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*Deaf Missions*

**BASIC  STUDY**



*New Testament*  
*Lesson 1*

**- SAMPLE -**

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**ROMAN EMPIRE AT THE TIME OF JESUS**

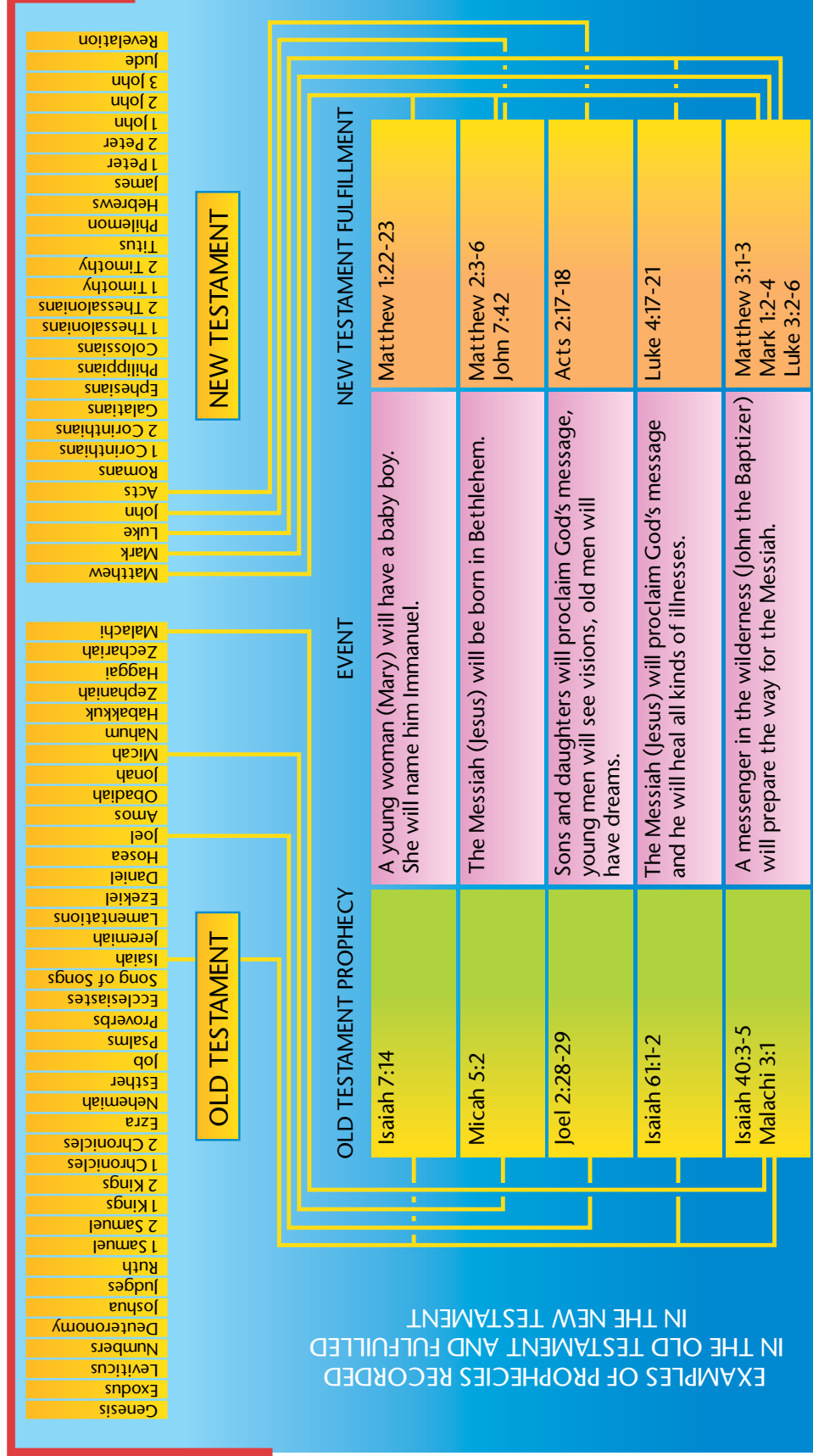


The map to the right shows the Province of Judea and its surrounding provinces as they were at the time of Jesus' ministry. The area shown in this map is about the same size as the state of New Jersey in the modern United States of America. This province was only a small part of the Roman Empire at that time (see map above). In the map to the right, find the cities of Nazareth and Capernaum (in Galilee); notice that they are about 20 miles apart. It probably took a little more than a day to walk between these two towns.



