 10:14-33), 9) giving (9:1-14), 10) the danger of falling away (9:15-27), 11) abuses at the Lord's Table (11:20-34), 12) misuse of spiritual gifts (12:1-31), and 13) misunderstood doctrine regarding the resurrection of our Lord(15:1-58).
10. Because without His bodily resurrection, then all that Scripture promises regarding our own resurrection after physical death into glorified bodies – this must also be false. Then Christians of all people are to be pitied, living lives separated from the world based on a false hope. The historic bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is all important to the believer.

Chapter 11 - 2 Corinthians: Ministry in the Church

13. With news that the Corinthians had repented of their errors, and had returned to a respect for Paul, he writes to encourage them and inform them of his (and their future) sufferings, giving an account of his ministry, appealing to his converts to keep themselves pure, and answering his critics (labeling them as 'false prophets').
14. Men plotted to kill him, He was to be stoned in Iconium and Lystra, In Philippi he was beaten with rods and put in stocks, In Thessalonica a mob tried to destroy him, He was driven out of Berea, In Ephesus he was almost killed, In Jerusalem, a mob would have killed Paul had not the Roman soldiers intervened, He was imprisoned in Caesarea for two years and in Rome for two more years, Unrecorded sufferings: beatings, imprisonment, shipwrecks, personal deprivation, Finally, Paul was taken to Rome to be executed.
15. One was written on the heart, the other on stone. One was of the Spirit, the other was of the letter. One was unto life, the other unto death. One was unveiled, the other was veiled (or hidden). One was unto righteousness, the other was unto condemnation. One remains while the other passes.

Lesson 7 Galatians and Ephesians

Chapter 12 - Galatians: Life in Liberty

1. In the third century BC, a group of people who had originally migrated westward into Macedonia and Greece from north of the Black Sea settled in the north central part of Asia Minor. The Greeks called these new settlers *Galatai*, from which the name *Galatians* is derived. By 25 BC this section of Asia Minor and all its inhabitants had been taken over by the Romans under the rule of Augustus Caesar.
2. Initially, the Galatians had been received into the Church apart from the rite of circumcision, and without any obligation to keep the Jewish ceremonial law. Baptism had been administered. But then Jewish Christians in the Church at Antioch (who had come to faith but who were also legalistic) challenged the practice of accepting Gentiles into the Church without insisting that they observe the Jewish law (Acts 15:1). The situation became serious as the whole issue was debated and individuals took sides.
3. The Law was only a caretaker until Christ came. The Law had no life to give. Only Christ can give life and that more abundantly. Christ gives life by grace through faith, alone (cp. Eph. 2:8-9). No man has ever been justified by the works of the Law, but through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The works of the flesh are selfish sins: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, jealousy, wrath, strife, division, heresies, envying, murder, drunkenness, reveling. The works of the Spirit are: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

Chapter 13 - Ephesians: Union with Christ

6. Paul wanted to encourage the Ephesians (and possibly other churches) that they must continually uphold the magnificence of Christ and the true doctrines of the Christian faith, and attend to their application, in order to avoid drifting into error. He first writes an unhindered meditation on the magnificence of our riches in Christ, regarding union with Christ personally, and then focuses on unity in the Christian Church through practical application.
7. God has abundantly blessed His children with every spiritual blessing (just as we will have in heaven itself), to this end He has chosen us, redeemed us, and adopted us into His family, all by grace.
8. God has saved souls in order that they “should be to the praise of His glory” (1:12).
9. Husbands and wives must love and respect one another (with agape love, 5:22-23). By doing this they will model the relationship that exists between Christ and the Church (5:25,32). Parents and children are to live in harmony as well (6:1-4).
10. Loins girded – Truth, Breastplate – Righteousness, Sandals – Peace, Shield – Faith, Helmet – Salvation, Sword – The Word

