

## Study Questions For New Testament Survey

### Between the Testaments

1. How many years are between the Old and New Testaments?
2. Who are the Essenes? Why are they in the desert?
3. Who are the Sadducees? When did their Sect start?
4. Who are the Pharisees? When did their Sect start?
5. Who are the Zealots? When did their Sect start?
6. What is the Talmud? When was it written?
7. Who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls?
8. Who are the Herodians?
9. Who was the Caesar when Jesus was born?
10. Who were the Maccabees? What did they do?

\*Hint look through links below to find answers

### Background of the Silent Years

#### Silent Years

<http://www.historian.net/dssxr.htm>

<http://www.realtime.net/~wdoud/topics/judea.html>

<http://www.abu.nb.ca/ecm/topics/event12.htm>

[http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/sadducees\\_pharisees\\_essenes.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/sadducees_pharisees_essenes.html)

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/deadsea.html#Essenes>

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Herod.html>

### Matthew 1

1. Why is there focus on Jesus genealogy here ?
2. To whom does the angel come in this version?
3. What is similar between the two?

### Matthew 2

1. Who are the Magi?
2. Who were they seeking and for what purpose?
3. How did they find the baby?
4. How did they honor him?
5. Why did they not return to Jerusalem?
6. How is Hebrew prophecy related to the other events in this chapter?
7. Why was Jesus raised in Nazareth?

### Luke 1

1. What shocking and marvelous news does Mary receive from Gabriel?
2. What is her reaction?
3. What is the story of John the Baptist's birth?

Luke 2

1. What is one problem with the dating of Jesus' birth?
2. Why was Jesus born in a stable?
3. Who is Jesus called by the angel to Mary and to the shepherds?
4. How were shepherds regarded in those days?
5. What was the reaction at those who heard them, Mary's reaction?
6. Who were Simeon and Anna and what did they proclaim?

Luke 3

1. How is Jesus' ancestry here different than in Matthew?

Mark 1

1. How does Mark use Isaiah's prophecy about Israel's deliverance from Exile?
2. Why do the people believe that Jesus was special?
3. What immediately happened after that?

John 1

1. How does this gospel portray John the Baptist?
2. What is the promise to those who receive the Word, The Light that comes into the world?
3. What has God done through Jesus?
4. How does John the Baptist describe Jesus?
5. How did Jesus gain his first disciples?
6. Why is there no temptation story here?

Luke 10-25-27 "The Parable of the Good Samaritan"

Why does Jesus ask him to give his understanding of the Law first?

Is the scholar also asking about God's command to love when he asks "who is my neighbor?"

In what socio-economic situation is the man traveling by himself from Jerusalem to Jericho?

Does he have any power (power is the ability to act)?

What will happen to him unless someone helps him when the thieves get through with him?

Why might the priest and the Levite not want to touch a man who might be dead?

Do they have any connection with this legal scholar?

How did the Jews view the Samaritans (see II Kings 17)?

What attitude does the Samaritan bring into the situation?

What does he do? Do these actions likely empower the traveler again?

In Christian thought is there anyone who has entered into our situation with compassion

after we have been beaten up and left for dead by life because of our sins and others' sins against us?

Who has done the deeds of deliverance?

In telling this story, how has Jesus encouraged the scholar to feel about him? What has he done to this scholar emotionally in telling a story where a Samaritan and not the scholar's colleagues and friends is the hero?

14. If Jesus is confronting the man with God's commands with what command is Jesus confronting Him?

15. Does Jesus invite the man to join him in obeying God's command? Does Jesus invite all his

listeners and readers according to the commentary? What then is the type of love that God commands? What does it include in actions?

Matthew 5-7 Luke 6 Chapter 2

How many movements are there to each part of the Sermon on the Mount ?

4. Do the scriptures contain a new law which Christians must obey to obtain God's mercy or do they imply that God might be acting in a more gracious way than that?

Chapter 3 add Romans

Does the scriptures say that Jesus taught and lived a "peacemaking ethic"?

