

Today is our 1st lecture on “An Introduction to the New Testament.” /It is our 1st lecture on “An Introduction to the New Testament. /We call the New Testament and Old Testament Bible the “Holy Book.” / “Holy Book” in Greek is “hagiographe.”

/This word means “holy records.” /The Old and New Testaments combined are called the “Bible.” /The word “Bible” comes from the Greek word “biblion,” which means “book.”

/As the word indicates, this “book” is the “book of all books.” /The Bible consists of 66 books. /Of these books, the 39 books of the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi /cover the period from God’s creation of the world and his creation of mankind to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and these books are a record of God’s revelation to us.

/The New Testament is made up of 27 books, /and it begins with the incarnation of the Old Testament’s promised Savior, who is Christ. /We have the four Gospels, which focus on Christ’s life, ministry, teaching, suffering, death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension.

/The book of Acts is a record of the work of the resurrected Lord, who with his Holy Spirit used the apostles of the early church to build churches.

/The remainder of the New Testament is a revelation of the meaning of the gospel of Jesus, how we are to receive salvation, how believers who have received the gospel are to live, and the ultimate promise of the gospel.

/The Old and New Testaments are divided on the standard of before and after Jesus’ coming. /Thus, the subject we will be studying is the New Testament.

/The purpose of this course is to study the entire New Testament in an introductory way. /The Old Testament was written on papyrus, which is a type of paper made of a kind of reed. /However, the New Testament was written on parchment, which is a type of leather paper made of animal skin.

/The Old Testament is made up of a total of 39 books, 929 chapters, and 23,214 verses. /The New Testament is made up of a total of 27 books, 260 chapters, and 7959 verses. /The Old Testament was recorded over a period of 900 years by over 30 authors, /whereas the New Testament was recorded over a period of 100 something years after Jesus’ coming by a total of 8 authors.

/Today, we will first take a look at the authors who recorded the New Testament. /Some people are surprised when we talk about the authors of the New Testament. /Isn’t it the word of God?

/People think that if people recorded the books, how can it be the word of God? /But it is true, it is the word of God.

/2 Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

/2 Peter 1:21 says, “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” /We call this the “inspiration of the Scripture.”

/In today’s time, unbelievers also use the word /inspiration. /For example, they speak of inspirational poets, inspirational composers, and inspirational artists.

/People refer to such people as inspirational people. /However, the inspiration of the Scripture is not the same kind of inspiration. /The inspiration of the Scripture is not the inspiration of man, but it is the inspiration of God.

/The people who recorded the Bible did not write down their personal opinions. /As the word of 2 Peter says, no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man. /People cannot just say, “I will prophesy.”

/We human beings cannot speak a prophecy into being. /It happens only through people who have the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /In the original Greek text of the Bible, there is an emphasis on the word “man” in the sentence.

/There is an emphasis on the word “man” in the verse, which says, “But men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” /These men received from God the word of God, and they preached the word /and recorded the Bible in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

/Let’s say that a king sends his messenger to deliver a message to all the people. /The messenger will take the king’s words and tell it to the people.

/When he does this, although the messenger is speaking, whose words are actually being spoken? /Yes, they are the king’s words. /In this same way, when God gave his word, which is the Bible, to all of his people, he raised up prophets and gave them the word first.

/They who received from God the inspiration of the Holy Spirit recorded the Bible. /Hearing from God the mysteries of God, these people spoke as God’s spokesmen.

/In the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, carried by the Spirit, they recorded the Bible. /Here, to be “carried by the Spirit” does not simply mean to be provoked or encouraged.

/Until the Bible in its entirety was recorded, God watched over and commanded every step of the process of the human authors’ recording of the Bible, including their thoughts, words, and resources.

/God knew about every step, and he intervened so that the Bible would be accurately written according to his will and intentions. /Thus, God's people who received the inspiration of the Holy Spirit recorded the Bible.

