

NEW TESTAMENT SYNTHESIS NOTES

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INTRODUCTION:

A. The New Testament

The term 'new' in "New Testament" suggests a previous or 'Old Testament.' The term 'synthesis' comes from the compound Greek noun: **σύν** - sun (English transliteration : syn) meaning 'together', plus **τιθέναι**, the infinitive of **τίθημι** meaning 'to put.' Thus the translation of the compound verb is 'to put together.' The English dictionary meaning of 'synthesis' is "the composition or combination of parts or elements so as to form a whole" (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary). The term "Testament" suggests the death of a testator (Heb. 9:16,17), therefore a "will." "Testament is synonymous with covenant." The New Testament or New Covenant is the New 'Will of The God" (Heb. 10:5-10). Accordingly our study, New Testament Synthesis is a study of all The New Testament Books and the parts thereof to get a comprehensive bird's eye view of The Whole New Testament to be able to better understand individual parts (words, verses, passages, chapters, and books) and how they fit together to form the whole determined-will of The God in The God's Progressive Revelation. It is vital to understand The God's Progressive Revelation and keep the parts of This Progressive Revelation in keeping with the age for which The God intended and not in keeping with human design instigated by Satan.

The dictionary gives five words, synonyms which stand out and directly relate to, and express the significance of The Will of The God. In five aspects "will" means: desire, disposition, determination, direction, and demise.

1. Desire

The Will of God involves The God's desires. All that The God desires for His total creation and especially mankind, who are the particular objects of His attention, comprise the Will of The God. His wants and wishes that are expressed in His Word, The Bible are included in "The Will of The God." What The God desires for you and me that is expressed in The Bible is 'The Will of The God.' Some go further and consider that The God has a desire for every detail in life. Therefore according to this consideration every decision one must make is either according to The God's will or it is not (2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Pet. 2:15).

2. Disposition

'Disposition' has several meanings. Those meanings pertaining to 'will' are: administration, control, and the transfer of the care of one's possessions to another. The Will of The God is His administration and control of His possessions and the transfer of the care of those possessions to His people, particularly under The New Covenant, but also throughout all ages (Col. 1:26,27; Eph. 3:9,10).

3. Determination

'Determination' also has several meanings. The most apropos is 'the act of deciding definitely and firmly.' The God's Determined Will is the result of His definite and firm decisions concerning the universe, man, Israel, The Church, Satan, His Son, The Holy Spirit, His people, and the future (Heb. 6:16-18; 7:21; Jer. 4:28; Num. 23:19; Acts 4:28). There is a distinct difference between The God's Desired Will and His Determined Will. His Desired Will is what He desires and prefers humans to perform according to their love for Him. Humans may or may not fulfill His Desired Will expressed throughout Bible. But His Determined Will surely shall and must be fulfilled at serious cost to those who do not comply.

4. Direction

The main meaning of 'direction' is 'guidance or supervision of action or conduct (behavior).' Such guidance of conduct and behavior is clearly stated throughout The Will of The God recorded in The Bible. Another meaning of direction is 'a guiding, governing, or motivating purpose.' Some motivating purposes as also **His** governing purposes are reflected in His Will. All that The God has purposed and the execution thereof is manifest in His Will (Acts 2:23; Prov. 21:1; Dan. 4:35; 5:21; Eph. 1:9-11).

5. Demise (Heb. 10:5-10)

Finally and not the least, but most importantly, is the use of the word 'demise' to define The God's Will. 'Demise' is the transfer of the estate of a sovereign to an heir upon his death. Our sovereign Lord, Jesus Christ, has transferred the execution of The God's Will and His purposes with all that is involved in managing the inheritance of Christ to those who are joint-heirs with Christ, The Son—those who are redeemed by His blood and have entered into covenant relationship with Him through The New Testament. These are sons (children) of The God through regeneration by means of The Holy Spirit (Jn. 1:12,13; Rom. 8:16,17; Gal. 4:7; Heb. 9:15-17; 10:7-10).

From the above consideration, it can be seen that The Will of The God can be defined by the words: Desire, Disposition, Determination, Direction, and Demise.

B. Contrasts between Testaments (Covenants):

The Old Testament deals largely with The Law and the Nation of Israel.

