

Introduction to the NT Code: 7/NT/1

1. General Aims of the unit

Better Understanding of the "New Testament" and

2. Special aims of the lesson

- I. Understand the main aim of the NT and the fulfillment of God's plan for Salvation
2. Know the total number of books in the NT and its main categories , the writers and the main target of each category.
3. Have a brief about the way the books of the NT spread among the churches and how and when they were canonized.
4. Highlight the main translations of the NT (from Greek) to other languages as the Latin , Coptic , and English.

3. Outcomes

By the end of this lesson the teens are able to:

1. Recite the main theme of writing the books of the NT and relates it to the Salvation of Jesus Christ.
2. Name the books of the NT, its categories and the books in each category . Name the writers of the NT ,give a brief about each of them and the books attributed to him.
3. Remember the name of the Coptic Saint who started the Coptic translation of the Bible, the Coptic Patriarch who collected the canonized books of the NT and published them in his Pascal letter in Yr. 384AD
4. Remember the last book written of the NT and approximately when it was written

4. Verses : 2Tim.3:16 ; Acts 2:42

5. References : Attached notes [An Introduction to the NT]

+

*Saint Mark's Church
Servants Meeting*

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT



- The Bible Of The Church
- History Of Canonizing The Books Of The N.T
- Authenticity Of The New Testament Documents
- Summary Of The Books Of The N.T

1. The bible of the Church

The Church accepts the Bible (The Word Of God) in the form of the Old Testament which she inherited from the Jewish Church , and the New Testament which was written by the disciples of the Lord . The aim of our Lord was not to publish a book including His teaching , rather to deliver the life to His disciples all over the generations to accept it and to be saved through it.

- ❖ The Christians in the beginning had not special holy books except that inherited from the Jews which is the Old Testament . They used the Old Testament (the Greek translation -the Septuagint which included the Deuterocanonical books) because Jesus Christ Himself used it and says “*..I did not come to destroy the law or prophets , but to complete*” (Mat.5:17) . During the forty days after the resurrection also, He “ *..opened their understanding , that they might comprehend the scripture*” (Luke 24:45) . So , all the prophesies and symbols in the O.T are understood to be completed in Jesus Christ .
- ❖ Jesus Christ did not leave a written book for His followers , but He send them the Holy Spirit to inspire them about all what He said and did.
- ❖ The message of the “gospel of salvation” was spread by the Disciples and Apostles to the believers by the word of mouth . Even the next generations of the leaders of the church were taught by the same style . This evident from what St. Paul said to his disciple Timothy the bishop “*And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*” (2Tim. 2:2) .This is the “TRADITION” which was the main and only source of teaching in the church for generations.
- ❖ The first books of the New Testament were the epistles of the Apostles which they sent to the newly established churches to emphasise what they taught verbally or to correct false teachings by the others (the epistle to Galatians is an example) , or to answer some questions and improper behaviour (the first epistle to the Corinthians is an example) or some misunderstandings in another epistles (the second epistle to the Thessalonians and St. James epistles are examples).
- ❖ These letters were circulated among the churches , and by the second half of the first century , many churches had copies of these epistles. St. Peter in his epistle (before 67AD) mentioned the epistles of St. Paul “*and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.* (2Pet.3:15-16).
- ❖ The first generation of the church was living a fiery life warring only about the kingdom of heaven as she was expecting the next coming of Christ to be soon. But , as this generation started to depart , then a need was immerged to records about the life of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit inspired some of the disciples to record either their own memories or to collect this data from trusted eye witnesses .

- ❖ The books of the New Testament were completed by the end of the first century . The different churches were not in agreement about the canonical books –specially because there were many other books suggested to have the apostles’ authority. The Eastern Churches accepted the 27 books in our hands , in 367 A.D, through the Paschal letter of St. Athanasius . The Western Churches accepted them by the beginning of the 5th. century, through the efforts of St. Jerome , St. Augustine at the councils of Hebo and Cortege.
- ❖ The canonical books of the N.T were accepted through the traditions of the church as the “word of God” inspired by the Holy Spirit to the writers . The church accepts the faith and the dogma as declared in the N.T ,explained by the traditions and practiced by the fathers of the church. All the traditions of the church must be in agreement with the N.T.

