**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