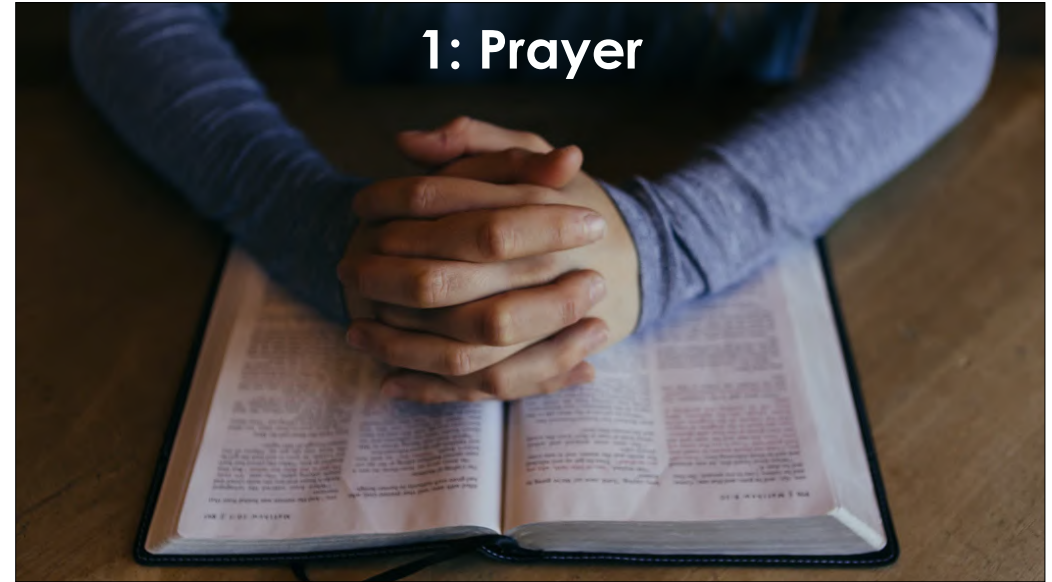


Reading the New Testament Well

The book of Revelation



1: Prayer

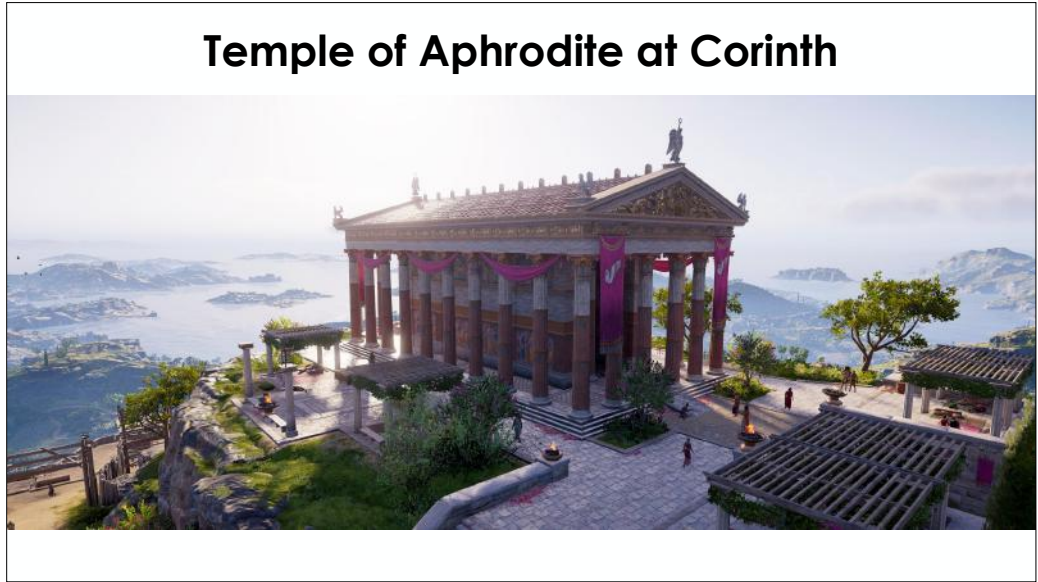


Step 2: Understand The Context of the Letters



1. The Old Testament





www.bibleatlas.org

Antioch in Syria

Encyclopedia
ANTIOCH IN SYRIA
ant-ee-ohk (Antiocheia)

(2) Antioch in Syria, in 301 B.C., shortly after the battle of Issus, which made him master of Syria, Seleucus Nicator founded the city of Antioch, naming it after his father Antiochus. Quoted, it was said, by the flight of an eagle, he found its site on the left bank of the Orontes (the Or.) And about 15 miles from the sea. He also founded and fortified Seleucia to be the port of his new capital.