/You learned about the characteristics of the inspiration of the Scripture in the systematic theology course. /I will briefly mention it today. In terms of inspiration of the Scripture, there is organic inspiration and infallible inspiration.

/We also have verbal inspiration /and plenary inspiration. / "Organic inspiration" says that God did not treat the authors of the Bible as robots who would write down his word, /but God used their personalities, dispositions, gifts, talents, education, culture, vocabulary, literary styles, and experiences when writing the Bible.

/God through organic inspiration guided the personalities of the authors of the Bible in their language and the expression of their thoughts when they recorded the Bible. / "Infallible inspiration" says that the Bible has no error.

/In other words, it does not deceive nor is it deceived. / "Verbal inspiration" says that every word of the Bible was inspired. / "Plenary inspiration" says that the Bible was fully and richly recorded, that the entire Bible fully conveys the will of God.

/Therefore, the 66 books that make up the entire Bible are the completely authoritative word of God. /You can learn about this in detail in your systematic theology course.

/We will now return to our main subject, the New Testament. /The New Testament was recorded by 8 human authors who received from God the word of God and recorded it in the Holy Spirit.

/Let me give a short introduction on the 8 authors. /First, the authors of the Gospel Books. /The New Testament starts with Matthew, Mark, Luke, and then John. We call these books "The Gospels."

/First, Matthew. /Jesus' disciple Matthew recorded the book of Matthew. /Matthew was a Jew and a tax collector. /He collected taxes for the Roman government, and he did this by robbing money from the people.

/However, called by Jesus, Matthew became one of Jesus' twelve disciples. As a disciple of Jesus, Matthew witnessed most of the events that are recorded in the book of Matthew.

/In order to bear witness about the gospel to mainly the Jews, Matthew, in the inspiration and providence of God, recorded the book of Matthew. /He starts the book with a genealogy that includes David and Abraham.

/The book of Matthew also quotes and alludes to details from the Old Testament.

/Second, we have Mark. /Mark recorded the book of Mark. /He isn't one of the twelve Apostles, but he was a partner of and ghostwriter for Peter, the one who witnessed everything.

/Mark is the shortest Gospel Book, /and it was written with the Romans in mind, who had a deep interest in how Jesus fulfilled the work of salvation.

/Mark emphasizes the fact that Jesus is God and that believing in Jesus and following him is the most valuable thing to do. /Third, Luke. /Luke recorded the books of Luke and Acts.

/Unlike Matthew, Mark, and John, Luke wasn't a Jew, but he was a Gentile. /He was a well-educated doctor who, with the discernment of a historian, carefully and in detail recorded the gospel of Jesus in chronological order.

/As a Gentile, Luke is telling other Gentiles that Jesus is the true Savior of mankind. /The book of Luke is the longest book of the New Testament, and the recipient of the books of Luke and Acts is a person by the name of Theophilus.

/The book of Acts written by Luke is a kind of historical book. /We will have the chance to take a closer look at Acts in our upcoming lectures. /The fourth author of the New Testament is John. /The Apostle John recorded five books of the New Testament.

/John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation are the five books. /He is widely known as the disciple whom Jesus loved. /John was a disciple who was loved by Jesus, the disciple who lived the longest, and also someone used in the precious work of protecting the early church from false truths.

/Next we have the Apostle Paul. /If we include the book of Hebrews as one of Paul's letters, then Paul wrote a total of 14 books. /Paul wrote the books of Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and Hebrews.

/All of the books written by Paul are letters written to individuals and churches. /For this reason, we call these books Paul's epistles.

/Paul writes in detail about the meaning of Christ's cross, death and resurrection, how we can apply all the benefits of Christ's redemption to ourselves, /and how believers are to live.

/The sixth author is Peter. /The Apostle Peter recorded the books 1 Peter and 2 Peter. /Peter encourages the churches that are suffering by instructing them on how to keep their faith.