2. History Of Canonizing The Books Of The N.T

By the early second century there was much Christian literature floating around . There were also, apocryphal gospels and many other books which were written by different heretical sects, which included esoteric writings or propaganda literature which in the eye of the Church were heretical and it was thus important for the Church to officially canonize the writings that were truly determined to be of Apostolic authority .

- ❖ St. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch (110 A.D) is the first one to mention a collection of Pauline’s .
- ❖ By the middle of the second century the gospels and the 14 epistles of St Paul were used during worship beside the OT. in different churches as Alexandria and Rome.
- ❖ St. Irenaeus (180-189 AD) accepted the epistles of St. Peter 1st. , St. John 1st.,2nd.,3rd., the book of revelation and the Shepherd by Hermas as canonical .
- ❖ A list was drawn up ~ 200AD which was later called the canon of Muratori The Muratorian fragment is the earliest extant list of canonical books.
- ❖ St. Clement the dean of the school of Alexandria by the beginning of the 3rd. century accepted all the 27 books of the NT except the epistle of James ,2nd. Peter , 3rd. John , but accepted also, epistles of Clement of Rome and Barnabas.
- ❖ During the period 185-254 AD , there was gradual acceptance of books that until this time were on the borderline – James, II Peter, II and III John, Jude, Hebrews, and Apocalypse of John – and the rejection, generally of such works as Barnabas, Hermas, Didache, Apocalypse of Peter, and I and II Clement.
- ❖ Origen, the great Christian teacher and the dean of the school of Alexandria , divided the books into three groupings

:

1. Undisputed books:

- Four Gospels
- Acts
- 14 Epistles of St. Paul
- I Peter
- I John

- Apocalypse of John

2. Disputed books:

- II Peter
- II and III John
- Jude
- James
- Barnabas
- Hermas
- Didache
- Gospel according to Hebrews

3. False books

- Gospel according to the Egyptians
- Gospel of Basilides
- Gospel of the twelve
- Gospel of Thomas

- ❖ Eusebius of Caesarea (230 – 340 AD) was the disciple of Origen and the great church historian followed him in his three fold grouping.
- ❖ In 367 A.D. St. Athanasius, Patriarch of Alexandria, used the opportunity of his annual Easter Letter to list the 27 canonical books of the N.T. and he wrote: “These are the springs of salvation, so that anyone who is thirsty may be satisfied with the messages contained in them. Only in them is the teaching of true religion proclaimed as the Good News. Let no one add to these or take anything away from them”.
- ❖ In the western Church there continued to be some controversy. However due to the efforts of St. Augustine , St. Jerome St. Ambrosias they accepted the New Testament books listed by St. Athanasius (the 27 books that corresponds to today’s New Testament) in 414 AD.

| Murator (200 AD) | Eusebius (325 AD) | Athanasius (367 AD) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Matthew | Matthew | Matthew |
| Mark | Mark | Mark |
| Luke | Luke | Luke |
| John | John | John |
| Acts | Acts | Acts |
| Romans | Romans | Romans |
| I Corinthians | I Corinthians | I Corinthians |
| II Corinthians | II Corinthians | II Corinthians |
| Galatians | Galatians | Galatians |
| Ephesians | Ephesians | Ephesians |
| Philippians | Philippians | Philippians |
| Colossians | Colossians | Colossians |
| I Thessalonians | I Thessalonians | I Thessalonians |
| II Thessalonians | II Thessalonians | II Thessalonians |
| I Timothy | I Timothy | I Timothy |
| II Timothy | II Timothy | II Timothy |
| Titus | Titus | Titus |
| | | Philemon |
| | | Hebrews |
| | | James |

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| I | I Peter | I Peter |
| | II Peter | II Peter |
| I John | I John | I John |
| II John | | II John |
| | | III John |
| Jude | | Jude |
| Revelation of John | Revelation of John | Revelation of John |
| Revelation of Peter | | |

❖ In summary , in the east the discussion were about the book of “Revelation” and in the west disputes were about the epistle to the “Hebrews”

3. Authenticity Of The New Testament Documents

Many all over the history tried to tarnish the NT as it is not authentic . Recently we notice a fierce attack from another religion trying to convince our young people specially in universities that our bible is not the true bible.

There are two main areas to be tested:

1. Are the records of the NT about its main character “Jesus Christ” are true?
2. Did the NT changed or altered over the past 20 centuries for any reason (mainly to omit any reference to the prophet of this religion) ?