**ROMAN PROVINCE OF JUDEA\*  
AT THE TIME OF JESUS**  
\*(Rome later changed the name of the province to "Palestine")

**BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**



**Deaf Missions**  
**BASIC BIBLE STUDY**

*New Testament - Lesson 1*

**LESSON BACKGROUND**

When God created people, they were friends with Him. But God gave people the choice to be His friend or to not be His friend. To be God's friend, you must love and obey Him. Remember from our Old Testament study that there were people who did not obey God. Adam and Eve did not obey God. They sinned. So God made a plan for people to be His friends again. This plan was for people to sacrifice animals. They had to make these sacrifices again and again. Sacrificing animals was not the complete plan. God planned for



His Son, Jesus, to be the final sacrifice. 1 Peter 3:18a says, ***“For Christ died for sins once and for all.”*** This plan took thousands of years to come true.

As the Old Testament ends, there is a time of silence for about 400 years. During these 400 years, God did not give any messages to the Israelites. Because of their sin, the Israelites were slaves to other nations. At the time of the New Testament, the Israelites were slaves to the Romans. At this time, God sent Jesus to be born. Galatians 4:4 says, ***“But when the right time finally came, God sent His own***

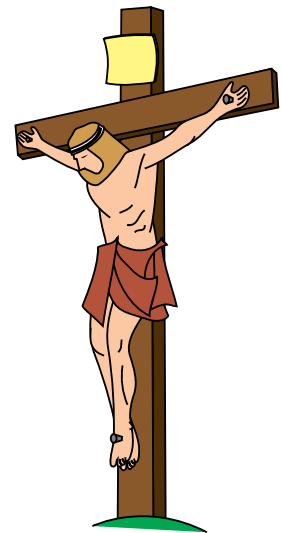
***Son. He came as the son of a human mother and lived under the Jewish Law.”***

This was God's plan from the beginning. This plan was not just for the Israelites, but it was for all people. God's plan is for you and me, too. In Matthew 28:18-19 we read, ***“Jesus drew near and said to them, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples.’”*** (A disciple is Jesus' obedient friend.)

In the Old Testament God said He would bless Abraham with a son. This son's name was Isaac. From Abraham and his son, Isaac, and his grandson, Jacob, a great nation (Jews/ nation of Israel) was born. This nation started when Joseph brought his family (70 people) to live in Egypt.

Hundreds of years later, Jesus was born from this Jewish nation. Egypt and many other nations treated the Jews very badly. The Jewish people were made slaves. Often they were killed. But God took care of the Jewish nation. God had a plan for all people to follow Him. We just read Matthew 28:18-19. These verses tell us that God wants all people to be His disciples.

Jesus was a Jew. He was a descendant of Abraham. He lived under the rules of the Old Testament. Jesus came to set up a new plan. This plan shows us how to be saved from our sins. Under this new plan, Jesus is the sacrifice for sins. We don't have to make animal sacrifices so that our sins may be forgiven. Jesus was the final sacrifice. Jesus died on the cross to accept the punishment for our sins. Jesus' death on the cross was the dividing line between the Old Testament law and the plan of the New Testament. Ephesians 2:15a says, ***“He (Jesus) abolished (got rid of) the Jewish Law with its commandments and rules.”*** So Jesus and all the Jews you read about in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were under the Old Testament law. When Jesus died on the cross, the new plan started. God's new plan is for both Jews and Gentiles (people who are not Jews). This plan is called the Gospel (good news) of Jesus. Please read Ephesians 2:4-18.



