

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09281-4 - Understanding the New Testament

Edited by O. Jessie Lace

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

I WHY WE STUDY THE NEW TESTAMENT

By O. *Jessie Lace*

The Bible and the Church	<i>page</i> 1
Reading the Bible	3
The New English Bible	4
Preparing to read the New Testament	6

2 THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF
NEW TESTAMENT TIMESBy O. *Jessie Lace*

The Jews under Persian rule	11
The Jews under hellenistic rule	16
The Seleucid kingdom	21
Jewish affairs, 321–168 B.C.	22
Seleucid treatment of the Jews	26
The Maccabean revolt, 168 B.C.	28
Resistance by withdrawal	31
The Romans, the Seleucids and the Jews	34
Jerusalem independent	36
The decline of the Hasmonaeans	39
The Roman occupation	40
The Roman peace	44
Herod the Great	47

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09281-4 - Understanding the New Testament

Edited by O. Jessie Lace

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

Herod's successors	<i>page</i> 51
Judaea under Roman government	55
Herod Antipas	58
Threats to the Temple	59
The Romans, the Jews and the Christians	60
The New Testament	63

3 HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT CAME INTO BEING

By *C. F. D. Moule*

The Christian Church began without any Christian books	64
The Christian books sprang from the Church's work and life	65
The Church as witness rather than as teacher	66
The Apostles' proclamation	69
The Gospels: What are they?	71
The Synoptic Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles	73
(a) Mark	73
(b) Matthew	76
(c) Luke-Acts	77
The Gospel according to John and the Letters of John	81
The Letters of Paul and others	85
Christian life and thought reflected in the Letters	87
(a) The proclamation of the gospel	87
(b) Teaching	88
(c) Worship	91

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09281-4 - Understanding the New Testament

Edited by O. Jessie Lace

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

(d) Sermons	page 96
(e) The use of the Old Testament	97
Christian writings were shaped by circumstances	101
The Book called the Revelation	102
Christian writings not included in the New Testament	104
(a) The Apostolic Fathers	105
(b) Other Gospels and Acts, etc.	109
The Canon of the New Testament	111
(a) The oral period	112
(b) Written records	113
(c) Collecting begins	114
(d) The Four Gospel canon	115
(e) Tests for inclusion in the canon	117

4 HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT CAME TO US

By J. N. Birdsall

Changes of wording	121
Ancient manuscripts	125
Ancient translations	129
Methods of study	133
Handing down the text	135
Our knowledge today	141

CONTENTS

5 WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT IS ABOUT

By O. Jessie Lace

The New Testament and the Old Testament	<i>page</i> 145
The message of salvation	149
Our Lord Jesus Christ	152
The new beginning	156
The Holy Spirit of God	159
<i>Index</i>	164

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1. A time chart of inter-Testament times	17
Fig. 2. Map of the hellenistic kingdoms about 275 B.C.	19
Fig. 3. Map for the period of Roman supremacy	43
Fig. 4. A time chart of the New Testament	53
Fig. 5. Map of the expansion of the New Testament	131