First area : Are the records of the NT about its main character “Jesus Christ” are true?

There are very strong internal and external proofs to support the authenticity of the records:

Internal proofs:

1. Honesty of the writers : One of the more striking features of the gospels is that the writers did not hesitate to record facts that might be used against them . If you have a witness who is trying to distort the truth, one of the first things they will do is withhold information that might be detrimental to their case, or to their personal credibility. Yet one of the more striking features of the gospels is that the writers did not hesitate to record facts that might be used against them.
2. The Unacceptability of the account :The core of the gospels is the crucifixion and the resurrection of the Son f God . This is not acceptable to the world , but the writers insisted on it. Christianity will be easily accepted and extended without these illogical facts of the NT.
3. The Cross for His followers :Jesus did not promise His followers by any earthly or materialistic reward . On the contrary , He told them about the sufferings , torture and death that wait them because they follow Him.
4. There are 4 writers giving the account about the life of Jesus. They are different in character , education , social background , in the time they record the account and appear that their accounts are contradicting with each other , yet it is proven that all of them are giving the complete picture of the same person “ Jesus Christ”

External proofs :

1. All the archaeological discoveries which prove beyond doubt that all that is recorded about "Jesus Christ" is true and authentic. The time of His birth, the names of the rulers and other personalities recorded in the account, the time of His mission, His crucifixion, the empty tomb, etc.
2. The fast spread of the belief in "Jesus Christ" in the whole world without the use of any weapons or war to convince the people to accept the new belief.
3. The great number of martyrs who accept to sacrifice their lives for the love of their Saviour "Jesus Christ" without any trace of hatred even to those who martyred and torture them.

Second area : Did the NT change or alter over the past 20 centuries for any reason (mainly to omit any reference to the prophet of this religion) ?

Opponents of Christianity frequently claim that the text we have today is not an accurate reproduction of the original but this, quite literally, could not be farther from the truth. On every historical criterion, the text of the New Testament is **vastly** better documented and corroborated than **any** other document of these times. In the words of Sir Frederick Kenyon, director and principal librarian of the British Museum:

"... the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established."

The following highlight this fact:

1. The available manuscripts written in Greek

- ❖ We have 5 manuscripts from the 4th. And 5th. Century
 - 1) Codex Vaticanus (4th. Century)
 - 2) Codex Sinaiticus (4th. Century) It was found in the monastery of St. Catherine at Sinai, given as a present to Czar Alexander of Russia, then sold to the British museum in 1933 AD.
 - 3) Codex Alexandrinus (5th. Century). It was found at Alexandria, given as a gift to the king of England in the 17th. Century by a Greek Patriarch of Alexandria. Now it is in British museum.
 - 4) Codex Ephraemi (5th century) It was found at Florence, Italy. Now at Bibliotheque Nationale Paris.
 - 5) Codex Bezae (5th century). Its origin is doubtful, now in the library of the University of Cambridge.
- ❖ We have more than 2000 manuscripts dated from the middle of the 5th. Century to the 15th. Century. Each of these manuscripts contains parts of the NT.
- ❖ There are many Papyri which include parts of the biblical texts preserved in the libraries all over the world

2. The old translations

- ❖ The Coptic translation in the middle of the 2nd. Century. It has a great value in the study of texts and started by St. Pantenos to encourage the Copts to read the word of God in their own language.
- ❖ The Latin translation (the Volgata) 390AD BY St. Jerome.
- ❖ The Ethiopian translation about the 4th. Century.
- ❖ And many other translations.

3. The writings of the early fathers

There are many testimonies from the early church fathers about the authenticity of the bible . This testimony is either by quoting from the books of the bible or talking about these books. Polycarp (AD 69-155), Papias (AD 60-140) , Irenaeus (AD 120-190) , Clement of Alexandria (AD 155-220) are just examples

4. Summary Of The Books Of The N.T

The books of the New Testament :

- 1) **4 Gospels** : The life of our Lord Jesus Christ
- 2) **Acts of the Apostles**: The miraculous growth and expansion of the Church on earth , from the day of Pentecost , till the 1st. imprisonment of St. Paul ~62 AD.
- 3) **The 14 epistles of St. Paul (the Pauline epistles)**: to explain the gospel and its practical application
- 4) **The 7 Catholic epistles** (1 of St. James , 2 of St. Peter ,3 of St. John the beloved , and 1 of St. Jude).: they are also teaching epistles.
- 5) **The book of Revelation** : The prophetical book of the NT .

