

# Study Guide for *The Literature and History of New Testament Times*, by J. Gresham Machen

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Extra Reading for the course:  
"The Gospels"

ACADEMIC  
PACKET

RESOURCES FOR GROUPS  
USING THE ACADEMIC PACKETS



**John Gresham Machen, *The Literature and History of New Testament Times***

**Review questions:**

**Chapter 1**

1. The English word "testament" comes from a Latin word. The equivalent Greek word as used in the Greek Bible usually should be translated as \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What is Machen's view of how we should treat the New Testament?
3. What are the four divisions of the New Testament?

**Chapter 2**

1. What was the role of Herod the Great in relation to the Roman empire?
2. What was the religion of the Roman empire at the time of the New Testament?

**Chapter 3**

1. What language and culture was dominant in the Mediterranean world at the time of the New Testament?
2. What city was the center of learning and culture in the Mediterranean world at the time of the New Testament?
3. In what language or languages was the Old Testament available at the time of the New Testament?
4. What were papyri?
5. What do ancient papyri teach us about the language in which the New Testament was written?

**Chapter 4**

1. What is the name of the first century Jewish historian that give us information about Judaism at the time of the N.T?
2. What is the Mishnah?
3. What is the name of the Syrian who tried to stamp out the Jewish religion by force (174-164 B.C.)?
4. What is the name given to the Jews who rebelled against the Syrians and ruled the Jewish nation for about 100 years?
5. What empire took control of the Jewish nation in 67 B.C.?

6. In what year after Christ did the Romans conquer Jerusalem and destroy the temple?
7. What is the name of the Jewish party that was strict with regard to the law and that opposed foreign influence?
8. What was the language spoken by the Palestinian Jews at the time of Christ?
9. If a man desired to make his way in the world in any public capacity or in trade in Palestine during the time of Christ, he would be obliged to learn what language?

### **Chapter 5**

1. What place was often the best for early Christian missionaries like Paul to find the most promising audience?
2. What is the Septuagint?
3. How did each of the following social events at the time of the New Testament help prepare the way for the preaching of the gospel?
  - a. Roman dominion
  - b. Influence of Greek culture
  - c. Dispersion of the Jews

### **Chapter 6**

1. Machen says, "The appeal to \_\_\_\_\_ was absolutely central in the presentation of the gospel."
2. Were the Gentile "God-fearers," as well as the Jews, acquainted with the Messianic hope?
3. The Jews were waiting for a human king in the line of \_\_\_\_\_ who would conquer the enemies of Israel.

### **Chapter 7**

1. Who wrote the Book of Acts?
2. Machen suggests that the Book of Acts was written around the year \_\_\_\_ A.D.
3. Does Machen believe that the author of the Book of Acts used the Pauline epistles as a source of information?
4. What is the purpose of the Book of Acts?

### **Chapter 8**

1. What are the two aspects of the life of Jesus that are especially highlighted in the New Testament?

### **Chapter 9**

1. Machen says, "The dominant note in the early chapters of The Acts is the note of \_\_\_\_\_."
2. According to Machen, what was the gift of tongues?

3. After the notable sermon of Peter, which was spoken in explanation of the gift of tongues, how many people were converted?

#### **Chapter 10**

1. The word "martyr" is simply the Greek word for \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What was the result of the persecution of the early Christians?

#### **Chapter 11**

1. According to Machen, did the conversion of Cornelius have an immediate impact on the Church with regard to their attitude toward Gentiles?
2. Who preached the gospel to the Ethiopian eunuch?
3. Who was Simon Magus?

#### **Chapter 12**

1. What kind of childhood education did Paul probably have?
2. Was Paul was a master of the Greek language?
3. Describe the spiritual life of Paul before his conversion.

#### **Chapter 13**

1. Does the author believe that there are contradictions between the Book of Acts and the Pauline Epistles?
2. Describe Antioch at the time of the New Testament.
3. The dominant language of Antioch was \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Chapter 14**

1. According to Machen, what are some possible reasons that Paul did not want to take John Mark with him on the second missionary journey?
2. How long did the first missionary journey take?
3. The people of Lystra identified Paul and Barnabas with \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Chapter 15**

1. Does the author think that Galatians 2:1-10 is an account of the same visit of Paul to Jerusalem as the visit for the council which is described in Acts 15:1-29?
2. Who were the "Judaizers"?

## **Chapter 16**

1. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised, but refused to have Titus circumcised?
2. What was the Stoics' view of God?
3. What was the Epicureans' view of God?
4. What did Paul use as his starting point for his speech at the Areopagus in Athens?

## **Chapter 17**

1. List the groups of New Testament epistles, according to Machen, and note the names of each epistle that belong to each group.
2. What theme occupies a central place in Paul's letters to the Thessalonians?

## **Chapter 18**

1. What was the main purpose of Paul's letter to the Galatians?
2. According to Paul in Galatians, what was the main purpose of the law?

