

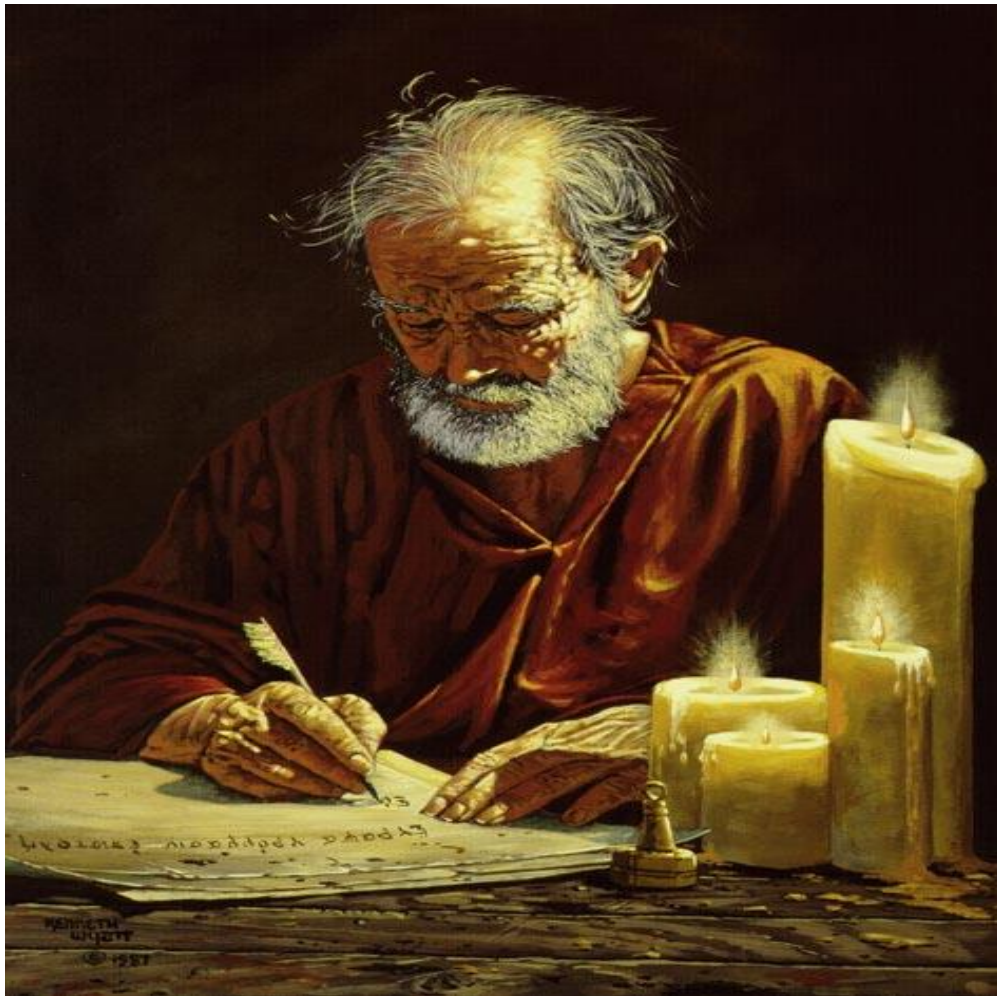
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THE HOLY BIBLE **NKJV** REFERENCE GUIDE

NEW TESTAMENT

BOOK 56

TITUS



Apostle Paul by Kenneth Wyatt

SUMMARY

Paul identified himself as the author of the letter to Titus, calling himself a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. The origin of Paul's relationship with Titus is shrouded in mystery, though we can gather that he may have been converted under the ministry of Paul, who called Titus my true child in a common faith.

Titus accompanied Paul on his third missionary journey, during which the apostle sent him to Corinth at least once. Paul clearly held Titus in a position of great respect as a friend and fellow worker for the gospel, praising Titus for his affection, his earnestness, and his bringing comfort to others.

Paul wrote his letter to Titus from Nicopolis in AD 63, after the apostle's release from his first Roman imprisonment. Upon leaving Timothy in Ephesus to minister there, Paul accompanied Titus to the island of Crete, where he intended Titus to lead and organize the island's churches in their early years of existence.

While the gospel had no doubt spread to Crete soon after Peter's sermon at Pentecost, Paul and Titus likely did a good deal of evangelism on the island in the weeks before Paul commissioned Titus to a leadership position there.