Why four Gospels:

- ❖ More than one gospel is needed because the testimony will spread among different groups of people each has different expectations of the Messiah . The writers of the gospel considered these expectations . The gospels are not the chronological life of our Lord, rather highlighting some events in His life sufficient for our salvation (John 20: 30-31,21:25) . The gospel writers are not historians , but witnesses of the truth . They witness the good news and declare it to us .
- ❖ The gospels according to St. Matthew , St. Mark , and St. Luke are called the SYNOPTIC gospels as they contain many similar events . The scholars suggested either they have one original resource , or both St. Matthew and St. Luke depends on St. Mark's gospel as a resource .
- ❖ The fathers of the Church represents the four gospels by the faces of the four living creatures in the midst of the throne “ *And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature*

had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.” (Rev. 4:6,7) . The same faces were recorded in the vision of the prophet Ezekiel “ Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings.....each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle.” (Ezek.1:5-10) .

1. The four Gospels

| TOPICS | MATTHEW | MARK | LUKE | JOHN |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|---|
| To whom it is written | Jews | Romans | Greek (Educated and philosophers) | All Christian |
| The writer | St. Matthew , tax collector . One of the 12 disciples. | St. Mark. A Jew born in north Africa . One of the 70 Apostles. His mother Mary one of the followers of the Lord. His house was the first Church. He is a relative to St. Barnabas , and St. Peter. | Gentile from Antioch . Physician by profession. Converted through the preaching of St. Paul , and was one of his companions. He was also an artist. | St. John the beloved . One of the first 12 disciples who followed the Lord. One of the three disciples whom the Lord accompanied in special events. The disciple “whom Jesus loved” |
| Probable date | AD 58 - 68 | AD 45 - 65 (suggested to be the 1 st . gospel among the synoptic gospels) | AD 60 -65 | AD 90 -95 |
| Place of Writing | Palestine or Antioch Syria | Alexandria or Rome | Rome or Greece | Ephesus |
| To whom it is written | Jewish mind | Roman mind (Pragmatic) | Greek mind (educated and idealistic) | Universal |
| The main aim | Jesus is king of Israel who was promised in the prophesies of the OT. | Jesus is the STRONG SERVANT , Son of God , who defeated the devil through His miracles and | Jesus is the PERFECT MAN who save the human race from it’s misery. | Jesus is the “SON OF GOD (The Monogenes). Incarnate God |

| TOPICS | MATTHEW | MARK | LUKE | JOHN |
|------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | crucifixion | | |
| Symbol | Face of “ MAN ” as St. Matthew emphasises that Jesus was born as a child, the descendants of David . | Face of “ LION ” as St. Mark emphasises the power of Jesus in His miracles and His resurrection from the dead . He is also <i>"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:"</i> | Face of “ BULL ” as St. Luke Emphasises the sacrifice of our Lord (the perfect man) to save the fallen human nature .He started his gospel by the story of Zakariaias the priest who offer sacrifices on the alter. | Face of “ EAGLE ” as St. John started his gospel by the eternal birth of Christ John “ <i>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.</i> ” (John 1:1-2) . He concentrates in his gospel on all the events that prove divinity of Jesus Christ |
| Language of the Gospel | Aramaic , translated later to Greek | Greek | Greek | Greek |
| No. of Chapters | 28 (1070 verses) | 16 (677 verses) | 24 (1150 verses) | 21 (877 verses) |
| Main features | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + 42 % unique + The birth of Jesus from St. Mary, and His flee to Egypt. +The ministry of the Lord in Galilee. +The Lord attended one Passover feast in Jerusalem .just before His crucifixion + The Gospel of Kingdom. The word “KINGDOM” repeated about 55 times + Concentrate on the teaching of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +7 % unique +The ministry of the Lord in Galilee. +The Lord attended one Passover feast in Jerusalem .just before His crucifixion . +The gospel of Power +Jesus has heavenly source of power. He is the Son of GOD . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + 59 % unique +The Lord’s birth from St. Mary, and an account of his childhood +The ministry of the Lord in Galilee. +The Lord attended one Passover feast in Jerusalem .just before His crucifixion + Universal gospel , dates the biblical events by reference to the secular history. (ch.2,3) + The word “son of man” repeated 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +92% unique + Recorded the eternal birth of The “Word Of God +The ministry of the Lord in Judea , Samaria . + The Lord attended 3 Passovers in Jerusalem (John 2, 7, 12). +John in this gospel emphasise the Divinity of Christ against the heresies of the 1st. century “Jesus is the Son of God , incarnated in flesh” +the following terms are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. .The Word, the Lamb of God (Ch.1) 2. Born of the water and Spirit (Ch.3) |

