**New Year with the New Testament** *Horizon U – New Testament Survey*

**Week 1**

* Course Overview (Handout)

**What is the New Testament?**

* The advantage of a Survey Course
	+ Study Romans “The Hand” or John “The Head” but this approach is like studying the body as a whole. A skeletal framework of the New Testament.
	+ *No adequate way of understanding the NT without the framework of the OT.*
* The NT World
	+ Language: Koine Greek
		- Preclassical Greek 800BC-500BC (Homer, Iliad, and Odyssey), Classical Greek 500BC-323BC, (Herodotus and Thucydides), Hellenistic Greek 323BC-31BC (Alexander the Great, LXX), Koine Greek 31BC-300AD (NT)
		- Spoken Languages:
			* Latin: Legal Language
			* Koine Greek: Common Language
			* Aramaic: Former Captives of Assyria
			* Hebrew: Only Jews
			* Literacy rate of 5 to 10 percent
	+ Oh, the Depravity!
		- Rome was violent
			* No middle class: Aristocrats, Farmers, Small-Business Owners, Artisans, Slaves, and Homeless
			* Being Homeless was often much worse than being a slave
			* Skilled slaves: Doctors, accountants, teachers and philosophers
			* Crucifixion was originally only for slaves turned criminal
				+ During the Seige of Jerusalem, 500 crucifixions a day
			* Prostitution was rampant
				+ Theater had live sex-acts
			* Gladiator shows
				+ 10,000 die in a single performance
				+ 300 lions killed in one show
	+ A Divided People
		- Pharisees
			* ~6000 total
			* Originated after the Maccabean Revolt
			* Interpreters of the Law
		- Sadducees
			* Jewish royalty
				+ Controlled the priesthood
			* Only Torah as authoritative
		- Essenes
			* Male only monastic communities
		- Sanhedrin
			* Jewish court judges
			* “Great Sanhedrin” = Supreme Court in Jerusalem
				+ “Chief Priests” in the Bible
* Testamental Timelines
	+ **Old Testament Timeline**
		- Genesis/Job = 1400BC -> Post-Exilic Books (Malachi, Nehemiah & 2 Chronicles) = 450-430BC
	+ *Intertestamental Period/Maccabean Gap 450BC-0AD*
	+ **New Testament Timeline** (See Handout – *NT Chronology*)
		- Galatians 48AD -> John’s Writtings 90-96AD
* Historic Highlights
	+ Wait, there’s how many Herods?! (See Handout)
	+ The Great Fire of Rome (64AD), The Temple fell (70AD), Pompeii Destroyed (79AD)
* The New Testament Canon
	+ 27 Books (Even the Catholics Agree)
	+ How was the Canon formed?
		- Authorship – Eyewitness
		- Led by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:13)
			* They *knew* they were writing *scripture*.
			* 1 Timothy 5:18 – Paul thought of and treated Luke’s writings as Scripture.
			* 2 Peter 3:15-16 – Peter refers to Paul’s epistle as Scripture.
		- Date
			* Within one lifetime
		- When was the Canon closed?
			* Skeptics: Da Vinci Code, Bart Ehrman -> *Council of Nicea*
			* The canon was not closed at Nicea.
				+ The oldest canonical list ever discovered was written by Clement of Rome in 67AD!
				+ Nor was the Canon formed by Constanten
				+ Nicea only *recognized* an existing Canon

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* + Organization
		- 3 Sections – Historic, Pauline, General Epistles (See Handout)
		- Chronology of the New Testament (See Handout)
			* So why are Paul’s letters arranged the way they are?
		- Revelation – An intentional ending
* Class Resources
	+ Gundry
	+ Harmony of the Gospels

Class Reading: Matthew, Mark and Luke