If he did, what are the key steps in serving as a peacemaker (empowered by God's Grace)

Matthew 4

What is Jesus basic proclamation?

How does he make this proclamation, in words only?

Matthew 8

Read these stories of healing and see which motives for healing you can discover and which ones that are commonly assumed to be his motives are not implied here.

How does Jesus respond to the leper?

Why does he tell him to tell no one IF Jesus wants everyone to know right away that he is the Messiah (annointed king)?

Why does he tell the former leper to show the priest that he is healed? Is a formerly marginalized Person now restored to the community with this healing?

Is the centurion a Jew?

What amazing thing doe he say to Jesus?

What gift does the centurion have that Jesus says is part of the healing?

Is the healing of Peter's mother-in-law significant? Is her response significant?

In what way does verse 17 seem to be a strange interpretation of Isaiah 53:4?

Matthew 9

What attitude did the paralytic man's friends (and apparently the man himself) show?

Would Jesus response sound surprising to these people as well as to the religious leaders?

How is it easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven" than to say "Stand up and walk"?

What is the common people's response to the former paralytic walking?

What strange statement does the synagogue official make in his request of Jesus?

What is the attitude of the woman towards her opportunity to be healed?

How did the people respond to the dead girl coming back to life? Is this related to Jesus' basic proclamation?

What do the blind men call Jesus? Is that important? Why does Jesus ask them to tell no one?

9. What does the summary of Jesus healings say about part of the meaning of his healings?

Matthew 10

What does Jesus command and empower the apostles to do?

Matthew 11

What do John's disciples ask Jesus and what is Jesus' response?

What does Jesus invite everyone to do in verses 28-29?

Matthew 12

Why is there a controversy over Jesus healing the man with the paralyzed hand?

Why did Jesus give people orders not to make him known?

Why does this seem a strange fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 42:1?

"If it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out devils then...", what does Jesus say that shows?

What does the commentary say about the sin against the Holy Spirit?

John 9

What is the assumption of the disciples and the Pharisees about the man born blind?

What is Jesus' explanation?

What is the Pharisees claim about Jesus and their "proof"?

How many times did the man or his parents testify to the marvel Jesus had done?

Some say that this passage reflects the time after the Jewish Christians had been ousted from the synagogue, do you see evidence of this?

What is the formerly blind person ready to do and what does Jesus tell him?

John 11

How close was Jesus to Lazarus, Martha and Mary?

Why did he say that he waited until Lazarus had died? What were the disciples afraid of?

How does Thomas respond in verse 17 when Jesus tells them he is going to Bethany (near Jerusalem)?

Who does John call "Jews" in his gospel? Jesus and his disciples are Jews of course?

Who is present when Lazarus is brought back from death?

What does Martha tell Jesus and what is the meaning of his response?

What is the result of Lazarus being brought back to life? Does Chapter 12 seem to follow naturally here?

This section belongs later but it describes a healing miracle.

Luke 22:47-53 Matthew 26:51-56

Who got injured when Jesus was arrested?

What did Jesus do and say about this injury?

Matthew 21 John 12 John 2

What do the people call Jesus? What does Hosanna mean?

Does Jesus just act like a prophet or does he act like he is claiming to be what the people have

Called him when he cleanses the temple of the money changers and the animal sellers?

How does he use Jeremiah 7 in a strange way?

Matthew 22

How did Jesus summarize the Torah ?

Why does he ask the Pharisees that strange question about the Messiah (anointed king)?

Matthew 26:59-67 Matthew 27

What is the Sanhedrin trying to do and how?

Does Jesus announce that he is the Christ and does he make a more startling claim for even a Heaven-sent king?

What is the High Priest's response? If the Christian claim is true who has really blasphemed (insulted God harshly)? According to Genesis 3 does anyone else want to see themselves as "like gods"?

What is the charge before Pilate and why do the religious leaders decide to take Jesus to Pilate rather than stone him right where "he has blasphemed" as both Jewish and Roman law would allow

them to do?

