

Geography of New Testament



I. Geography of the Gospels

A. Provinces:

1. Galilee

- Jesus's home province.
- Nazareth and Capernaum are in Galilee.

2. Samaria

- Part Jewish, part Gentile.
- Live in constant animosity with the Jews.

3. Judea

- Encompasses city of Jerusalem and is home to most of the Jews in the New Testament.

4. Perea

- Jesus spent concentrated time there with His 12 disciples near the end of His ministry.

B. Cities:

1. Nazareth

- Located in Galilee.
- Town where Mary & Joseph lived and where Jesus grew up.

2. Capernaum

- Jesus's home during His ministry years.

3. Jerusalem

- Home of the temple, the holy city, and the center of activity for the Jews.

4. Bethlehem

- Birthplace of Jesus.
- 5 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

II. Geography of Acts

Bodies of water same as Gospels, only more of the Mediterranean Sea is involved.

Gospels-----> Acts
Geography expands further into the Roman Empire.

A. Countries:

1. Galatia

- Located in modern-day Turkey.
- Destination of Paul's 1st missionary journey to take the gospel message to Gentiles.

2. Greece

- Destination of Paul's 2nd missionary journey.

3. Asia

- Destination of Paul's 3rd missionary journey.

4. Italy

- Country of Paul's final imprisonment and death.

B. Cities:

1. Jerusalem

- Location of the beginning of the early Christian church.

2. Damascus

- Paul's destination when he was temporarily blinded by Jesus and converted to Christianity.

3. Caesarea

- Site of Paul's trials.

4. Antioch

- Beginning point for all three of Paul's missionary journeys.

5. Rome

- Political and cultural heart of the Roman Empire.

Structure of New Testament

THE THREE KINDS OF BOOKS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Historical

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts

Pauline Epistles

(letters written by Paul)

To Churches:

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians

To Individuals:

1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

General Epistles

(letters written by different people)

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

Review:

- The **New Testament** is the story of Jesus's birth, His Life, and the ministry of His disciples, which was carried on after Jesus was crucified.
- The **Historical books** tell the story of Jesus and the church He established.
- **Epistles** are letters written to various individuals and church congregations. They contain mostly instruction on Christian Doctrine.

A. 3 MAIN Eras in the New Testament

1. **Gospels-** The life of Jesus of Nazareth as told in the *Gospels*.
2. **Church-** The formation of the Christian *Church*.
3. **Missions-** The expansion of the Church into the Roman Empire through *missions*.

B. 3 Central Figures of the New Testament

ERA	FIGURE	DESCRIPTION of the leader
Gospel	Jesus	The predicted <i>Messiah</i> .
Church	Peter	The <i>leader</i> of the early Church.
Missions	Paul	The first Christian <i>missionary</i> .

C. 3 Central Locations of the New Testament

ERA	FIGURE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION of the location
Gospel	Jesus	Palestine	The general land area that was known as Canaan & Israel in the OT is commonly known as <u>Palestine</u> in the New. Includes the Roman provinces of Galilee, Samaria, and Judea.
Church	Peter	Jerusalem	The ancient city of Jerusalem has been in the same location throughout most of biblical history after the Kingdom Era. It is the city that gave birth to the early Church.
Missions	Paul	Roman Empire	As Paul spread the message of Christianity he took it to the heart of the Roman Empire. From Palestine north to what is modern Turkey, and west through modern Greece, to Italy.