| TOPICS | MATTHEW | MARK | LUKE | JOHN |
|--------|---|---|--|---|
| | <p>the Lord about the Kingdom of heaven (The parables of kingdom of God Mat. 13 , 22, 25).</p> <p>+ Refer to 60 prophesies from the OT.</p> <p>+ Consists mainly of 5 major parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sermon on the mountain (ch.5-7) 2. The Apostolic mission (ch.10) 3. The parables of the kingdom(ch13) 4. Other teaching (ch. 18) 5. Eschatological talks (ch. 23-25) | <p>This is evident in all the miracles He performed , and also in His crucifixion.</p> <p>+The accounts are very brief ,with rapid movement to give the sense of urgency , the word “immediately” is repeated in this short gospel more than the whole NT (42 times).</p> <p>+ The gospel shows Jesus very compassionate not only to the Jews but also to the gentiles. He went to Tyre & Sidon and healed the daughter of the gentile woman (Mark 7:24-30) ,feeding the 4000 (Mark 8:1-10)</p> <p>+ The last week (Passion week) , represents 1/3 of the gospel (Ch. 11-16)</p> | <p>times.</p> <p>+Concentrate on “Jesus” is the friend of the humans , specially the sinners , the needy, and the lost. He is joyfully waiting for their return.(ch. 15)</p> <p>+ It is the gospel of joy , filled with praises. (ch.. 1,2).</p> <p>+ the genealogy of Jesus ends with Adam ,the father of all the human race.</p> <p>+ The main parts of the gospel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our friend became like us.(ch. 1-3) 2. Our friend tempted like us (ch.4) 3. Our friend feels our sufferings(ch.5-18) 4. Our friend save us(ch. 19-23) 5. Our friend resurrected from the dead (ch. 24) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The Living Water (Ch.4) 4. The Son gives live to whom He will, all judgement committed to the Son (Ch.5). 5. I AM the Bread of Life (Ch.6) 6. I AM the Light of the world(Ch.8) 7. I AM the Door , I and My Father are one (Ch. 10) 8. I AM the Resurrection and Life (Ch.11) 9. I AM the Way , the Truth , and Life (Ch. 14) 10.I AM the True Vine(Ch.15) 11.I have overcome the world(Ch. 16) <p>+ The last speech , and the last prayer of the Lord (Ch.14-17)</p> <p>+The aim of this gospel is to “.....you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”(John 20:31)</p> |

2. The book of the Acts:

- ❖ **The writer is St. Luke** , continue the account of his gospel and to the same person "Theophilus".
- ❖ **Written before the martyrdom of St. Paul 67-68 AD** , and after the gospel according to St. Luke
- ❖ **Written from Rome or Antioch**
- ❖ **Theme:** The obedience of the disciples and believers to the great commission of the Lord "*...and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*"(Acts 1:8) , and how the Church started on the day of Pentecost and spread through the power of the Spirit all over the world.

| Event | Duration | Acts | People | Disciples |
|---|-----------------|-----------|------------|---|
| Spread of the Church in Jerusalem | 2years (33-35) | Ch. 1-7 | Jews | Peter , John |
| Spread of the Church in Judea and Samaria | 13years (35-48) | Ch. 8-12 | Samaritans | Philip |
| Spread of the Church to all the earth | 14years(48-62) | Ch. 13-28 | Gentiles | Paul – Barnabas, Silas, Timothy , Luke , Mark |

