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INTRODUCTION TO  
THE NEW TESTAMENT

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**Part 1**

*Introduction, Overview, Background:  
The New Covenant Anticipated*

**COMPARISONS OF THE TWO TESTAMENTS**

<b>OLD TESTAMENT</b>	<b>NEW TESTAMENT</b>
39 books	27 books
929 chapters	260 chapters
Covers over 4,000 years	Covers about 100 years
About 31 authors	About 9 authors

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SURVEY BOOK

The New Testament continues the story begun in the Old Testament. It is the marvelous climax of God's inspired revelation to mankind. In the Old Testament, God had promised to bring blessing and redemption to man through the Messiah, and the New Testament is the record of God's doing just that. Without the twenty-seven books of the New Testament, there would be great uncertainty regarding the promises and purposes of God. And many significant questions would remain unanswered.

The New Testament is much smaller than the Old Testament and it covers a period of time far shorter than that of the Old. But the New Testament covers that most significant era in the history of man—those years when God became man and brought salvation to a lost mankind.

The New Testament is worthy of a lifetime of study, as it answers the most significant questions people have asked: What is the purpose of life? Is there any real hope? What is God like? Can I be freed from guilt and sin? Am I loved? Jesus Christ, the Word of God, is the profound answer.

## THE PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY BOOK

The purpose of this study is to assist the Bible student in seeing the content, unity, and progression of the New Testament

Scriptures. In order to understand the content of the New Testament, each of the twenty-seven books will be studied, noting the themes and emphases found in them. Although a verse-by-verse study of each book will not be possible, there will be adequate time spent to discover the main ideas and unique features of each book.

In order to see something of the existing unity of the New Testament, some emphasis will be given to the New Covenant. The New Covenant is the great unifying theme of the New Testament (see chart on page 20). It should be noted that the term *new testament* really means “new covenant.”

It is also a purpose of this survey book to help the student see something of the logical progression of the New Testament. For many, the New Testament simply contains a large number of stories, sermons, and doctrinal letters that have no clear logical connection to them. Hopefully, this study will reveal something of the logical flow of the New Testament.

## THE APPROACH OF THIS SURVEY BOOK

The New Testament is made up of twenty-seven books. Four of these books (the gospels) record the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. About one third of the total volume of the New Testament is found in these four gospels. It is important not only to understand the emphasis of each individual gospel, but also to combine the four gospels and see the pattern and progression of the life of Christ. Therefore, this survey will include a chronological study of the life of Christ, harmonizing the four gospels.

The book of Acts follows the four gospels in the New Testament. Acts is the one book of church history in the New Testament. Many of the New Testament letters find their historical roots in the book of Acts, and so this study will link these letters to the historical record of Acts. By linking the letters to the historical base whenever possible, the order and pattern of the New Testament will be seen more clearly.

The study of the New Testament books will be preceded by