Lesson 8 Philipians and Colossians

Chapter 14 - Philipians: Joy in Unity

1. The city of Philippi was established on a main Roman road, connecting it to the important trade routes of the East. It was named after Philip II (the father of Alexander the Great), when he became king of Macedonia by force in 359 BC. In 42 BC, the historic battle of Philippi took place between Romans Brutus and Cassius, who allied themselves against Antony and Octavian, avengers of the death of Julius Caesar. In 31 BC Octavian defeated his former ally, Antony, in a historic naval battle. As a Roman colony, Philippi enjoyed all the special privileges of Roman citizens everywhere.
2. During his Second Missionary Journey (AD 50-54), Paul, accompanied by Silas and Timothy, had a vision in the night (Acts 16:9) to preach the gospel in Macedonia (Acts 16). In obedience, Paul traveled to Philippi. Along the river bank was a place of prayer, where a woman named Lydia and others gathered. As Paul preached the gospel, the Lord opened the heart of Lydia. She opened her home to others so that a new church could be established.
3. Those who came to faith under Paul’s ministry in Philippi appreciated his labors of love. To show their appreciation, they sent Paul needed money: twice while in Thessalonica (Phil. 4:16), and again when he was at Corinth (2 Cor. 11:9).
4. Joy! Paul will exhort the believers to “rejoice in the Lord!” The theme is joy because “joy” is used often, and it is returned to as a topic in several places.

5. a. Jesus voluntarily humbled Himself as a servant, setting us the great example. He was obedient to the will of the Father even onto death at the cross. Because of this, God has highly exalted Him, that at the name of Jesus every knee everywhere shall bow to honor Him as Lord.
- b. Personal answer.

Chapter 15 - Colossians: Complete in Christ

7. The motive for the writing of the letter to the Colossians was concern about Jewish teachers trying to mingle the works of the Law with the grace of the gospel (2:11, 16). The Judaizers had found fertile soil in Colossae. With the demand to observe the ceremonial law, stress was being laid on the importance of observing special days, such as the Sabbath, the new moon, and the feast day. Rules and regulations had been imposed on drinks and food. Once more the all-sufficiency of Christ for salvation was being undermined with a subtle appeal to the flesh: to earn God's favor (already granted based entirely on the merit of Christ) through good works.
8. God's glory is displayed via Christ being found in the hearts of Christians.
9. He is declared to be: 1) The Image of the invisible God, 2) The First-born of all creation, 3) All things are created through Him, 4) He is before all things, 5) In Him all things consist (i.e., hold together), 6) Head of the body, the Church, 7) The Beginning, 8) The First-born from the dead, 9) In Him all fullness dwells, 10) Through Him all things are reconciled, 11) Christ in you is the hope of glory, 12) In Him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, 13) In Him dwells all the fullness of Godhead bodily, 14) In Him you are complete (lit. brought to perfection), 15) The head of all principality and power.

Lesson 9 1 and 2 Thessalonians

Chapter 16 - 1 Thessalonians: The Second Coming

1. After visiting Thessalonica for less than four weeks during the Third Missionary Journey, Paul was concerned for the church's welfare, and sent Timothy to them. Timothy reported that they were witnessing boldly and growing in number, but facing both persecution from without, and misconception from within. Paul responds with this letter to address two main issues: 1) personal attacks against Paul, and 2) misconceptions about the second coming, that if a Christian died before the second coming, he would not participate in God's kingdom. His response is both to encourage and to instruct them, including telling the truth about himself.
2. 1) Jesus is coming again, 2) no one knows when nor will anyone ever know when, 3) the believer is not to speculate on the matter, but is to be watchful and ready, the Lord will come suddenly, 4) believers who have died will rise first, 5) believers who are alive will be given a glorified bodies.
3. "The dead in Christ shall rise first" – 1 Thes. 4:16.
4. While Christians wait for the Blessed Hope of the Second Coming of Christ, they are to maintain good works and restrain themselves from all forms of immorality (4:1-8).