The city was enlarged and embellished by successive kings of the Seleucid dynasty, notably by Seleucus Callinicus (280-260 B.C.) and Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164 B.C.). In 63 B.C., on the collapse of the Seleucid empire, Antioch fell into the hands of Tigranes, king of Armenia, who held Syria until his defeat by the Romans sixteen years later. In 64 B.C. the country was definitely annexed to Rome by Pompey, who granted considerable privileges to Antioch, which now became the capital of the Roman province of Syria. In the civil wars which revolved in the establishment of the Roman principate, Antioch succeeded in winning itself completely to the winning side, declaring for Caesar after the fall of Pompey, and for Augustus after the battle of Actium. A Roman element was settled in its population, and several of the consulars contributed to its adornment. Already a splendid city under the Seleucids, Antioch was made still more splendid by its Roman patron and masters. It was the "queen of the East," the third city after Rome and Alexandria, of the Roman world. About five miles distant from

3. The Book of Acts

● Rome
● Philippi
● Thessalonica
● Corinth
● Ephesus
● Colossae
● GALATIA
● SAMARIA
● Jerusalem
● JUDEA

Mediterranean Sea

"And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Acts 1-5	Jerusalem
Acts 6-9	Judea and Samaria
Acts 10-28	Uttermost part of the earth

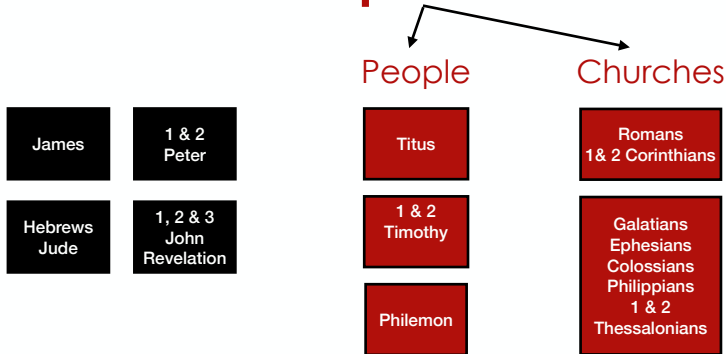
4. Paul's Journeys



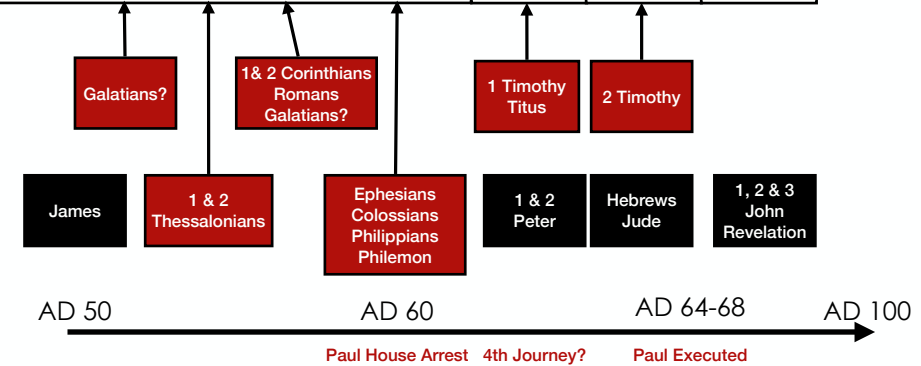
The Letters or Epistles

'Send News' - Letter or Message

General or specific?