Three summaries of the incarnation dot the pages of Titus, providing a framework within which the Christian can view the work of God in the world and in individual lives. All three passages involve the manifestation, or appearance, of God in Christ, rooting the Christian faith in the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

Only when God the Son took on human flesh in the person of Jesus was the believer's faith in God made sure. In other words, since God poured out His grace on all humanity, He cleanses His people from their sin and purifies believers for Himself.

This grace of God instructs us to live upright and godly lives in this present age. The doctrine of the incarnation in the letter to Titus grounds its message of producing right living through the careful attention to theological truth.

The churches on Crete were just as susceptible to false teachers as any other church, so Paul directed Titus to establish a group of faithful elders to oversee the doctrinal purity and good conduct of the believers on Crete.

Paul exhorted Titus to speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine, a clear direction that this should be the young pastor's primary role.

However, Paul also understood that when a body of believers embraces sound doctrine, the result is changed and purified lives that produce good deeds. God's grace is the motivation for all good deeds.

Paul gave instructions to Titus about the roles of specific groups of people—older men, older women, young women, young men, and slaves—as well as general instructions to all believers about their conduct.

Right living was essential because Christ gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, saving us by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

SUMMARY Continued

How seriously do you consider your beliefs about God in the overall scheme of your life? The book of Titus reminds us that our beliefs about God impact every decision we make.

Sometimes it is difficult for believers today to see the point of getting all worked up about the person and nature of Christ or the doctrine of the Trinity. However, Paul made clear that a church that teaches and preaches sound doctrine will see results in the lives of its people.

Not only will people be saved from their sins, but God's grace will also motivate them to live out that saving faith with renewed and purified lives. Many churches today focus more on the form of their worship—music styles, lighting, and building designs—than they do on the content of the faith they mean to proclaim.

And while the form of a church's worship is vital to reaching its community for Christ, without a firm base of sound doctrine, the church will lay its foundation in shifting and sinking sand.

Make doctrine a priority in your own life, as well as encouraging it in your churches. Nothing is more significant than a solid foundation in Christ. Nothing is more motivational than grace to live a life of good deeds.

NKJV SELECTED SCRIPTURE

- 1:7** For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,
1:8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,
1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.
1:15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.
1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.
2:6 Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded,
2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,
2:8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.
2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,
2:12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,
2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

NKJV SCRIPTURE Continued

- 3:2** to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.
- 3:3** For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.
- 3:4** But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,
- 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,
- 3:6** whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
- 3:7** that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
- 3:9** But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.
- 3:10** Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,
- 3:11** knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

CHARACTER Definitions

TITUS - Titus was an early church leader, a trusted companion of the apostle Paul, and a faithful servant of the Lord.

Titus was a Gentile who was led to faith in Christ by Paul. He was drawn to the ministry and became a co-worker with Paul, accompanying him and Barnabas from Antioch to Jerusalem.

At the Jerusalem Council, Titus would have been a prime example of a born-again Gentile Christian. Titus was living proof that the rite of circumcision was unnecessary for salvation.

Later, Titus went to Corinth to serve the church there. On Paul's third missionary journey, which took place from A.D. 53 to 57, Paul arrived in Troas and expected to meet Titus there. Not finding his friend, Paul left for Macedonia.

Titus rejoined Paul in Philippi and gave him a good report of the ministry in Corinth. When Titus returned to Corinth, he hand-delivered the Epistle of 2 Corinthians and organized a collection for needy saints in Jerusalem.

Several years later, Titus and Paul traveled to the island of Crete, where Titus was left behind to continue and strengthen the work. Titus's task was administrative, mostly: he was to maintain sound doctrine and straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town.

When Artemas and Tychicus arrived in Crete to direct the ministry, Paul summoned Titus to join him in Nicopolis, a city in the province of Achaia in western Greece.

CHARACTERS Continued

The last mention of Titus in the Bible indicates that he was with Paul during Paul's final Roman imprisonment. From Rome,

Titus was sent to evangelize Dalmatia, an area which later became known as Yugoslavia and is now called Serbia and Montenegro.

As a Gentile Christian, Titus would have been particularly effective in combating the heresy of the Judaizers. The Judaizers insisted that all Christians were bound by the Mosaic Law.

