

STUDY PAK 4

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS BORN

“Christ is the Rock on which the church is founded. Through Him comes faith in God for salvation from sin; and from Him comes love to the human heart, which makes men view personality as sacred because God is the Creator...”

~~Earle Cairns~~

I. THE FULLNESS OF TIME – GALATIANS 4:4

Several factors made the first century A.D. ideal for the rapid spread of Christianity.

A. Rome

From Rome the Mediterranean world received _____ and _____ and _____. It also received a _____ that made travel throughout the empire faster than ever before.

B. Greece

From Greece the first century received _____ and common religious and philosophical terms.

C. The Hebrews

From the Jews the First Century received the idea of _____, _____ and _____. Synagogues (contrasted with individual worship in temples) were the first form of congregational worship ever known.

D. The Life of Paul

Paul’s life embraced all three cultures.

E. The Birth of the New Testament Church.

The New Testament church developed in five specific stages.

1. John the Baptist laid the groundwork.
2. The church is announced in Matthew 16.
3. The church is functioning in Matthew 18.
4. The church is further developed in the upper room – John 13-17.

5. The church is presented to the world on the Day of Pentecost.
- F. The Great Commission
- The disciples were commanded to teach all nations the truth of Christ and the gospel.

II. THE CHURCH SPREADS A.D. 33-100

- A. The church in Jerusalem maintained prominence from 33 A.D. to 44 A.D.
1. Stephen and James were martyred.
 2. The church saw amazing growth.
120 then,
3,000 then,
5,000 then,
daily growth then,
multiplied then,
a great company of priests, converted
 3. The office of deacon is instituted – Acts 6.
- B. The church spreads throughout Palestine.
1. The church develops in Samaria.
 2. Philip leads the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ.
 3. Persecution spreads Christians throughout Palestine and the Mideast.
- C. The city of Antioch (modern Turkey) saw the development of a strong local church. This church was a missions center.
1. This was a great missionary church.
 2. The church sends Saul of Tarsus and Barnabas on an official missionary journey. Saul is a converted forever persecutor later named Paul.
- D. Revelation
- The Lord begins to inspire the books of the New Testament.