ANATOMY of the NEW TESTAMENT

A Guide to
Its Structure and
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THIRD EDITION

ROBERT A. SPIVEY D. MOODY SMITH

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Structure and Meaning

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PREFACE

The third edition provides us with another opportunity to bring *Anatomy* up to date and otherwise improve it in light of criticisms and advice we have received from many colleagues who have used it in diverse academic situations. The basic plan and purpose remain the same, the reception accorded the earlier editions having confirmed a need for this sort of introduction to the New Testament. Nevertheless, some substantial changes have been made.

The book now begins with a brief prologue in which we make some statements about New Testament study and the purpose and nature of this book which we hope will be kept in mind as it is used. Chapter 1, the introduction, has been shortened considerably to focus at the outset only on the world of the New Testament, that is, the Jewish and Greco-Roman background. A summary account of the rise of early Christianity and the forces that led to the writing and selection of the books which make up the New Testament has been moved from the introductory section to a concluding chapter, where it has been augmented and lengthened. This material will be more intelligible to the student after study of the New Testament writings themselves. We have returned to a two-part organization of the book as a whole under the conviction that the major division of the New Testament is between the Gospels (focusing upon Jesus) and other writings (focusing upon the church). A major change, in line with this division, is the treatment of the Fourth Gospel (Chapter 5) alongside the Synoptic Gospels (Chapters 2, 3, 4) and before the historical reconstruction of Jesus (Chapter 6). In the previous two editions the Gospel of John was studied in a concluding chapter as reflective of the developing church. It is that, but the other Gospels are no less so. (The instructor who still wishes to reserve the treatment of the Fourth Gospel to the end with the Johannine Epistles and Revelation may do so with little or no disruption.) Summary sections now conclude Chapters 8 (Paul) and 10 (post-Pauline writings) as aids to the reader's comprehension. In the text, footnotes, and especially the bibliographical sections, we have taken account of significant works published since the last edition: moreover, we have sought to keep footnotes to a minimum. Readers will welcome the expansion of artwork as a helpful way of illustrating the continuing delight and difficulty of interpretation. Finally, to aid comprehension, we have tried to eliminate sexist language.

In study of the New Testament we have found that students appreciate the two end maps of Palestine and the Mediterranean (see the inside covers), the chronological chart (see p. xix), the indexes of names and subjects and of biblical passages (see pp. 517–540), and especially the Glossary (see pp. 500–509). Initial familiarity with and frequent recourse to these aids to comprehension should make easier the task of understanding the New Testament.

We again wish to acknowledge the source New Testament Illustrations: The Cambridge Bible Commentary on the New English Bible, edited by Clifford M. Jones (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1966), for the adaptation of the following figures: "Time Chart of the New Testament," "Diagram of the Synoptic Problem," "Map of Galilee," "Diagram of the Temple," and "Diagram of Jerusalem." Adaptation of the "Diagram of the Formation of the Gospels" is courtesy of Jesus in the Church's Gospels: Modern Scholarship and the Earliest Sources, by John Reumann (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1968). Adaptation of the end map of the Mediterranean world is courtesy of The Good News: The New Testament with over 500 Illustrations and Maps (New York: American Bible Society, 1953). Adaptation of the end map of Palestine is courtesy of The Westminster Historical Atlas to the Bible, edited by George Ernest Wright and Floyd Vivian Filson, revised (Copyright, 1945, by the Westminster Press; 1956, by W. L. Jenkins. Adapted by permission.) Several paragraphs from Interpreting the Gospels for Preaching by D. Moody Smith (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980) have been used with the permission of the publisher.

We also wish to express gratitude and indebtedness to teachers and colleagues and to students at Florida State, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and Duke for their stimulation in the present undertaking. We are grateful to those colleagues whose suggestions and criticisms have contributed to this edition, particularly Professor John H. Schütz of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Finally, we again pay tribute to three scholars under whom we studied together at Yale—Paul Meyer, now of Princeton Theological Seminary; Paul Minear, Winkley Professor of Biblical Theology, emeritus; and the late Paul Schubert, Buckingham Professor of New Testament Criticism and Interpretation.

We also wish to thank Kenneth J. Scott of Macmillan, editor in the College and Professional Division, and his predecessors, John D. Moore and Charles E. Smith, for their interest in this project. We are grateful for the support of Randolph-Macon Woman's College and of The Divinity School of Duke University. Father Dimitri Cozby, a graduate student at Duke, has kindly assisted us in several wavs.

