



New Testament: Written Just for Us

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word . . . I myself have carefully investigated everything . . . to write an orderly account for you . . . about . . . Jesus.
Luke 1

Our church is on a mission to understand that the Bible was written for us.

Have you ever felt inspired to write something and felt it coming from your innermost being? I think Luke, who wrote the passage above had that feeling. God nudged him on the inside, wanting to help Luke get the stories right. Luke knew Jesus. He knew Paul. He knew all of the apostles. Here was a servant of God who was determined to give an accurate account. We need to trust in the inspiration and truth of God's word that authors like Luke were trying to get right.

We don't have the space to survey all the books of the New Testament in a 400-word devotional, but we can summarize the first few books accordingly.

- Matthew's gospel was written to Jews as Matthew was of Jewish descent. He wanted to prove Jesus as the much anticipated Messiah. He alludes to many Old Testament quotes and his gospel includes many allusions to Messianic prophecies.
- Mark was probably aimed at a Roman audience who valued great deeds. It focuses on Jesus as a suffering servant. His miraculous works are accomplished in order to serve both mankind and God. How does Jesus serve us today? Does He?
- Luke's gospel is written to a Greek; as an educated doctor, Luke's language is excellent and his message is very detailed on Christ's activities, such as, "at that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit exclaimed . . . (Luke 10:21)."
- John's gospel is different. Probably written much later than the first three gospels, it is organized around seven key events in Jesus' ministry, emphasizing the idea that God came to earth in the flesh, "so that we might believe."
- Paul's book of Romans is the first letter listed in the New Testament. It is written to a young church whom Paul has not founded or visited. It has deep gospel basics.
- Paul's second letter is written to the Corinthians, a church he helped establish. Vastly different from Romans, this letter addresses church "issues" more than doctrine like in Romans.

Let's read the New Testament with awe and expectancy, as if it was written just for us. Because it was.