History of the early church						Pauls Freedom	2nd time In Prison (Rome)	The Church Grows
1	13	16	18	21	28			
Paul	1st Mission	2nd Mission	3rd Mission	1st Roman Imprisonment				



Key 1 - Structure/Form

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Name of the writer(s) | 1 This letter is from Paul , chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Sosthenes. |
| 2. Name of the recipient | 2 I am writing to God's church in Corinth , to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. |
| 3. Greeting | 3 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. |
| 4. Thanksgiving | 4 I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus.... |
| 5. Body of the letter | 10 I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose... |
| 6. Final Greeting & Farewell | ...19 The churches here in the province of Asia send greetings in the Lord, as do Aquila and Priscilla and all the others who gather in their home for church meetings. 20 All the brothers and sisters here send greetings to you. Greet each other with a sacred kiss.
21 HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN HANDWRITING—PAUL.
23 May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.
24 My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. |
- 1 Corinthians**

Galatians v Thessalonians

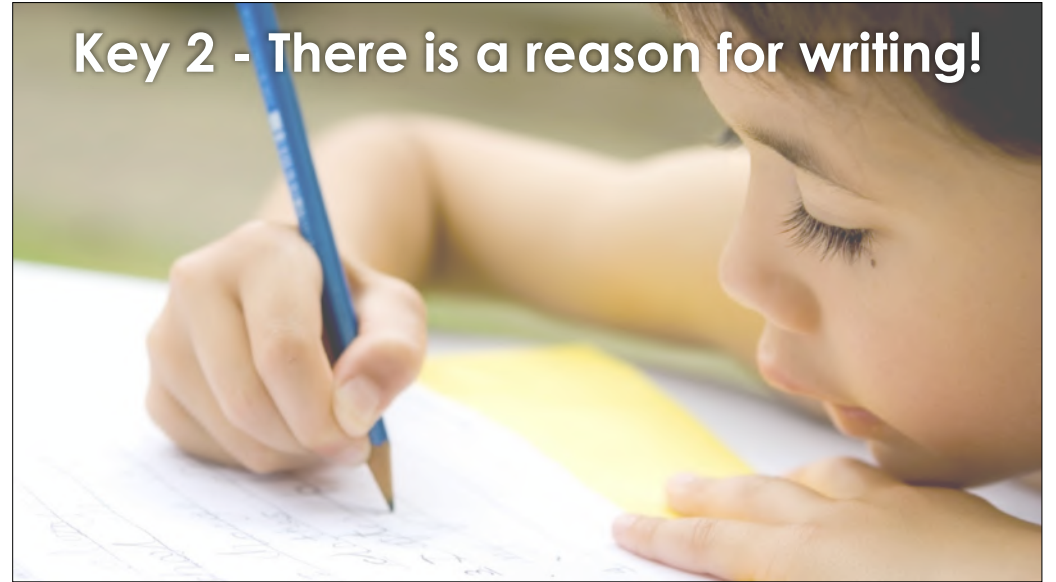
- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Name of the writer(s) | This letter is from Paul , an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. |
| 2. Name of the recipient | 2 All the brothers and sisters here join me in sending this letter to the churches of Galatia. |
| 3. Greeting | 3 May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. 4 Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. 5 All glory to God forever and ever! Amen. |
| 5. Body - NO THANKSGIVING! | 6 I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God.... |
- Galatians 1**

Thessalonians has 2 thanksgivings!

1 Thess 1:2-10: We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.

1 Thess 2:13-16: Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us....

Key 2 - There is a reason for writing!



Key 3 - we only hear one side!



Key 4 - Focused theology



**Key 5 - Letters are written to
someone about something at a
particular point in time**

**Do we have to
obey every command
in the letters.....?**

'bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.'

2 Tim 4:13

23 Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

1 Tim 5:23

22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Tim 2:22

26 What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. 28 If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. 30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. 31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. 32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. 33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as all the congregations of the Lord's people.

34 Women^[f] should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be submissive, as the law says. 35 If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a church to speak in the church.