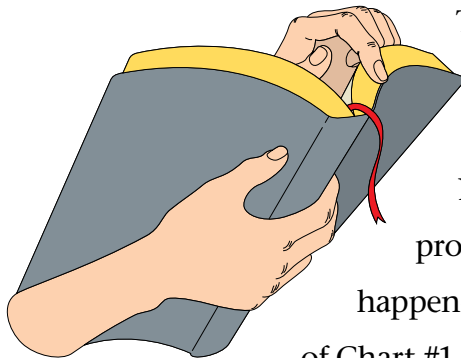
## UNDERSTANDING MAP #1

Each New Testament lesson will have a chart, and some lessons will also have a map. Look at Map #1. This map will help you understand more about where Jesus lived. Look at the map on the left. Now find the little rectangle in the lower right corner of the map. The word **JUDEA** is near this rectangle. Judea is the province (state) where Jesus lived. You can see that Judea is not a very big area.

On the right is a bigger map of Judea. Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. Can you find Bethlehem? Find the Jordan River. This is where Jesus was baptized. Can you find the Dead Sea? The Dead Sea is very salty. Some people call it the Sea of Salt.

## UNDERSTANDING CHART #1

Chart #1 has a list of the books of the Bible — Old Testament books and New Testament books. Do you remember how many books there are in the Bible? If you don't remember, you can count the books on the list. Or you can find the answer on page 2 of the Introduction to the Old Testament, Deaf Missions Basic Bible Study.



The Bible is such a wonderful book! Why? Because it is accurate (correct). In the Old Testament, prophets said that things would happen in the future. In the New Testament we can read the fulfillment of these prophecies. (Fulfillment means that the prophecies really happened.) Some of these prophecies are listed at the bottom of Chart #1. Take time to read each Old Testament prophecy from your Bible. Then read the New Testament verses which tell us that the prophecy happened. It is exciting to know that we can trust the words in the Bible!

Look at the yellow lines on the chart. Follow the yellow lines from each prophecy and fulfillment to the Bible books in the list. You can also use this list to help you remember the order of the Bible books.

Notice that **Jesus' Family Line** is still on the chart. In Lesson 2 we will learn more about Jesus and His family line.

## LESSON

The Bible has two parts — the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word “testament” means “will.” The New Testament is the second part of the Bible. When a person writes a “will” (a legal paper), that “will” is not used until after the person has died. In the same way, the rules of the New Testament started after Jesus' death on the cross.

The story of God’s plan began in the Old Testament, and the story is finished in the New Testament. The Old Testament tells that God’s Son, Jesus, would come in the future. The New Testament tells that Jesus was born and lived on earth. As you study the New Testament, you will learn that the prophecies in the Old Testament were always accurate (correct). These prophecies came true in the New Testament, or they will happen in the future. For example, one prophecy said that Jesus would be born in the city of Bethlehem. In the New Testament we read that many years later, Jesus was truly born in Bethlehem.

Here are some examples of Old Testament prophecies and New Testament verses. These verses tell us that the prophecies really happened. Please take time to find these verses in your Bible and read them.

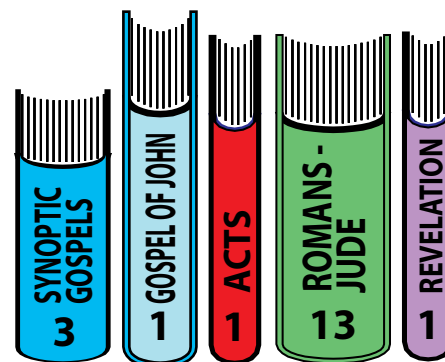
<u>Old Testament Prophecy</u> (The Bible says it will happen.)	<u>Event</u>	<u>New Testament Happening</u> (The Bible says that it really did happen.)
Isaiah 7:14	A young woman who is pregnant will have a son. She will name him Immanuel.	Matthew 1:23
Micah 5:2	A ruler for Israel, God’s Son, will be born in Bethlehem.	John 7:42
Joel 2:28-29	Sons and daughters will proclaim God’s message, young men will see visions, and old men will have dreams.	Acts 2:17

You have already learned that the New Testament is made up of 27 books. These books were written in the Greek language. The Greek language was the common language of the people at that time. The books of the New Testament were written from about 45 AD to 96 AD. AD means “after the birth of Jesus.” So, the books of the New Testament were written about 45 to 96 years after Jesus was born. The early Christians read these books and shared them with other churches. Later the books were collected and made into the New Testament.

