

# ***Who Am I?***

## ***Unlocking and Understanding the Mystery of Christ***

**Week Eight**

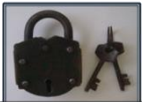
**Day One**

### **A NEW COVENANT...A NEW TESTAMENT**

“For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. But God found fault with the people and said: ‘The time is coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.’”

“By calling this covenant ‘new,’ He has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.”  
(Hebrews 8:7-8; 13)

The word covenant is defined as a usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement; a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action. The word Testament is defined as a covenant between God and the human race; an act by which a person determines the disposition of his or her property after death. The first thing I want you to understand is that the Old and New Testaments are each a binding agreement between God and us. They are the written agreement or promise that has been sealed by the Holy Spirit between God and His people. The Old Covenant was not made to last; it was made to foreshadow the New Covenant.



***Unlocking the Mystery***

The statement you just read came from Week Two, day Three. I have been praying about how to bring this study to a conclusion, and I believe it is time to take an overview of the New Testament. We have studied in detail the life of Jesus Christ and of His time here on earth. We have studied how He came, not in pomp and circumstance, but as a lowly babe and then died a lowly and disgraceful death. We have studied the resurrection and the ascension and have been exhorted to be ready for His second return. We have studied lessons on living for Him as we await that return. I now want to take you to a place of study by looking at the New Testament as a whole, and how Jesus, a man that walked this earth only 33 years and had a ministry of only 3.5 years, changed the world forever. It really is a great mystery how one MAN can have that much influence on mankind - if He were only a man. Jesus was not just a man. He was and is GOD.

This lesson will focus on the four Gospels and the Good News of Jesus Christ. By the end of this lesson, you will know the audience to whom each Gospel was written and contributing factors that disclose it. You will also be able to grasp a deeper understanding of the content within.

I hope you enjoy this overview and gain a new understanding of our New Covenant with Jesus Christ.

# The One Minute Gospel

To  
Israel



To  
Everyone

**OLD  
TESTAMENT**

Teaches  
To Watch  
For The  
MESSIAH

The Life of

**JESUS CHRIST**

Written in

**THE GOSPELS**

**NEW  
TESTAMENT**

Teaches  
To Live For  
CHRIST  
Until He  
Returns

Hebrew  
Messiah  
“Anointed One”



Greek  
Christ  
“Anointed One”



*Understanding the Word*

The “One Minute Gospel” came about from me wanting a quick picture to present to someone that explains the Bible and the importance of Jesus all within a brief moment. The Old Testament points to the Messiah. The New Testament teaches us to live for Christ. The Gospels present the life story of our Messiah, Jesus Christ. He came as a baby and was born of a virgin. He gave His life as a sacrifice on the cross to take away the sins of the world; He died, was placed in a tomb, and three days later He was resurrected. He appeared for 40 days to many people, and then He ascended back to heaven where He sits at God’s right hand. At the appointed time given by God, the trumpet will sound, and He will come again in clouds of glory to take His people home. Amen.

## ***A Brief History Lesson for Review***

To understand the necessity of more than one written Gospel, we must understand a bit of history concerning this area and time. At the opening of this study, I gave you a brief overview of the time in history of the Old Testament and of the immediate time leading to Jesus' birth and life. Now, we will look at the time after Jesus' time on earth.

Jerusalem was the home of the Jewish temple and was the central location for Jewish worship. Following Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension, and the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, was the birth of the church made up of followers of Jesus Christ.

The church began in Jerusalem and was made up of Jewish people. Jesus was Jewish, and His followers were Jewish. Therefore, this new entity was forming a new Sect of Judaism- or so they thought. They were accustomed to the different classes. The Jews by birth and blood that were born and raised in the land of Israel were the Hebraic Jews. The Jews whose home or ancestry was from foreign lands but had settled back into the land of Israel were the Hellenist Jews, and the ones outside of the Jewish faith that denounced heathenism and embraced Jewish law and customs including circumcision were the Proselytes. Complete outsiders of the Jewish faith were still known as Gentiles. A Gentile could be a friend of the Jew or could convert to Judaism through circumcision but never did the earliest church think a Gentile could be a follower of Jesus Christ without first becoming Jewish.

Remember, it is a Roman ruled world at that time, but it was still greatly influenced by the Greek culture. Jesus empowered His followers to spread His message to the Jewish people, and eventually the Gentiles began to hear and believe and embrace this message. The Gentile believers quickly out-numbered the Jewish believers, and the church grew to large numbers and spread outside the vicinity of Jerusalem.

The devout Jewish leaders were still against this JESUS Movement and believed it to be a heretical teaching. One man who was particularly against it was Saul of Tarsus. Saul began to work to exterminate these heretical people. The church scattered throughout many nations taking with it the Good News of Jesus. Eventually, Jesus got Saul's attention, and Saul converted to the church. He became Paul whom we know as the greatest missionary and the one responsible for much of our New Testament.

In the year 64 AD, the Roman Emperor, Nero, became involved in the persecution of the church, torturing and killing many Christ followers including Peter and Paul. Since history was traditionally passed down through oral tradition and many of the eye witnesses of Jesus were being killed, there became a necessity to document the truth of the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Gospels were written for this purpose.

Jewish history shows that during this time the Jewish people were against the Christ followers but also were rebellious toward the rule of Rome. Under the Roman General Titus, Jerusalem was attacked and destroyed. The Jews that stayed were killed or put into bondage. The Temple was completely destroyed, and the Jewish state of Israel was annihilated. This brought forth the complete separation of Judaism and the group now called Christians.

The Fall of Jerusalem was in 70 AD. The final eye witness of the life of Christ, the apostle John, died about 100 AD. These are important dates to know as you study and learn. By the time of the close of the first century, the Scriptures that we know as the New Testament were brought together and "canonized," and the ecclesiastical system, what we know as church, was well established.

