

Why the New Testament in a Year?

BiAY.org | Introduction

In 2005, I was given a gift that changed my life – the *One Year Chronological Bible New Living Translation* (2000) by Tyndale Publishing. In 2006, our small group at church read the Bible in a year (BiAY), and I developed the corresponding *Study Guide* (2007).

In 2016, the tenth anniversary of the BiAY, many of the 2006 participants wanted to read the Bible chronologically again. During the year, I wrote a devotion for each day called the *Daily Reflections* (2017).

One day, in 2021, my wife and I were talking to my daughter about what she was reading. She told us that she would like to read the Bible in a year again but really wanted to focus on the New Testament. While she liked the *One Year Chronological Bible*, she noted that it only spent two and a half months in the New Testament (starting September 24).

Then, she said, “Dad, you need to write something just for the New Testament – a New Testament in a year.” While she said these words jokingly, they swirled around in my head for weeks. I began to pray about what the Lord wanted me to do next, and He confirmed that I was to focus on the New Testament. At that point, it was just a matter of timing.

Our small group spent 2021 studying the book of *Exodus*. Then, in 2022, we studied the first eleven chapters of *Genesis*. For two years, we had gone deep into the Old Testament, so I was convinced that we should focus on the New Testament in 2023.

Thus, I developed a reading plan, began writing devotions, articles, and weekly reviews, and finally proposed the idea to our small group, and the rest is history. Our group read and studied the New Testament in a year, and I developed the *Study Guide NT* and *Daily Reflection NT* (2024).

While the Old Testament is remarkable, foundational, and essential for us to understand as Christians, we should regularly read and study the New Testament for several reasons.

First, while the Old Testament focuses on the people of Israel, the New Testament focuses on Jesus, our Savior, the Promised Messiah.

Second, there are hundreds of prophecies or predictions in the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled in the New Testament.

Third, Jesus completed the work of salvation. We find the forgiveness of sins by putting our faith or trust in Him. It is in the New Testament where we read how He accomplished this amazing work through His sinless life, substitutionary death, and bodily resurrection.

Fourth, the New Testament recounts and explains the benefits of what Christ has done for us in salvation. For example, He’s given us the Holy Spirit to enable us to live the Christian life.

Fifth, it is in the New Testament that the Church is established. Thus, it is there that our connection to and responsibilities in the Church are clarified.

Sixth, the New Testament best explains the expectations of Christ’s followers, how we are to think, speak, and live in ways that glorify Him.

Finally, the New Testament tells us how the story of this human drama ends, the return of Jesus, and our future home in heaven.

Of course, there are many more reasons why we should be expert students of the New Testament, but you get the point. God has many wonderful things to teach us about Himself and His Gospel in the New Testament, so let’s get started!