/Next, we have Jesus' brother in the flesh James, who recorded the book of James.
/Finally, the eighth author is Jude, who wrote the book of Jude. /Jude was also Jesus' brother in the flesh.

/The first verse of the book of Jude tells us that Jude was James' brother. /We have just taken a brief look at the eight authors of the New Testament. /However, the New Testament cannot stand by itself.

/It must have the Old Testament next to it. /The Old and New Testaments share a relationship that we cannot separate. /The New Testament cannot exist without the Old Testament, and the Old Testament cannot exist without the New Testament.

/In other words, because we cannot understand the meaning of the New Testament without the Old Testament, we must shine the light of the Old Testament on the New Testament. /Also, the Old Testament would be meaningless if it did not have the New Testament. /We refer to the Old Testament as making a promise, which the New Testament fulfills.

/The Old Testament is a series of God's promises. /The New Testament is a record of the fulfillment of these promises. /In our next time together, we will see how the Old Testament and New Testament are connected to one another.

/There is the need to take a closer look at the relationship between the Old and New Testaments. /We Christians hear the gospel, believe in the gospel, and receive salvation.

/Mark 1:14,15 mentions the word "gospel" twice. /It reads, "Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

/In order to completely understand the New Testament, we must first think about **what the gospel is**. /**What is the gospel?** /The gospel is good news, or joyful news.

/What are you most happy to hear about? /We may know very well about the gospel, but we must believe in the gospel and live a life of the gospel. /The New Testament Bible is a book that gives us the gospel.

/The Old Testament Bible is a book of the promise of Christ who is to come and the gospel of God that Christ is to bring. /Hence we can say that both the Old and New Testaments are gospel books.

/Jesus brought the gospel to us. /He said to his disciples, "Everything in the Bible is written about me." /Christ is the gospel. /Therefore, we must know and understand the gospel of the New Testament and the Old Testament.

/Romans 1:1-2 says, / “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures.”

/We will now briefly look into the important details of the gospel. **/First, the gospel is the news revealed to us by the living, true, one and only, good God.**

/On our own, we cannot know God. /We cannot know if something is a revelation from God. /The Bible, from beginning to end, bears witness about God. /How does Genesis 1:1 start? / “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

/And how does Revelation, the last book of the New Testament, end? /It ends with a description of God and the Lamb who sit on the throne of a new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

/I sometimes have these thoughts. /If there were no God, what would happen to the people of this world? /Would people exist? /Would all things exist?

/If the Almighty, Creator God did not exist, nothing would exist. /If God left us after he created us, what would have happened?

/What would happen if an evil spirit drags me around? /However, the Bible says this to us. / “God is alive.” / “God is the living God the Creator, God the Redeemer, God the Judge.”

/And “I am with you.” /Without God, there would be no gospel. /If God, who is the owner of the gospel, were not there, there would be no hope in this world.

/Therefore, both the Old and New Testaments proclaim with one voice the news about God, the gospel. /The Old and New Testaments shout out to those who did not have God or his promises, / “God is here.”

/It is truly a good thing that God is there. /It is a true blessing for us to know God and serve him. /Therefore, all news about God is the gospel.

/We need to long to know and hear more about God’s existence, his character, his ministry, and everything related to these things.

/We will move on to the **second topic** about the gospel. /Is God’s existence everything there is about the gospel? /If the Bible says nothing else but this, then the gospel is something that brings us despair.

/The reason is we are all sinners before God. /The Bible tells us that everyone is a sinner. /In the book of Genesis of the Old Testament, we learn that under Adam, we all sin, that we are all sinners who do evil before God.

/The fact that we are all sinners is the important, second point about the gospel.

/That is why when Jesus preached the gospel, he said, “Repent and believe in the gospel.”

/When Jesus says repent, we can know that we have sins that we need to deal with.

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/This concludes our 1st lecture on “An Introduction to the New Testament.” /Thank you.