3. The Pauline epistles

| | EPISTLE | CATEGORY | PROPOSED TIMING | PLACE OF WRITING | THE MAIN THEME | NO. OF CHAPTERS |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Romans | General to a Church | ~55-57AD | During his 3 rd . mission, from Corinth | The Righteousness of God revealed to us through Jesus Christ , and accepted through Faith without the deeds of the Law. | 16 |
| 2 | Corinthians | | ~55-56AD | During his 3 rd . mission, from Ephesus | Correction of carnal living (Church disunity , moral failure , dealing with pagan religions ,self-centeredness and spiritual gifts, and doctrinal speculations[Gnostic]) | 16 |
| 3 | 2 Corinthians | | ~ 55-56AD | During his 3 rd . mission, from Macedonia | St. Paul defend his apostolic authority to the Corinthians. | 13 |
| 4 | Galatians | | Uncertain 49 or 53 or 56AD | May be from Antioch | The true gospel (gift of God through faith) vs. False gospel (the deeds of the Law of the OT) | 6 |
| 5 | Ephesians | | ~61-63AD | During his 1 st . imprisonment in Rome. | The riches of Christ in His Body “the Church” | 6 |
| 6 | Philippians | | ~61-63AD | During his 1 st . imprisonment in Rome. | The dynamic of our life in Christ (joy , unity , humility ,selfless generosity) | 4 |
| 7 | Colossians | | ~61-63AD | During his 1 st . imprisonment in Rome. | Pre-eminence of Christ (against the heresies appeared in Colosse.) | 4 |
| 8 | 1 Thessalonians | | ~50-51AD | During his 2 nd . mission ,from Corinth. | A holy life leads to eternal life. Instructions about the next coming of the Lord. | 5 |

| | EPISTLE | CATEGORY | PROPOSED TIMING | PLACE OF WRITING | THE MAIN THEME | NO. OF CHAP-TERS |
|----|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| 9 | 2 Thessalonians | | ~50-51AD | During his 2 nd . mission ,from Corinth. | Understand the next coming of the Lord. | 3 |
| 10 | 1 Timothy | Pastoral | ~64-65AD | During his freedom from the 1 st . imprisonment, perhaps from Macedonia | Pastoral care for the faithful. | 6 |
| 11 | 2 Timothy | | ~67AD | During his 2 nd . imprisonment , from Rome | Endurance in the pastoral ministry. | 4 |
| 12 | Titus | | ~64-65AD | During his freedom from the 1 st . imprisonment, perhaps from Macedonia | Overseeing the Church according to the true faith. | 3 |
| 13 | Philemon | Personal | ~61-63AD | During his 1 st . imprisonment in Rome. | Our brotherhood in Christ. | 1 |
| 14 | Hebrews | General to a Church | ~64-67 or after | | Superiority of Jesus Christ. His Priesthood | 13 |

4. The Catholic Epistles:

| | EPISTLE | PROPOSED TIMING | THE WRITER | PLACE OF WRITING | THE MAIN THEME | NO. OF CHAP-TERS |
|---|----------------|------------------------|--|------------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | James | ~46-49AD or 55-60AD | St. James the just or the less, was one of the Lord's brothers* (Mark 6:3). He was one of the pillars of the Church (Acts 12:17), and the bishop of Jerusalem. | Jerusalem | The harmony of faith and works. Moral behaviour is important in our salvation, and the grace does not nullify personal responsibility. | 5 |
| 2 | 1 Peter | ~63-64AD | St. Peter the apostle, one of the twelve, and one of the pillars of the Church. | Babylon (Rome) | Rejoice in sharing the suffering of Christ | 5 |
| 3 | 2 Peter | ~64-67AD | | Rome | True knowledge vs. False knowledge | 3 |
| 4 | 1 John | ~ 90-95AD | St. John the beloved, one of the twelve, and one of the pillars of the Church | Ephesus | Fellowship with Christ (abiding in light and love) | 5 |
| 5 | 2 John | | | | Abide in God's commandments, and not with false teachers | 1 |
| 6 | 3 John | | | | Genuine leadership vs. False leadership (Gaus & Demetrius vs. Diotrephos) | 1 |
| 7 | Jude | ~60-80 AD | St. Jude was one of the Lord's brothers* (Matt. 13:55), and the younger brother of St. James the just. | Unknown | Contending earnestly for the faith | 1 |

* **Jesus' brothers** : either they were the children of St. Joseph from previous marriage, or the children of St. Mary's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas. (John 19:25)

5. The Book of Revelation : The Struggle Between The Church and the Devil and her final victory