Chapter 17 - 2 Thessalonians: Judgment to Come

7. When Paul sent his first epistle to the Thessalonians from the city of Corinth, he thought he had answered their questions concerning the Second Coming of Christ. However, new concerns had arisen for two main reasons. First, Paul's teachings in the first letter had been misunderstood. Second, an erroneous teaching had been seriously considered (2 Thess. 2:2).
8. It was being suggested that the Lord had *already* come again, because their severe sufferings were understood as the judgmental wrath of God!
9. Paul points out that the Second Coming of Christ could not have occurred because there had not been a falling away from the faith, nor the revelation of the son of perdition (2:3). Furthermore, when the Lord does come, He will righteously judge those who have dared to hurt His people (1:7-10).
10. If a man will not engage in honest labor, he should not eat (3:10). Paul himself set the example of not being idle nor taking advantage of the goodness of God's people (3:8).

Lesson 10 The Pastoral Epistles

Chapter 18 - 1 Timothy: Protect the Gospel

- 1) Timothy was a native of Lystra, in the province of Galatia. 2) He was the son of Eunice and the grandson of Lois - who were devout Christians. 3) His father was a Greek. 4) From a child, Timothy had been exposed to those teachings which lead to salvation. 5) He was allowed to become a traveling companion with Paul in the ministry during the Apostle's Second and Third Missionary Journeys.
- [Between two possible imprisonments in Rome, Paul likely made a trip to visit churches in Asia Minor and possibly Spain. If there was only one Roman imprisonment, then the letter was written from Rome.] Paul left Timothy in Ephesus, and wrote this letter with practical instructions: how to behave as a pastor in order to put this church into vital condition, so that it could withstand the troubles ahead.
- The true origin of much false teaching is nothing less than *demonism* (1 Tim. 4:1).
- Individuals who would have integrity are: 1) to flee from the love of money; 2) to follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness; 3) and to lay hold on eternal life.

Chapter 19 - 2 Timothy: Preach the Gospel

- Shortly after communicating with Timothy, Paul was brought to trial and executed. It is probably the last letter he ever wrote.
- This is probably the same Alexander of Ephesus whom Paul had delivered unto Satan (1 Tim. 1:20). Now, Alexander had a chance to retaliate and so he did Paul "much evil" by testifying against him.

Chapter 20 - Titus: Teach the Gospel

- In addition to bringing organizational stability to the church in Crete, Titus was to silence those of "the circumcision party" (or the Judaizers, 1:10-16).
- An Elder must 1) be blameless, 2) not self-willed, 3) not soon angry, 4) not given to wine, 5) no striker, 6) not a lover of money, 7) a lover of hospitality, 8) a lover of good men, 9) sober, 10) just, 11) holy, 12) temperate [self-controlled], 13) one who has held fast the faithful word as he has been taught, and 14) able to exhort [convince] the gainsayers [opposition]. Also, from 1 Tim. 3:2 14) the husband of one wife (and therefore a man).
- The Judaizers (1:10-16) argued for circumcision as a sign of spirituality, and then went on to teach "Jewish fables"(1:14).

Chapter 21 - Philemon: Grace in Practice

- Apphia was probably the wife of Philemon.
 - Achippus may have been the son of Philemon, and perhaps a pastor of the assembly.
 - Philemon was a leader in the church at Colossae, and a wealthy man.
 - Onesimus was a slave of Philemon, who stole money from his master and ran away to Rome.
 - "beloved fellow worker" - Philemon
 - "profitable" - Onesimus, the converted runaway slave
- Paul, while imprisoned in Rome, receives Onesimus as a new convert. Onesimus is a runaway slave, who was therefore subject to whatever cruel punishment the owner might choose, often tortuous death. The master is Philemon, a leader in the Colossae church whom Paul knows and loves from Ephesus. Paul sends this letter (probably at the same time as the Colossian letter) with Onesimus as he returns in repentance to Philemon. Paul encourages Philemon to apply the Ephesian letter's principles of union with Christ, and unity (and forgiveness) among the brethren. The manner of Paul's presentation is an example of spiritual leadership, tact, and diplomacy.