The New Testament centers on The Gospel of The Lord Jesus Christ and The Church.

The Old Testament commences with what The New Testament completes.

INTRODUCTION: (Cont.)

B. Contrasts between Testaments (cont.):

“The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New Revealed.”

“The New is in the Old contained; the Old is in the New explained.”

C. Pertinent Facts:

1. The Theme of the Bible: The coming of The Messiah and His Kingdom of Righteousness and Peace.
2. The Purpose of the Bible: To present The Lord Jesus Christ as The Redeemer, or to teach the plan of Redemption.
3. The Progressive Revelation of The God: Throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, there is a progress of revelation. The God deals with man in different ways under different responsibilities and requirements of the covenant under which a human is related To The God according to what He has revealed in Scripture. These covenants are noted in these references (Gen. 1:28; 3:14; 9:1-11; Gen.12:1 cf. 15:18; Ex. 20:1-31:18 cf. Gal 3:17); Lk. 22:20 cf. Heb. 9:14-17 and 10:5-10); 1 Thes. 4:15-17); Rev. 20:4) .

4. The Divisions of the Bible:	Time covered	Percentage	Num. of Books
Old Testament: Genesis 1 to Malachi 4	c. 4,000 yrs.	75%	39 Books
New Testament: Matthew 1 to Revelation 22	100 yrs.	25%	27 Books

The New Testament contains 27 Books in 3 categories: Historical, Doctrinal, and Apocalyptic (Prophetical).

Historical: The Gospels (4) and Acts of The Apostles.

Doctrinal: The Epistles (21) : Romans through Jude.

Apocalyptic (Prophetical): Revelation by The Saint, The Theologian (Title stated on the head of The Scroll).

The Gospels relate to the past age historically while still under The Old Covenant, but foundational and introductory to The New Covenant and the remainder of The New Testament. Many teachings in The Gospels pertain to people under the Old Covenant, while others are binding upon people under both Covenants.

Acts of The Apostles and The Epistles relate to the present age (from Sunday, 6 Sivan {May 24} A.D. 33 to Rapture).

Revelation relates to the future.

Generally “Truths found in germ *form (seed thought) [italic mine]* in The Gospels are historically illustrated in Acts of The Apostles, doctrinally unfolded and applied in The Epistles, and symbolically presented in The Apocalypse” (New Testament Survey Notes, Emmaus Bible School).

N.B. For a doctrine to be Scripturally valid, acceptable, and applicable to The Church, it must be found in seed thought in The Gospels, practiced by The Church in The Acts, and taught in The Epistles.

D. Political Background.

<u>Chronology</u>	<u>Rome</u>	<u>Palestine</u>
48-44 B.C.	Julius Caesar, 1st Kaísahr Emperor of Rome	Herodian Dynasty
44-30 B.C.	Upheaval and confusion	
B.C. 30-14 A.D.	Augustus Caesar 1st great Emperor. Pax Romana (200 years of peace) began.	
A.D. 37-Spring 4 B.C.		Herod the Great, Tetrarch of Judea
B.C. 4-37 A.D.		Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee (Lk. 3:1,19,20; 13:31,32)
A.D. 14-37	Reign of Teebéhreeohs Kaísahr	
A.D. 26-36		Pontius Pilate appointed procurator by Teebéhreeohs
A.D. 37-41	Reign of Caligula Kaísahr (demented)	
A.D. 40-44		Herod Agrippa I, King of Judea and Samaria (Acts 12:1,2,20-23)
A.D. 41-54	Reign of Klaúdeeohs (Claudius) Kaísahr (Caesar) (Acts 11:28; 18:2)	
A.D. 44-48		Herod Agrippa II, Tetrarch of Judea (Acts 25,26)
A.D. 48-70		Herod Agrippa II, King of Judea
A.D. 10/54-6/68	Nero reigned as Kaísahr (Emperor)	
A.D. 7/64-66	Nero <u>burned Rome</u> and persecuted Christians thereafter until his death.	
A.D. 69	Year of four Roman Emperors	
A.D. 69-79	Vespian. His son Titus destroyed Jerusalem (A.D. 70).	
A.D. 79-81	Téetoohs (Titus)	
A.D. 81-96	Domitian. He banished John to Patmos.	