The 27 books of the New Testament may be divided into five sections:

1. The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke)

– The word “synoptic” means having similar information. “Gospel” means “good news.” The “good news” is that Jesus accepted the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross. Matthew, Mark and Luke wrote similar information about the life of Jesus. These three writers each had their own style of writing, but they told about Jesus’ birth, His works, and His death, burial and resurrection (coming alive after death).



2. The Gospel of John – In many ways, the Gospel of John is like the Synoptic Gospels. But John emphasizes that Jesus is the Son of God. Read what Jesus said in John 10:30. John states very clearly why he wrote his book. In John 20:31 he says, ***“But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through your faith in him you may have life.”***

3. Acts – The Book of Acts tells about the beginning of God’s church and how we can become part of that church. It also tells us how to be a friend of God and how to go to heaven when we die.

4. Romans through Jude – These books tell about Christians who took the message of Christ throughout the Roman Empire. Paul wrote 9 books, Romans through 2 Thessalonians, as letters to churches. He also wrote 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon as letters to individuals. The author of Hebrews is unknown. Peter, James, John and Jude also wrote letters to Christians.

5. Revelation – Revelation is the last book in the New Testament. It is a book of “endings.” This book tells us that God and His friends (believers) will win over all evil in the world. Then these friends will live forever with God. This is the final victory over sin. Revelation also tells us that heaven is so beautiful that it is almost impossible to describe it.



## STOP AND THINK

1. It is amazing that God's prophets were able to predict things that would happen many years later. God spoke to those prophets. Then the prophets told God's message to the people. Many people have called themselves prophets, but only God's prophets spoke messages that were 100% accurate (correct). When God's prophet said that something would happen in the future, it always happened just like the prophet said it would.
2. Many people today want to know what will happen in the future. They read their horoscope in the newspaper or go to a fortune teller. But these predictions are never 100% accurate. Why? Because they are not from God. We can depend on God's Word, the Bible. The words in the Bible are true. God's message will never fail us.



*Deaf Missions*  
**BASIC BIBLE STUDY**

*New Testament*  
*Lesson 1 - Questions*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blanks for Questions #1 through #8 with these words:

39  
Mark  
Luke  
John 3:16

Matthew  
Acts  
Jesus

Revelation  
27  
John

1. How many books are in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many books are in the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What are the names of the synoptic gospel books? \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the name of the one book of history in the New Testament?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the name of the one book of prophecy in the New Testament?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Which New Testament book emphasizes that Jesus is the Son of God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Who was the final sacrifice for sin? \_\_\_\_\_
8. The message of the New Testament can be told in one Bible verse. Write the name of the book, the chapter and verse where this can be found. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Is the province of Judea the same size as the state of Texas? (see Map 1, page 1)

\_\_\_\_\_ yes

\_\_\_\_\_ no

10. Please try to write this verse (John 3:16) from memory on the lines below.

For God \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ so much that he \_\_\_\_\_ his

Only \_\_\_\_\_, so that \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ in him

may not \_\_\_\_\_ but have eternal \_\_\_\_\_.

11. Did Jesus live under the rules of the Old Testament? (see page \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ yes

\_\_\_\_\_ no

12. When did God's new plan start? (see page \_\_\_\_\_)

13. What does the word "testament" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

14. All the prophecies of the Old Testament are 100% accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_ yes

\_\_\_\_\_ no

15. In what language was the New Testament written? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What does the word "synoptic" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Which book of the New Testament tells about the beginning of Jesus' church?

\_\_\_\_\_