Lesson 11 Hebrews and James

Chapter 22 - Hebrews: Drawing Near

- Many Jews who professed faith in Christ, continued to participate in the Temple worship. When Nero began persecuting Christians, it became clear that Judaism would continue as a protected religion, but that Christians would be expelled from all Jewish rites (including the Temple), and persecuted as well. These

professing Christians were therefore forced to make a choice: to return to Judaism, or to continue to follow Christ. The writer explains and exhorts them to continue on with Christ to make their faith sure, because He is superior to the Old Testament practices in every way.

2. a. This priesthood stands from before time and is everlasting, in contrast to the Levitical priesthood established under the Mosaic Law, which fades away.
b. The Old Covenant of Works was in reality a Covenant of Death, because men could not fulfill their good works to receive God's blessing. The New Covenant is written upon a heart of flesh by the finger of God. It includes God's putting His laws into our minds and hearts, whereby all His children may know Him, and He will remember our sins no more because of Christ's finished work on the cross.
3. 1) Christ is superior to angels in that He is the Son of God. 2) Christ is superior to the prophets for He is the One of whom the prophets spoke. 3) Christ is superior to the High Priest for He has an eternal ministration in heaven. 4) Christ is superior to the Leaders of Israel for they all died and were limited in wisdom, power and ability. 5) In all these areas He is without precedent.
4. Personal answer, hopefully to include some of the following: Faith is the basis of 1) our hope and 2) spiritual reality. It is by faith that we can come to God through the sacrificial blood of Christ (like Cain). We please God by acting in faith, knowing that He is our reward as we seek Him. When we obey God's commands, not knowing the outcome in our circumstances, we are acting by faith (like Abraham). By faith we do not look to this world for our satisfaction, but to Christ and the celestial city. By faith we refuse sin's pleasure (like Moses). By faith we trust God to do His will, even work miracles. By faith we endure suffering, trusting God no matter what.
5. Jewish zealots in Jerusalem rebelled against the Roman Empire in AD 66. The Roman legions under Titus laid siege in AD 70, trapping 600,000 inside the city walls. There was massive starvation. Five months later the walls were broken through, and most of those remaining were killed – more from the murderous zealots than by the hands of the Romans.

Chapter 23 - James: Faith Proven by Works

7. a. Four men in the New Testament bear the name of James. They are James the son of Zebedee and the brother of John, James the son of Alphaeus, James the brother of Jesus, and James the father of the Apostle Jude.
b. After refusing to follow Jesus (his older half-brother) during His life on earth, James was saved of God and became a leader in the church at Jerusalem. He was called "the Just" because he was a man of good works and prayer; and history records he was martyred for refusing to deny Jesus before the Sanhedrin.
8. While *Romans* stresses our **position** in Christ, *James* places great emphasis on our walk with Christ: the **practical** outworking of an inward state of grace evidenced in a holy life. "Faith without works is death."
9. a. Because 1) our words reflect what is in our hearts, and 2) it is with our words that we so often offend others and start unnecessary conflicts.
b. Personal answer.

Lesson 12 1 Peter through Jude

Chapter 24 - 1 Peter: Partakers of Christ's Sufferings

1. The churches in Asia Minor were facing the threat of suffering after Nero blamed the fire in Rome on the Christians in 65 AD. Peter, in Rome and facing his own prosecution, writes to reassure and instruct these believers on how to react in suffering: look to heaven for hope that brings courage to persevere.
2. The Lord is the Church's Example. The people of Christ must therefore endure hardships patiently (2:20), and without retaliating in kind (3:9). In the end, God the Father will reward the righteous and judge those who do evil (3:12).
3. 1) All suffering has a purpose (at times not easy to discern - 1:6-7; 2:19-20; 3:14; 4:14). 2) Suffering is to be expected (4:12). 3) Suffering is not to be dreaded or avoided (3:14), but is to be endured patiently (2:23; 3:9), with rejoicing (4:13).
4. Please review this with a mature trusted friend.

