

## **CHURCH HISTORY**

### Lesson 2 – New Testament Era (30 to 100 A.D.)

Our survey of Church history begins with its founding and early years as described in the New Testament.

#### A. Background

1. What does "church" mean?
2. What does "the Church" mean?
3. Distinguish between the "universal" and "local" church.
4. What different terms or designations were used for the Church?

#### B. Major Events

1. When and where was the Church started?
2. What was significant about Acts 8:1-4 (~34 A.D.)?
3. What was significant about Acts 9:1-19 (~35 A.D.)?
4. What was significant about Acts 10 (~41 A.D.)?
5. What was significant about Acts 13:1-3 (~43 A.D.)?
5. Who were the Zealots? What happened in Jerusalem in 70 A.D.? Compare with Matt. 24.

#### C. Authority

1. Who or what was the source of religious authority for the New Testament church (i.e., how did people know what they should be doing)?
2. How was this authority confirmed (Mark 16:20; Acts 3; 1 Cor. 13)?
3. How was authoritative teaching passed to others (Acts 15:23-31; Col. 4:16)?
4. Is Acts 15 the first "Church Council"?

#### D. Doctrines

1. How were early churches organized at the local level? At regional and global levels?
2. What disagreements were about the nature of Jesus (1 John 2:18-23; 4:1-3)?
3. What disagreements were about salvation by grace, faith, and works (Acts 15:5; Eph. 2:1-10; Rom. 5:19-6:4; Col. 2:20-23)?
4. What disagreements were about Jesus' Second Coming (2 Thes. 2:1-12; 2 Thes. 3:6-15; 1 Cor. 15:12; 2 Tim. 2:16-18)?

#### E. Divisions/Conflicts

1. Describe the potential division of Acts 15.
2. What was happening in 1 Cor. 1:10-12?
3. What was happening in 3 John 9-10?
4. Who were the Nicolaitans (Rev. 2:6, 15)?
5. What was happening in Acts 7; Acts 8:1-4; and Acts 14:19?
6. What was the relationship between the Roman government and Christians (Acts 12:1-4; Acts 19:35-41; Acts 22:23-29; Acts 25:6-12; 2 Tim. 4:6 under Nero; Rev. 1:9 under Domitian)?

F. Special Topics

1. According to Foxes Book of Martyrs (or equivalent source), how did the Apostles die?

2. By the end of the New Testament period, what trends were evident with churches according to Rev. 2-3?