The New Testament:

A Survey

Overview:

* Historical Books
  + The Four Gospels and Acts
* Pauline Epistles
  + Romans - Philemon
* General Epistles
  + Hebrews-Jude
* Prophetic Book
  + Revelation

Historical Books

The Gospels: (gospel= “good news”)

* Forget not…
  + Their Context
    - Their Jewishness
    - Their Time (1st Century)
    - Their genre (history)
  + Their Point

“Christ Crucified” by Diego Velazquez 1632

* + - To record their first coming
    - Not to tell the whole story
* Major Themes
  + The Kingdom of God
  + The rejection of the Messiah
  + The striking of the heel (Gen 3:15) (the Crucifixion)
* Matthew: The gospel of the kingdom and the king.
  + Records more teachings about the kingdom of heaven than any other
  + Likely written to a Jewish audience
  + Key emphasis on showing the proofs from the OT of Jesus’s claim to be Messiah
* Mark: The gospel of action.
  + Punchy writing style (*euthus* immediately*)*
  + The shortest
  + Records Jesus’s actions without much interpretation of the meaning
* Luke: The gospel of order.
  + Likely written to a largely Hellenistic audience
  + High-level Greek vocabulary
  + Was written “to present an orderly account”
* John: The gospel of love.
  + The most unique material/stories.
  + Written to get you to “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”
  + Records 7 major miracles

Acts: (The Acts of the Apostles)

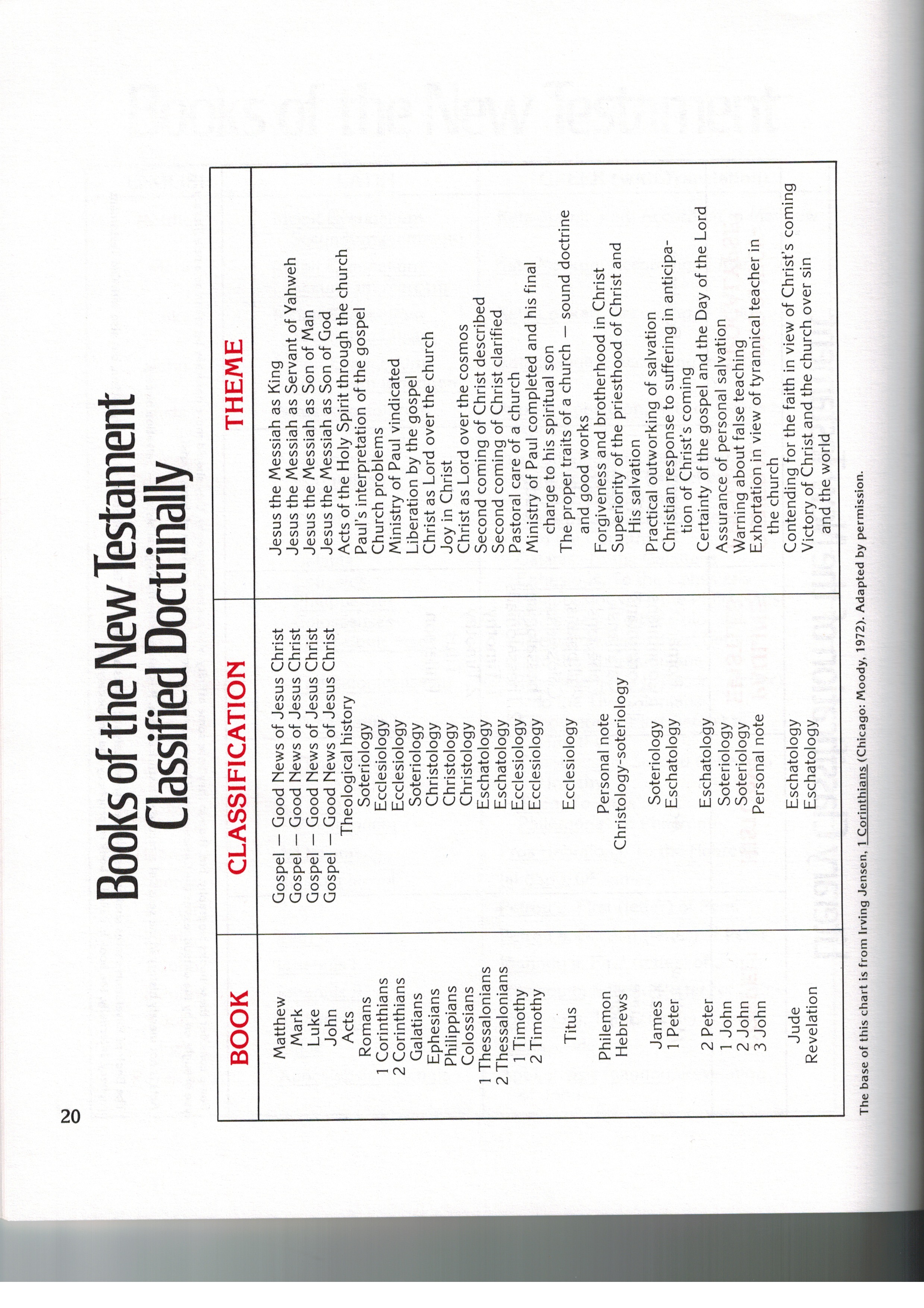
* Written as a second volume to Luke’s Gospel to record the events after the resurrection.
* Shows the going out of the gospel to Judea, and Samaria, and the ends of the earth.
* 1st half: The Apostles in Jerusalem
* 2nd Half: Paul travelling the world

