



New Testament Summary

The Old Testament (OT) was written over a one-thousand-year period, whereas the New Testament (NT) was over 50 years. The OT is pointing to the Messiah coming, but there are almost 400 years between the two. Finally, the time comes. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is told by an angel that she will have a child, even though she is a virgin. The Holy Spirit will overshadow her. Joseph, who was pledged to be married to her, was told by an angel in a dream not to be afraid to marry Mary, because she was not unfaithful to him. Simultaneously, Mary's cousin Elizabeth becomes pregnant, as another angel foretold to her husband Zechariah, though she was past childbearing age. Elizabeth was to give birth to John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, the Christ (or Messiah). He was to prepare the way for the Lord.

The Christmas story is often told in a matter-of-fact way, but Mary had to give birth in a manger as there was no room for them in the Inn. Angels told the shepherds nearby what was happening. Wise men came from the East, following a star that led them to this child. Soon, the family had to flee to Egypt to avoid the baby being killed by Herod, as he ordered all children under two years old to be killed in the region where Jesus was born.

Eventually, they returned to Nazareth, and Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and man. At age 12, his parents brought him to Jerusalem and left without him thinking he was with them. They found him in the temple courts speaking with the rabbis, because he had to be with his "Father". At the age of 30, Jesus began his public ministry. He was baptized in the Jordan, tempted in the wilderness for 40 days by Satan, and prevailed. He picked 12 disciples and began to teach and preach the gospel. The kingdom of God was near. He did many miracles,



cast out demons, and went about doing good. After over 3 years, the time approached for him to do what he came for, to die for the sins of His people. He was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day, he resurrected, just as he predicted he would. He appeared to his disciples and over 500 people after his resurrection. After 40 days, he ascended back to heaven.

He sent the Holy Spirit to those who believed on Pentecost, and the church began to grow. Peter, James, and other believers prayed and broke bread together. After Stephen, a deacon, was martyred, persecution broke out and scattered the church abroad. One of the church's enemies, Saul (later Paul), met Christ on the road to Damascus and became a great leader and missionary. He wrote almost half the books of the NT. Other letters (epistles) were written by Peter, the apostle John, Jude, and the writer of Hebrews. Four gospel accounts were compiled, and the story of the spread of the church by the power of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts. In Revelation, we find Jesus in control of history, encouraging his church and admonishing us to be faithful until he returns again! He is fully God, fully man, the second person of the Trinity, and the Savior. All who believe in him will have eternal life.