

NEW TESTAMENT
HISTORY
THE CHRIST
AND THE
INTER-TESTAMENT
PERIOD

BIBLE STUDY TEXTBOOK SERIES

**NEW TESTAMENT
HISTORY
The Christ**

by

Wallace Wartick

**THE INTER-TESTAMENT
PERIOD**

by

William Smith — Revised

by Wilbur Fields

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DEDICATION

To my wife: Wanda;
to my children:
Elaine, Duane, Dwight—
the ones who
sacrificed that
this book might
be possible.

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✕

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PREFACE

The following book is intended to further the kingdom of God on earth. Perhaps in a world where books abound, both on the subject of Christ and other subjects, one more is hardly needed and will cause but little ripple. Yet, the present author finds a multiplication of books more helpful than not, and welcomes new ones, especially on Christ, His person and revelation. The editor of College Press, Don DeWelt, wanted a sequel to *Old Testament History* by Wilbur Fields. This is part of that sequel. If God is willing, the second part covering Acts through Revelation will be written and published sometime hence.

Thanks is to be extended to several who have encouraged and helped in the writing of this material. Judith Weeks, Karla Jordan and Cathy Jacobs helped type much of the manuscript and get it ready for the printer. Seth Wilson will see what he taught in class or in life often reflected in the pages that follow. Other teachers have likewise helped. Many men through their commentaries have stimulated ideas or thoughts that appear on the following pages. To some express credit is given. To others who over years of study have been utilized, I give thanks also. Many are listed in the bibliographies at the end of the book. If some thoughts are expressed and credit is not given, upon notice of such, we will be glad to correct the oversight. As for this book, if the reader can find it useful in any way, feel free to use it without any undue worry about giving the author "credit." God really gives the only credit that is worth mentioning, and He will adequately care for all of us. As Seth Wilson would say, "There is no end to the good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit."

INTRODUCTION

The procedure followed in the book is to give a running comment (henceforth referred to as "exposition") that in some ways can be read without extensive reference to the text. Each text to be considered is listed at the appropriate place. The harmony outline at the front of the section on the Gospels serves as a general guide to times, places and events. It is a modification of the outline that appeared in C. J. Sharp's *The Christ of the Four Gospels*, by Standard Publishing Co., 1942. R. C. Foster actually produced the original outline itself. It surely will be helpful if the reader will turn to the text(s) under consideration and study it before the comments are read. The section of notes and questions is likewise to be studied with text in hand. Some events that are placed together for study are not to be considered as having happened at the same times necessarily. An evidence of this would be the calling of the four fishermen. Other places are noted of similar nature.

The translations in the book are either from *The New American Standard* (abbreviated NAS), *The Revised Standard Version* (abbreviated RSV) or the author's own. Wilbur Fields, who wrote the section on the Inter-testament period, will make his own acknowledgements.

We suggest that the reader make a harmony for study. The section of notes/questions will list the text(s) under consideration, giving scriptural limitations. The use of two small New Testaments like those from American Bible Society at about thirty-five cents each will do nicely. The small New Testaments may be purchased in either the King James version, or the Revised Standard version. Some magic mending tape, a pair of scissors and about three hundred sheets of paper will also be needed. We advise those who write with the right hand to tape the text on the "back" side of the page (with the holes along the right side).

Thus, if the harmony is placed in a notebook, the right-hand page will always be open for notes, etc. The New Testaments are in small enough columns that where the incident is recorded in all four Gospels, they will still go on the average $8 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ sheet of notebook paper. Some texts will be too long to get on one page, and two or three pages will be needed. Examples of such are the Sermon on the Mount, the parables in Matt. 13; John 5; etc.

The book is obviously limited in many respects. It was not intended for "scholars" as such, but more for the church member and/or beginning student of Jesus' life. The first section is to enable the reader to get a general grasp of the text. The notes/question section is intended to help textual study, and supply some detailed notes not thought appropriate in the first section. Much could have been written that was not (R. C. H. Lenski wrote some forty-five hundred pages on the Gospels, and did not say all that could be said.) because of the nature of the book. May what has been said be helpful to some. If such occurs, the labor will be well spent.

The expression "Synoptics" means Matthew, Mark and Luke, not John. The Greek term *synopsis* means "to see together." The Synoptics sometimes record the same event, prior to the events of the final week. John's Gospel seldom records the same event as the Synoptics until the last week.

The abbreviation "ca." means about or approximately, in regard to year or years. The abbreviation "ff." means the following verse or verses, page or pages. The expression "cf." means compare the text or idea with the one under discussion. The expression "i.e." means "that is," or in "other words." The abbreviation "MS" means (one) manuscript. The plural is "MSS." In pronunciation of Greek, ē sounds like the "a" in date, ō sounds like the "o" in boat, otherwise they are like short "e" and "o."