Pauline Epistles (for a great overview of all: <https://bible.org/seriespage/4-pauline-epistles>)

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| **Book** | **Year Written** | **Written From** | **Theme** |
| Romans | 57 | Corinth (3rd Journey) | The Gospel of righteousness from God. |
| 1 Corinthians | 56 | Ephesus (3rd Journey) | The Spirit of God working in a worldly local Church. |
| 2 Corinthians | 56 | Macedonia (3rd Journey) | A personal appeal from Paul to reject false teachers. |
| Galatians | 40-49 | Antioch of Syria (After 1st Journey) | The grace of God which is better than the law. |
| Ephesians | 60 | Rome (Captivity) | The church of God, a mystery. |
| Philippians | 60-61 | Rome (Captivity) | A letter of encouragement and thanks. |
| Colossians | 60-61 | Rome (Captivity) | A defense of the deity of Christ in the face of heresy. |
| 1 Thessalonians | 50-54 | Corinth (2nd Journey) | A letter of encouragement in the face of persecution. |
| 2 Thessalonians | 50-54 | Corinth (2nd Journey) | a commendation of growth and instruction on "the Day of the Lord." |
| 1 Timothy | 63-66 | Macedonia? (Before 2nd captivity?) | An encouragement to a young pastor on how to lead his church. |
| 2 Timothy | 67 | Rome (2nd Captivity) | An encouragement to a young pastor to persevere in the face of hardship. |
| Titus | 63-66 | Macedonia? (Before 2nd captivity?) | An encouragement to a young pastor on how grace promotes good works. |
| Philemon | 60-62 | Rome (Captivity) | An appeal to view Christian slaves as brothers and forgive those who wrong you. |

General Epistles

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| **Book** | **Year Written** | **Author** | **Theme** |
| Hebrews | ? | Paul? Luke? Apollos? Barnabas? | The superiority of Christ to all previous revelation. |
| James | 45-48 | James (Brother of Jesus) | The practical holiness brought by the Spirit. |
| 1 Peter | 64 | Peter | Daily living as an alien in a foreign land. |
| 2 Peter | 68 | Peter | A warning against false teachers. |
| 1 John | 60-65 | John | How to love each other while rejecting false teachers. |
| 2 John | 60-65 | John | a short encouragement to right belief and practice. |
| 3 John | 60-65 | John | a short note on resolving church quarrels. |
| Jude | ? | Jude (Brother of Jesus) | A warning against false teachers. |



Prophetic Book

* Revelation
* Tells the end of the story that began in Genesis 3
* Major theme: the worship of God for his holiness and justice.