Chapter 25 - 2 Peter: Knowledge of Our Lord

5. Knowing that false teachers would be coming among those who profess to know the Lord, Peter prepares and warns the general Church to stand firm against them, and to hold fast to the true knowledge of God.

6. 1) First, there must be a partaking of the divine nature by faith (1:4). 2) The fruit of righteousness must be manifested.
7. False teachers are characterized by covetousness (2:3), sensuality (2:10), ruthlessness (2:12), with eyes full of adultery (2:14). False teachers are servants of corruption (2:19).

Chapter 26 - 1 John: Fellowship with Christ

8. John wrote to warn the Christians to reject the errors of *Gnosticism*, and that the Christians should not sin (2:1). Nor should they be deceived. As an apostle, John was determined that all teachers be tested for the truth (4:1). Finally, with a pastor's heart John wanted the Christians to have assurance of their salvation (5:11-13).
9. "Incarnation" means to become human. It is the key to Christ's fulfilling the law: He is God, yet He became fully man in order to teach us, to set an example for us, and perfectly to obey the law (qualifying Him to become a sacrifice without blemish).
10. True joy does not come from circumstances, but from communion with Christ, and fellowship with other believers.

Chapter 27 - 2 John: Walking in Truth

13. It is possible that John has a specific woman in mind. That would not be surprising for women played a vital role in the early church. However, it is also possible that John writes in veiled language as a pastor to his people – where the Church itself is considered in feminine terms (note Eph. 5:23-33).
14. There were false teachers (cp. 1 John 2:18-29) in the early assemblies who would go from church to church, and teach doctrines in the name of Christ which were in reality destructive of the Christian faith. John wants the Church to be aware of such things and refuse hospitality to false teachers.
15. John writes of loving those who are in Truth (1:1), and of others who know the Truth (1:1). He speaks of the Truth which dwells in the saints (1:2), and of grace, mercy, peace coming in Truth (1:3). John rejoices that the saints are found to be walking in Truth (1:4), and embracing Truth (by which he means the doctrines of Christ). That is important, for those who do not abide in the doctrine of Christ "hath not God" (1:9).

Chapter 28 - 3 John: Hospitality

16. Just as John had written in 2 John to exhort the extreme of too open hospitality, he now writes Gaius to encourage him that Diotrephes was erring on the opposite extreme of too narrow hospitality. Diotrephes was encouraging closed doors to anyone who disagreed with him, on even minor doctrines, in order to maintain a position of power out of a motive of pride. Paul points out that we should maintain fellowship with those who agree with us on the cardinal doctrines, even when there is minor variation in beliefs on other doctrines.
17. a. Gaius - a native of Macedonia, a traveling companion of Paul, and possibly a pastor.
b. Diotrephes - a church leader in the same city as Gaius. He did not love the brethren, because he denied hospitality to Paul's representatives over minor issues.
c. Demetrius - a man whose living testimony bore witness to the truth of redeeming grace.

Chapter 29 - Jude: Keep from Falling

18. Jude wanted to write about the common salvation (1:3), but decided to write and exhort the Church to "*contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,*" *rejecting false teachers.*
19. *First*, they fail to remember past judgments of God illustrated by the Israelites in the wilderness (1:5), by the fallen angels (1:6), and by the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrha (1:7). *Second*, they dream filthy dreams for they are spiritually asleep (1:8). *Third*, they defile the flesh with sexual immorality (1:8). *Fourth*, they despise authority including that of God's Word. They speak evil of earthly and heavenly dignitaries (1:8). These teachers of falsehood are self-willed (Gen. 4:3-8). They will not accept the substitutionary work of Christ but go about to establish their own religion.
20. Spiritual truth can be recognized in that it magnifies the person and work of Jesus Christ, and promotes holiness. Titus 1:1 speaks of "the truth which is after godliness."

Lesson 13 The Revelation: Christ Is Lord!