## **Chapter 19**

1. What problems are issues that Paul deals with in his first letter to the Corinthians?

## **Chapter 20**

1. What is the key theme of 2 Corinthians?

## **Chapter 21**

1. The key theme of the first eight chapters of Romans is:
2. As Paul clarifies in his letter to the Romans, what does justification by faith mean?

## **Chapter 22**

1. According to the author, did Paul return to Ephesus after his visit with the elders recorded in Acts 20?
2. Who continued to be the head of the Jerusalem church until he was martyred?

## **Chapter 23**

1. What are the two key themes of the epistles of the third group of epistle, the epistles of the first imprisonment?
2. How does Paul express the work of Christ in Colossians?

## **Chapter 24**

1. According to the author, was Ephesians written to address any particular problems?

2. Ephesians is strikingly similar to what other epistle?
3. According to Ephesians, what was the first cause of our salvation?

#### **Chapter 25**

1. In Philippians, what does Paul say about whether he would prefer to depart and be with Christ?
2. Does Philippians teach that when Christ became a man, he laid aside his divine attributes?

#### **Chapter 26**

1. Which letters of Paul are called the "Pastoral Epistles"?
2. What is the main theme of the Pastoral Epistles?

#### **Chapter 27**

1. The author asserts that the Gospel of Matthew was originally written in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. According to the author, what was the ultimate purpose of the Gospel of Matthew?

#### **Chapter 28**

1. Does the Gospel of Mark contain mostly material which is not contained in any other Gospel?
2. According to Machen, which Gospel presents the events in more of a chronological order?
3. How does the author describe the Gospel of Mark?
4. The author states that Mark presented in his Gospel the teachings of \_\_\_\_\_ about the life of Christ.

#### **Chapter 29**

1. What is the purpose of the Gospel of Luke?
2. Was Luke an eyewitness of the life of Christ?
3. According to Machen, what is the key meaning of the story of the Prodigal Son?

#### **Chapter 30**

1. What does tradition say about the following information regarding the Gospel of John?
  - a. author
  - b. place of writing
  - c. time of writing in relation to the other Gospels
2. Was John an eyewitness of the life of Jesus?

### **Chapter 31**

1. Does Machen think that there are contradictions between the synoptic gospels and John?

### **Chapter 32**

1. What was the purpose of the Epistle of James?
3. The Epistle of James teaches that true faith leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Chapter 33**

1. According to Machen, who was the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews?

### **Chapter 34**

1. What is the key theme of 1 Peter?

### **Chapter 35**

1. What is the key purpose of 2 Peter and Jude?

### **Chapter 36**

- 1 The Epistles of John warn about what false doctrine?
2. What is the teaching of "Docetism"?

### **Chapter 37**

1. Does Machen think that the Apocalypse was written by a different John than the Gospel?
2. Which two Old Testament books influenced the imagery of the Apocalypse?

### **Chapter 38**

1. Describe the four views of the interpretation of the Apocalypse.
2. What is the author's view of the interpretation of the Apocalypse?
3. How does Machen interpret the 1,000 years of Revelation 20?

### **Chapter 39**

1. What roman emperor was thought to have started a fire in Rome in A.D. 64, then blamed the Christians for it?
2. What important event occurred in 70 A.D.?

#### **Chapter 40**

1. What are the two practical applications of the New Testament teaching about the Church that the author mentions?

#### **Chapter 41**

1. What was fundamental in the apostolic preaching?

#### **Chapter 42**

1. What are the four "means of grace" that Christians should use?

#### **Chapter 43**

1. According to 2 Corinthians 12, 8-9, the Lord answered Paul's prayer by telling him, "My power is made perfect in \_\_\_\_\_."

#### **Chapter 44**

1. Machen asserts that the early Christian meetings were held often in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The author says that the early Christian meetings were usually on what day?
3. What three principles does the author mention as guidelines for Christian meetings?

#### **Chapter 45**

1. To whom did the early church especially give relief?

#### **Chapter 46**

1. In the Pastoral Epistles, the government of the local church is seen to be entrusted to a body of "\_\_\_\_\_."
2. Which method of choosing the leaders of the local congregation is more in accordance with the spirit of apostolic precedent than any other method, according to the author?
3. According to the author, were the New Testament local churches independent of each other?

#### **Chapter 47**

1. What great transition occurred during the early years after Christ, with regard to the ethnic identity of the Church?

#### **Chapter 48**

1. What does Paul mean when he makes a contrast between the "flesh" and the "Spirit"?

#### **Chapter 49**

1. What is the New Testament guideline for the way Christians should handle human relationships in this world?



## **Chapter 50**

1. What is the New Testament guideline for the way Christians should relate to modern culture?

## **Chapter 51**

1. The author says, "The present age, according to the New Testament, is a time of \_\_\_\_\_; it is related to the future glory as a battle is related to the subsequent victory."
2. During the present age, the author says, "A prime condition of progress is a \_\_\_\_\_."
3. According to Machen, what kind of freedom does the Holy Spirit bring?

## **Chapter 52**

1. What are two key tendencies that were developing in the Church around 325 A.D.?