Usually, the Judaizers honed in on circumcision: Gentiles must be circumcised, they said, in order to truly be saved. Titus knew this teaching well, for the subject had come up in Syrian Antioch, leading to the Jerusalem Council, of which he had been a part.

Titus was a faithful servant of the Lord and a dedicated aide to Paul. He must have been trustworthy and dependable, since Paul appointed him to lead works in Corinth, Crete, and Dalmatia.

Indeed, Paul calls him my partner and fellow worker. Knowing the difficult situations in both Corinth and Crete, we can infer that Titus was an insightful man who could handle problems with grace.

Scripture says that Titus had a God-given love for the Corinthian believers; in fact, in returning to Corinth, Titus went with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative. May we have the same zeal for the Lord that Titus showed.

Every believer would do well to model Titus's commitment to truth, fervor in spreading the gospel, and enthusiastic love for the church.

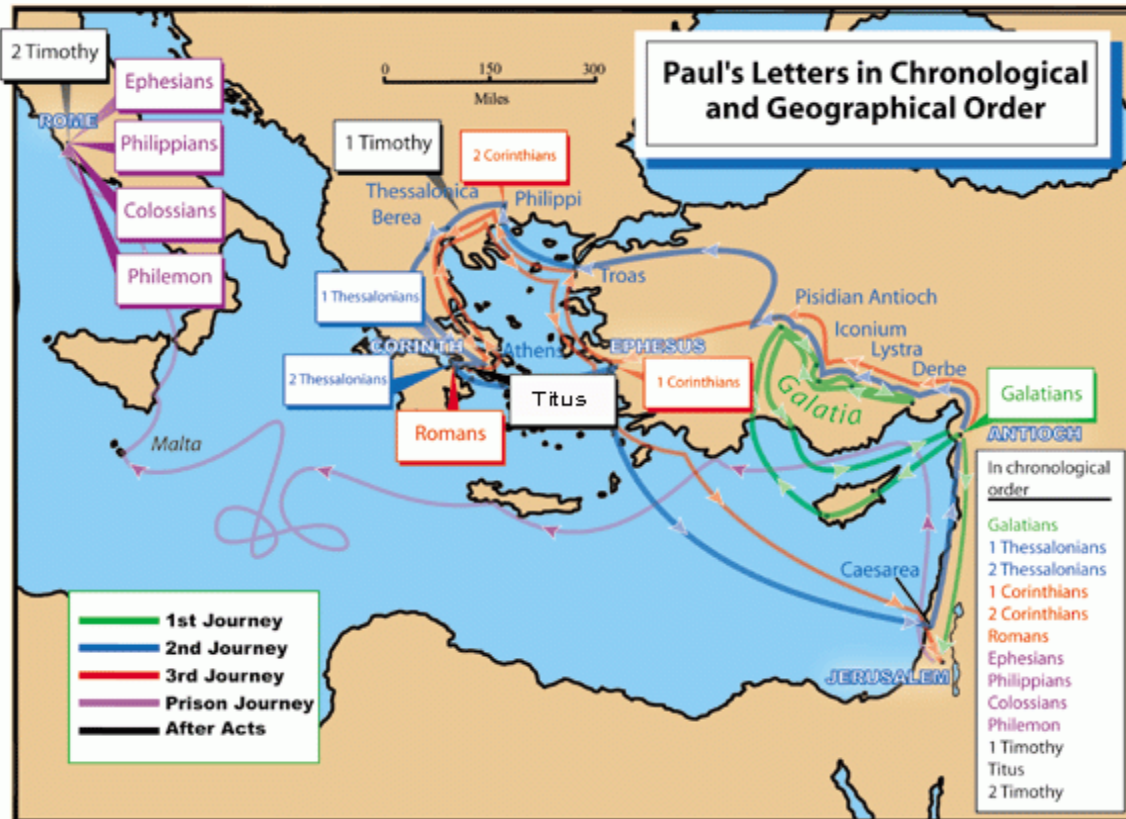
BIBLE TIMELINE

66 AD

Paul Writes to Titus

Titus 1 - 3

MAP REFERENCES



Where Was Titus When Paul Wrote To Him

- Paul's introduction to Titus from Ephesus places Titus in Crete
- Paul only recorded to have visited Crete after Ephesus, but cp [Titus 1:5](#)

