

## New Testament Author Overview

The collection of written works that comprise the New Testament is fascinating. These works range in literary styles and cover a wide range of topics. Each work is part of the larger narrative of God, but one need not look past the individual authorship and work to find immense treasure. It is helpful to think through who the author is, their unique proximity to Jesus, life experiences, etc and how that shapes what they have written. For example, it is interesting to note how Luke specifies some of Jesus' healing miracles medically. His own experience as a physician is clearly on display. Understanding the authors helps us to create a framework by which we can understand their writings and what they are saying and not saying. Below is a list of the New Testament works and authors. It is very important to note that there is no unanimous agreement on every book of the Bible concerning authorship so let this resource be a helpful guide in your Bible study as you go deeper.

New Testament Authors:

- ❖ **Matthew**- commonly attributed to Levi the tax collector at Capernaum. Matthew was also one of the Twelve.
- ❖ **Mark**- The author doesn't name himself but many early Church Fathers and researchers believe that it is the John Mark found in Acts 12. John Mark was a spiritual son of Peter and helpful in the work of the early Church.
- ❖ **Luke and Acts**- the companion of Paul, and seemingly the only Gentile author within the Bible, Luke has an interesting vantage point. Luke is believed to have been a physician as well as someone who had a keen eye for detail in gathering information.
- ❖ **John 1 John, 2 John, 3 John**- while there are many theories on the authorship of this Gospel and epistles, the most plausible seems to be that it is John the Apostle. John the fisherman was the "disciple whom Jesus loved" and seemed to have a particularly close place to Jesus. He was also thought to be a cousin of Jesus and a brother of James.
- ❖ **Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon**- Saul of Tarsus is credited with writing much of the New Testament. We have so much information about him from his hand, Church History, etc. His persecution of early Christian converts and subsequent conversion story are well known within the Christian tradition.
- ❖ **Hebrews**- the author of Hebrews is widely contested for a variety of reasons including grammar/style. Some of the possibilities include Paul, Barnabas, Stephen, Silas, Apollos, or even Priscilla.
- ❖ **James**- James, the brother of Jesus is believed to have penned this letter. Although seemingly a disbeliever of Jesus' claims while Jesus was alive, after His death and resurrection, James became a devout convert.

❖ **1 Peter, 2 Peter**- Peter the apostle is widely believed to have written these letters. We know that his first name was Simon and that he was a fisherman along with his brother Andrew and one of the Twelve.

❖ **Jude**- Jude, or Judas, the brother of Jesus is believed to have authored this epistle.

Jude, like his brother James, was skeptical of Jesus' claims before the Resurrection.

Revelation- while there are debates about authorship, John the Beloved seems to have written the book of Revelation also. This work differs so drastically from John's other written works that many attribute it to another John.