What is the charge placed over Jesus head on the Cross?

If Pilate is the agent of Caesar, who has really rebelled against the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings according to Christians?

7. Again, according to Genesis 3 has anyone else been guilty of rebellion against God?

(rebellion includes the plot to kill God and to do away with God on order to have God's power)

John 3:14-15 John 12:32

According to John's gospel how is Jesus to be lifted up (similar to what, why)?

What did Jesus say when the Greek speaking Jews were brought to him?

If the Christian claim that Jesus is the Son of God (in a deeper and more complete way than a good King was so considered) is true, then what does these practices say about the nature of God?

Does Jesus' claim imply then that he went to the Cross to accomplish something other than forgiveness Alone? What (remember Jeremiah and other prophetic promises)?

Matthew 28

Who comes to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body?

What do they discover who do they meet?

Who first spreads the news of Jesus' Resurrection? How do the disciples react?

What does Jesus commission (command and empower) them to do?

What is it about Jewish beliefs about the Messiah and resurrection that indicates that if the disciples were making up a story they wouldn't make up one like this?

Acts 1

The disciples are told to stay in Jerusalem until when?

How does the description of what Jesus commands them to do summarize the book of Acts?

Acts 2

What festival was Pentecost in the Jewish year?

What happened to the disciples and to their listeners from every nation of the Diaspora?

What time are we living in according to Peter? For how long have we been doing so?

What claim of Peter really shakes up his listeners? What is their response?

Is the order Peter gives as to steps to salvation clearly the only possible way people can take?

Is this sermon successful?

How did the people show they were filled with the Holy Spirit?

Acts 4

Were there divisions in the earliest church?

Why did the people share everything?

What was the economic result?

Acts 6

Who were the Hellenistic Jewish widows and why did their families complain? What could have happened?

What was the apostles response (negative and positive)?

Who was the most famous person chosen to help?

What did he do and why did he get in trouble with the religious authorities?

How seems involved in the stoning even if he threw no stones?

Acts 9

What is Saul of Tarsus commissioned to do in Antioch?

What interrupts his carefully thought out plan?

What does Jesus command Saul to do?

Why is Annanias leery about taking Saul into his home?

What does God tell Annanias?

Acts 10

What is Peter's vision?

What does God's voice say and what is Peter's response?

Does God's reply mean that all food had always been clean?

What does any of this have to do with Cornelius' vision and his sending a servant to come and bring Peter to preach to him and his family?

What is the result of this sermon?

Acts 15

Are the Jewish Christians happy about the conversion of the Gentiles?

Why are some upset with Paul?

What does Peter share with the Church Council?

What does Paul relate?

Who speaks for the council and what is his decision?

How large would the church have been today if that Council had not decided in favor of Paul's approach to Gentiles. Who would likely not be part of the church?

Romans 1

What can people tell about God without the Bible or church authorities teaching them?

Why would this be called "natural law" theology and what does that imply?

Romans 3

Since all have sinned is there any spiritual separation between Jews and Gentiles?

What then can people rely on for their salvation ?

Romans 6

1. What should the Christian's attitude be towards their past sins?

What does baptism mean?

Romans 8

1. Does human sin and salvation show signs of a spiritual connection with nature?

2. What can God do when even the worst things happen to people who trust God?

· 3. Does anything separate Christians from God's love as mediated through Christ?

I Corinthians 1

1. What seems to be the problem here?

2. What are the different factions saying?

3. Why is Paul glad that he did not baptize many of them?

I Corinthians 6 -7

1. Christians have become one with who?

2. What happens when people are joined together?

3. What is the danger of going to a prostitute?

4. What does the Apostle admonish us to do concerning our bodies?

5. Is there a double standard in terms of the husband owning his wife's body?

## I Corinthians 11

1. Is what is described here a carry in dinner (called an "agape meal" or "love feast") at the end of which communion was celebrated among the Christians present?
2. Were people sharing their food or did the rich keep theirs to themselves?
3. What happened to rich worshippers and poor worshippers as a result?
4. What does Paul remind them that the feast is all about?
5. In what context of the "Words of institution" for the Eucharist given here?
6. If the Church is called "the Body of Christ" what "Body" do selfish worshippers fail to perceive?