36 Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? 37 If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise receive by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. 38 But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored.^[h]

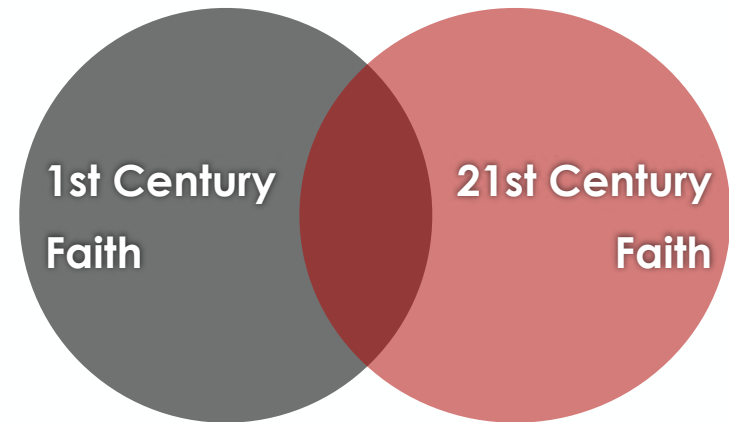
39 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbear speaking in tongues. 40 But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

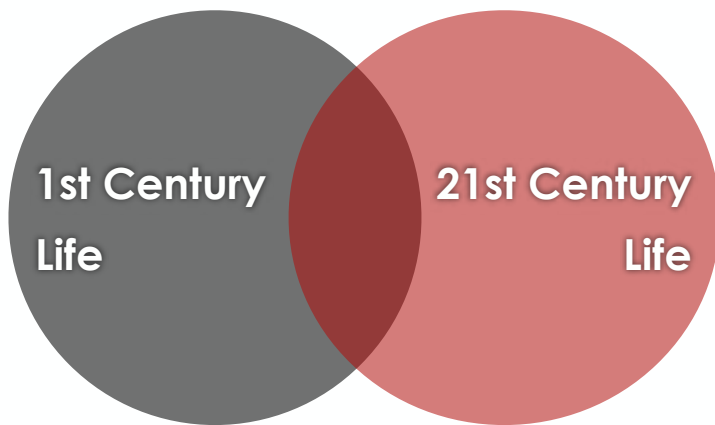
Relevant

(a) A text **cannot** mean what it **never could have meant** to its author or his or her readers

(b) Is there an overlap?



(b) Is there an overlap?



Ethics/Morality, Religious Practice, Community Life

(c) Where the text is speaking to a very historically particular situation can we discern a **principle** behind it?

- (i) We need to properly understand what it meant then and therefore what the underlying principle is (the rest of the letter may help with this)
- (ii) The principle is best applied to genuinely comparable situations

(d) It's hard work and not everyone agrees so...

13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Romans 14:13

How to read one of the Letters

Step 1 - Research

- Who was it for, why was it written, what is the context?

Step 2 - Read it through in one sitting

- What's the big picture?

Step 3 - Read it through again

- What are the major sections and strands of the argument?

How to read one of the Letters

Step 4 - Your section

- How does it relate to the overall argument and what section is it part of?

Step 5 - Think paragraphs

- Each paragraph will contain an idea that contributes the the whole.

A word to the wise...

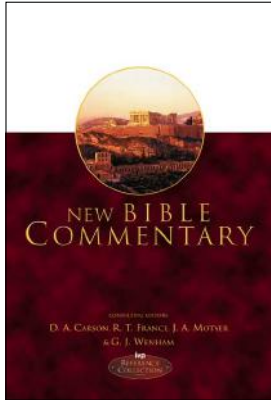
We don't know everything and some things are beyond our reach:

E.g. 1 Cor 15:29

29 If the dead will not be raised, what point is there in people being baptized for those who are dead? Why do it unless the dead will someday rise again?

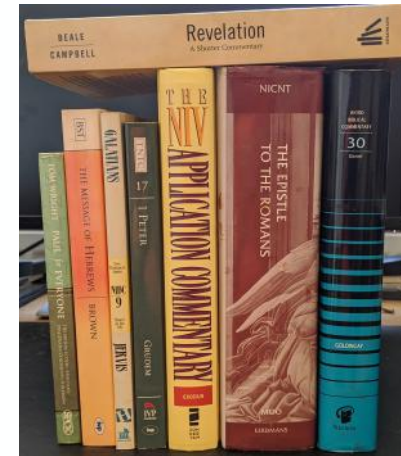
... so keep speculation to a minimum!

Resources



'New Bible Commentary'
D. Carson, R.T. France,
A. Motyer & G. Wenham

Commentaries



Easy Reading → It's all Greek to me