INTRODUCTION: (Cont.)

I. The Gospels

A. The Four Gospels

1. Their Place in the Bible.

The Old Testament communicates the preparation for The Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah.

The Gospels communicate the presentation of The Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah.

2. The Centrality of The Gospels: They contain 48% of The New Testament.

3. Their Content: The history of the foundations of the Christian faith.

4. Pertinent Facts about The Gospels

a. The four Gospels underline the importance of their subject: The Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah.

b. Matthew presents Jesus as The Messiah or King with a Jewish Emphasis.

c. Mark presents Jesus as The Servant with a Roman Emphasis.

d. Luke presents Jesus as The Son of Man with a Greek Emphasis.

e. John presents Jesus as The Son of The God with The Emphasis of all three above.

B. The Synoptic Gospels.

Synoptic means “to view together”; **σύν** - sun (English transliteration: syn) means ‘together’ while optic refers to ‘vision’ and ‘view’; thus “presenting or taking the same or common view” (Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary).

1. Which Gospels are The synoptics? Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

2. Similarity:

a. The Content is similar. Three Gospels say so much about the same events, but John is different.

b. The Arrangement of The Synoptics is similar.

c. Their Language and expression is similar.

3. Content: Matthew, Mark, and Luke each appear to cover one year of Judean ministry plus The Galilean ministry of The Lord Jesus Christ, while John reveals 3 years of ministry, mostly in Galilee plus The Judean ministry. 92% of The material in John is unique to him.

4. The Progressive Revelation of The God: The most important factor to consider in properly understanding how a passage of Scripture applies so as for us to fulfill the Determined Will of The God is to correctly answer the question ‘How does this passage of Scripture relate to The Progressive Revelation of The God. Therefore chronology of Scripture plays an important role for the proper interpretation **and** application. This is so often ignored and therefore the reason for so many divisions of Christendom and why A Precise Translation has the additional help, The Chronological Harmony of The New Testament (in two parts: Part I: The Gospels and Part II: Acts-Revelation).

5. Problem: In The first three Gospels there is a high level of similarity (even to tiny grammatical details) and at the same time there are significant differences in approach to reflecting the life, the death, and the ministry of The Lord Jesus Christ. Why is this disparity? is asked by the theological critics. This question provokes doubt in the minds of the babes and young believers in The Lord Jesus Christ who are interested in reading and studying The Bible. This is another ploy of Satan to thwart Bible study. Source criticism has sought to find the answer. But until 18th-20th century there has been no real concern.

However any answer that is given, such critics will not accept. It is clear that each Gospel writer wrote of many of the same events that occurred in the life and ministry of The Lord Jesus Christ but from a different perspective (view point) in order to present The Lord Jesus Christ in a different light or aspect. Each writer wrote exactly what The Holy Spirit directed to be written. But remember that The Gospel writers have written their Books twenty to seventy (+ or -) years after The Death of The Lord Jesus Christ. The details of the theories and proposed objections to those theories have no bearing whatever upon the confidence, validity, acceptance, and The Faith of the regenerated disciples. All those who have such confidence and reliance are not daunted by such criticism and neither should they be. Their confidence, validity, verity, acceptance as Truth, and total reliance upon The New Testament, as accurately translated from The 4500 plus(?) extant (existing) Byzantine manuscripts (including all the manuscripts used for the Textus Receptus editions) is steadfast. These 4500+ Manuscripts which were used by The Early Church are in c. 98 percent agreement (THE NEW TESTAMENT IN THE ORIGINAL GREEK According to The Majority / Byzantine Textform, by M.A. Robinson and Wm. G. Pierpont. pp. xvii-xviii). “Of over 5000 total continuous-text and lectionary manuscripts, 90 % or more contain a basically Byzantine Textform” (Robinson and Pierpont. p. xviii).

Remember: The Holy Spirit inspired (controlled or moved or drove) those holy humans of The God to write exactly what He intended for them to write in the very words used in the original languages so that the words they used to describe the events were His words in the styles of the writers which The Holy Spirit caused them to recall that which they saw and heard. Now we shall begin our New Testament Synthesis study with The Gospel According to Matthew.