## I Corinthians 13

1. Who does this seem to describe best?
2. Why are Christians called "Christians"?
3. What is claimed that receiving God's love makes possible?

## II Corinthians 5

1. Paul says that Jesus came for what purpose?
2. What is the change in the Christian in terms of their outlook on the world?

## Galatians 3

1. What are some people still insisting is necessary for Christians to do?
2. What does Paul claim that Christians have?
3. Can Christians view other people differently or should they keep the same cultural biases of everyone else?
4. Does this passage seem to apply to whether Christians should be ethnocentric? What about other "isms"?

## Ephesians 1

1. Does Paul describe here a secret knowledge here known only by the "in" group?
2. What does he say is the eternal purpose of God? What does that imply?

## Ephesians 5

1. When people start with quoting "wives obey your husbands" are they leaving out an important verse that comes earlier?
2. The first sentence in a paragraph is usually called what? What does it tell?
3. Does the first sentence in this paragraph give the actual command while the following verses give examples of how to follow the command in marriage?
4. If that is so then does "husbands love your wives" sound patronizing or could this be the way husbands are to live out the overall command for marriage?
5. Is there any command here to husbands that they are responsible to see to it that their wives obey them?

Is there such a command anywhere in the Bible?

6. If husbands are to love as Christ loved the church what are husbands supposed to do? Why would Christian women no longer be punished by having their husbands "lord it over them"?

## Philippians 3

1. Did some of the people at Philippi claim to be perfect ?

2. What did Paul say that he could do because of Christ although he would never claim perfection for himself?

3. To what does Paul compare the Christian life?

Colossians 1

1. If all things are created through Christ do the domination systems ("the powers" of sexism, racism, classism, etc.) hold power in reality or does Paul say that Christ has taken their power away?

2. What are Christians not living by when they live as if these domination systems are the only way that the world works (or even is supposed to work)?

Philemon

1. Who is Onesimus? Why does Paul write this letter?

2. What does Paul want Philemon to do but out of love, not obeying Paul's command and resenting it?

I Thessalonians 4

1. Does Paul not want Christians to grieve at all over the death of their loved ones?

2. How might those who believe that death is the end of existence grieve?

3. What is Paul telling the Thessalonians about their loved ones who have died before Christ comes "in power" (which they all assume is going to happen soon)?

4. Does the purpose of these verses seem to be to make a theological point about "the rapture" or to bring ease of mind to Christians worried about their loved ones?

I Timothy 6

1. With what should we be content?

2. What attitude can lead Christians into traps?

3. What is at the root of every evil?

4. What is the effect when this verse is misquoted?

Hebrew 4 - 7

1. Why can Christians approach God with confidence?

2. What did previous High Priests have to do each year?

3. How could Christ have offered himself as a sacrifice once and for all?

Hebrews 11 -12:1

1. Why are these men and women being called examples here? What was their attitude?

2. What is the crowd of witnesses doing? How should the runners be affected by them?

James 3

1. What is the warning to teachers?

2. Why such harsh warnings about "mere words"?

James 5

1. What should people not do if they truly believe that these are "the last days"?

2. How have many gotten to be rich?

3. Is it the agreed upon wage that is not paid that cries out to God or is it the wage which does not help workers and their families meet their basic needs (which God promises them will be met in Matthew 6)?

I John 4

1. Who knows God (experientially)?

2. What is the deepest truth to say of God?

3. How has God shown love most powerfully?

4. How can Christians know if the love of God lives in them?

Jude

What is the message of Jude?

Why does Jude quote from Enoch? And why isn't the book of Enoch accepted today? Explain your answer.

Revelation

Where are the 7 cities of Asia today (what country(s))

Who are the four Horsemen?

What are the 7 seals?

What are the different views about the end times? Explain them

What happens at the consummation of the earth at the end of days?