Our children-Hope, Lee, and Paul; Cynthia, Catherine, David, and Allen—have responded with good grace to the stringencies imposed by their fathers' aspirations. Our wives continue to tolerate our preoccupation with this project, which has now extended over the better part of two decades. The dedication of the book attests to our gratitude for their encouragement and significant help.

> R.A.S. D.M.S.

TIME-CHART OF THE NEW TESTAMENT*

Significant Pre-New Testament Dates 336-323 B.C. Conquest and Rule of Alexander the Great 167-164 B.C. The Maccabean Revolt 63 B.C. Roman Rule of Palestine Begins

Date	Events	Herods	Governors of Judaea	Roman Emperors	New Testament Writings
10 0		Herod the Great (37-4 BC)		Augustus	
BC - I	Birth of Jesus	п' г		(27 BC-AD 14)	
AD		Archelaus (4 BC-AD 6)			
10		Philip the Tetrarch	Coponius (6-9) Marcus Ambivius (9-12)		
H		(4 BC-AD 34) Herod Antipas	Annius Rufus (12-15)	1	
20 🔾		(4 BC-AD 39)	Valerius Gratus (15-26)		
	Ministry of John the Baptist Ministry of Jesus		1	Tiberius (14-37)	
	Crucifixion of Jesus		Pontius Pilate (26-36)		
		Herod	Marcellus (36-37) Marullus (37-41)	Caligula (37-41)	
40	Paul's first missionary	Agrippa I (37-44)		Cangula (57-41)	
	activity Council of Jerusalem		Cuspius Fadus (44-46) Tiberius Alexander (46-48)	Claudius (41-54)	
50 P F	Paul in Corinth Paul in Ephesus	Herod Agrippa II (50-100)	Cumanus (48-52)		1&2Thessalonians Galatians
P	Paul's journey to Jerusalem and arrest		Felix (52-58)		1&2 Corinthians Romans
P	Paul, prisoner to Rome Paul, prisoner in Rome		Festus (58-62) Albinus (62-64)	Nero (54-68)	Philippians Colossians Philemon
70	Paul's martyrdom under Nero		Gessius Florus (64-66)	Galba (68-69) Otho (69) Vitellius (69)	Mark
H				Vespasian (69-79)	
80				Titus (79-81)	
90	Council of Jamnia			Domitian (81-96)	Matthew
50 0	Council of Jamnia				Acts Revelation
				Nerva (96) Trajan (98-117)	John

^{*}Chronology is only approximate, especially in regard to dating the books of the New Testament. The dates of the other twelve New Testament books are so uncertain that it is impossible to include them in the time chart.

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Prologue: The Study of the New Testament

HE NEW TESTAMENT consists of twenty-seven early Christian writings which with the Old Testament, the Bible of Judaism, form the Christian Bible. Although the New Testament is thus comparable to the Old, there are significant differences. The Old Testament is more than three times the length of the New and was written down over a period of nearly a thousand years; the New Testament was written and composed in a mere fraction of that time. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the language of ancient Israel; the New Testament in Greek, the language of the Hellenistic world.

The four Gospel narratives stand at the beginning of the New Testament. They are followed by another narrative, the Acts of the Apostles, a history of the earliest church. Then come the epistles, twenty-one of them. Finally, Revelation, a book of apocalyptic visions, stands at the end of the collection. The twenty-one books styled epistles or letters are themselves of different types. A number of them are real letters (e.g., the Corinthian letters of Paul). Yet quite possibly many are not; at least they may not have been originally composed as letters (e.g., Hebrews, James, I Peter, and I John). They have characteristics more appropriate to treatises, sermons, or tracts.

The story of how and why these books were written and at length gathered into the collection we now call the New Testament is a long and complicated one. Each book originated within a particular historical situation. The individual books were preserved and brought together because they were deemed useful and authoritative in the church. By the end of the second century the Gospels, Acts, and the letters attributed to Paul were widely regarded as scripture. Not until the fourth century, however, did canonical lists appear containing exactly the twenty-seven books of our New Testament.

The study of the New Testament is a complex task that resists simplification. It has engaged the interests and talents of highly competent philologists, historians, textual critics, and exegetes, not to mention theologians, preachers of all sorts, believers, and many others. Such study has been undertaken with attitudes ranging from pious devotion to scholarly objectivity, skepticism, and even outright hostility.

Our purpose is not to instruct the reader in the manifold scholarly disciplines that inform New Testament study at the highest level. Nor is it to inculcate or encourage any particular attitude or religious disposition in approaching the text other than an openness to understand it. *Anatomy* will have served its purpose if it enables