There it is. A short and to the point description of the early church history. Now, let's get back to the first four books of the New Testament called the Gospels.

## **ABOUT THE GOSPELS**

So, was Jesus a king, or was He a servant? Was He a man or was He God? The answer is yes to all. Each Gospel was written by someone different, reaching different audiences, helping to explain and encourage the believers of these different backgrounds.

1. Who was the group of people that were God's chosen people that lived near Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would a book of the Life of Christ be necessary for this group of people?

---

---

2. What Nation was the world ruler of this time? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would a book of the Life of Christ be necessary for this group of people?

---

---

3. What Culture still was of great influence of this time? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would a book of the Life of Christ be necessary for this group of people?

---

---

4. What were the followers of Christ called? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would a book of the Life of Christ be necessary for this group of people?

---

---

## **MATTHEW- TO THE JEWISH BELIEVERS**

- The **Jewish** believers needed proof that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah. **Matthew** shows Jesus fulfilling many prophecies.
- The **Jewish** believers revered the name of God. **Matthew** uses the phrase the Kingdom of Heaven in place of the Kingdom of God.
- The **Jewish** believers were awaiting a king in the line of David. **Matthew** includes the lineage of Abraham...fully Jewish, and the lineage of King David... the rightful heir to be king.
- The **Jewish** Law had high standards of living. **Matthew** included the discourse where Jesus raises the standard of living thus showing the need of a savior.
- The **Jewish** Scriptures contain many prophecies. **Matthew** shows that not only is Jesus the fulfillment of prophecy with His first advent but will fulfill the rest in His return.

## **MARK- TO THE ROMAN BELIEVERS**

- The **Roman** believers were victims of severe persecution. **Mark** encourages those that were suffering for the sake of Christ with the truth of Jesus' suffering and the promise that ultimate judgment will come.
- The **Romans** were a people of strength. **Mark** quickly shows the power of Jesus through His miracles and authority.
- The **Romans** were a people of action. **Mark** stresses Jesus' servant-hood and His teaching, emphasizing things Jesus did rather than said.
- The **Roman** people were not familiar with Jewish Scripture or customs. **Mark** explains some of the Jewish customs and tells the story of Jesus using vivid examples and quick transitions.
- The **Roman** people were straight to the point. **Mark** excludes interpretations or exaggerations. He lets the facts of Jesus' life speak for themselves.

## **LUKE- TO THE GREEK BELIEVERS**

- The **Greek** people were used to worshipping gods. **Luke** takes the reader through the life of Jesus and shows that He is the one that truly deserves our worship.
- The **Greek** gods were represented in human form. **Luke** shows the lineage of Jesus being fully human but fully God and demonstrates the humanity of our Lord while remaining a deity.
- The **Greek** people were awakening to the gods failing them. **Luke** wrote to show that Jesus was a compassionate and loving savior with sympathy and feeling toward people and would never fail them.
- The **Greek** people were philosophers that tried to reason and explain the mysteries of the world. **Luke** used descriptive language that would stimulate the reader to look deeper into understanding Jesus.
- The **Greek** believers were used to abstract thinking. **Luke** wrote to adequately explain that Jesus came to earth to offer salvation to all that would believe.



**A KEY SCRIPTURE FROM EACH GOSPEL**

Matthew 1:22-23 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mark 10:45 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 19:10 \_\_\_\_\_

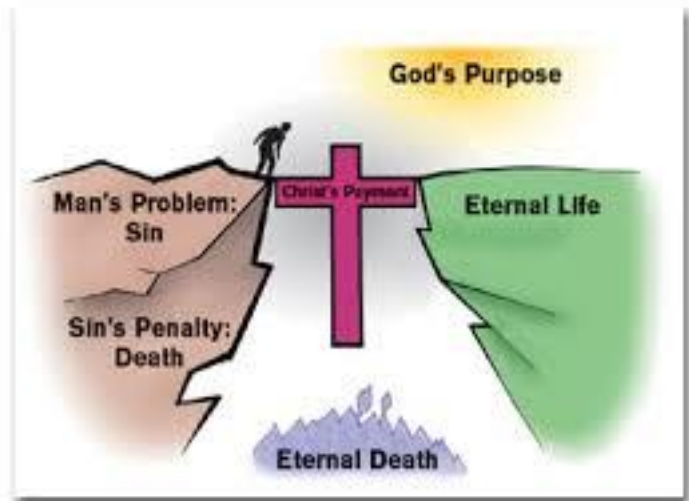
\_\_\_\_\_

John 20:31 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



We have begun the study of the New Testament and have looked into the life of this one man that changed the course of the world. He was no ordinary man. He wasn't just a nice guy. He wasn't just a great teacher nor was He just a prophet. He was fully man, but He was and still is fully God. Because He came to earth to live and die, we get to die and live. That is great news, and it's all because of the GOOD NEWS of JESUS CHRIST and the message delivered in the GOSPELS.



In no way can I even touch on all the wonderful things in the Gospels in such a short lesson. I just know that the Old Testament points to Jesus, and the New Testament teaches us to live for Jesus, so the life of Jesus bridges the gap. When you are struggling with anything in your life, there are so many scriptures you could turn to. Oftentimes, when I am struggling with something, it is because my eyes have been taken off Jesus, so I go back to the Gospels to connect once more with Him. It's His identity I want to have, and it is His power and authority I need to overcome so that is where I start. If you are struggling, take time to identify what is missing. More times than not it's our attention on Christ.

\*Answers to the previous page: Matthew B/E; Mark D/H; Luke C/F; John A/G

*Who Am I? Unlocking and Understanding the Mystery of Christ*  
*Week Eight: New Testament Survey Day One: A New Covenant; A New Testament*