1. a. *The Revelation* is spiritual in nature. There is a spiritual basic conflict between the Church and the forces of evil.
b. *The Revelation* is historical. Most of the events have been fulfilled historically.
c. *The Revelation* is a summary of successive ages. It reveals the unfolding of Church history (as seen from the vantage point of time).
d. *The Revelation* is futuristic. The key verse is Revelation 1:9.
2. One important factor for deciding which method of interpretation should be embraced is the dating of *The Revelation*. If a late date theory is held (c. AD 90), then it is possible that all that John saw is in the futuristic view. However, if an early date (c. prior to AD 70) of *The Revelation* can be established, then a good argument can be made that what John saw would happen actually has happened (historical view).
3. In Apocalyptic literature, the purpose of the writer was to unveil a particular meaning by using signs and symbols. Its pattern is that certain themes occurred over and over again.
4. *The Book of the Revelation* uses numbers in a symbolic way. **Four** living creatures, horsemen, and angels; **twelve** elders, gates to the city of God, foundations, and varieties of fruit on the tree of life; **seven** (*completeness*) messages to the Seven Church (2:1-3:22), Seals (6:1-17), Trumpets (8:6-11:19), Personages (12:1-14-20), Vials (Bowls) of God's Wrath (16:1-21), Final Judgments (17:1-20:15), and Seven Wonderful Blessings (21:1-22:5). A *thousand* also means perfection or completeness (cp. Psalm 90:4). The Church is complete reflected in twelve thousand being saved from each of the twelve tribes of [spiritual?] Israel (7:1-8). Satan is bound for a *thousand* years (20:3). In a negative sense, the number 3 1/2 is associated with Satan (11:2; 13:5). We read of a 42 month (or 3 1/2 year) period. This number is designed to symbolize man's attempting to diminish the glory and power of God.
5. The overall message of *The Revelation* is "God is all-powerful." It gives us hope in that God's kingdom with His saints is irrevocably established. And we see more of truth: the true heart of man apart from God is hatred of God, and the true heart of God toward man is long-suffering, mercy, and just hatred of sin. The book brings the whole story of redemption, begun in Genesis, to a telling conclusion. "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth" – The Revelation 19:6.
6. The **First Vision** (ch. 1-3) is of the resurrected Christ challenging His Church to remain loyal in the midst of great tribulation. The **Second Vision** (ch. 4-7) is of Christ the Slain Lamb standing with a sealed scroll before God the Father in heaven. As the Lamb opens each of the seven seals containing the destinies of individuals and nations, a series of disasters befall the earth. A series of seven angels blowing seven trumpets forms the **Third Vision** (ch. 8-11). At the sound of these trumpets divine judgment falls again. The **Fourth Vision** (ch. 12-14) consists of the persecution of the Church (symbolized by a heavenly woman and by two witnesses [Moses and Elijah]) by Satan and the Beast (Nero?). The **Fifth Vision** (ch. 15-16) contains another series of seven: seven bowls pouring out God's wrath. The **Sixth Vision** brings into focus the judgment of Babylon (a symbol for Rome?) (ch. 17:1-19:10). The **Seventh Vision** promises a final victory, final judgment, and final blessedness (ch. 19:11-22). There will be a glorious future for the people of God. Christ has promised to make all things new: a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem (21).
7. a. Premillennialists believe there is a rapture of the Church into the clouds with Jesus, a seven year tribulation period, followed by Christ's return to earth to reign for a literal thousand years, followed by judgment and the New Heaven and New Earth. Amillennialists understand the Millennium to be a picture of the present reign of Christ, "the kingdom of God is within you" – Luke 17:21. Postmillennialists believe that Christians will bring about a visible reign of godliness by being actively involved in society to establish godly laws and society.
b. Perhaps this should be a personal answer, but we trust most can agree that: 1) a study of the end times is subject to several valid interpretations because of its dependence on so much symbolism, and 2) the end times should never displace major doctrines of salvation and sanctification in the life of a believer or church, or become grounds for division.

Thank you for seeking the Lord Jesus Christ through your diligent study of this course.

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