

New Testament Themes and Key Verses

Matthew -

Theme: The King and His Kingdom

Key Verse: Matthew 2:2, 4:17

Matthew 2:2 (KJV) Saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matthew 4:17 (KJV) From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand

Mark-

Theme: Jesus Christ the Servant

Key Verse: Mark 10:45 (KJV) For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Luke-

Theme: Our Lord's journey as the Son of Man

Key Verse: Luke 19:10(KJV) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

John-

Theme: Jesus is the Christ; believe and live!

Key Verse: John 20:31 (KJV) But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Acts-

Theme: The expansion of the Church in the World

Key Verse: Acts 1:8 (KJV) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Romans-

Theme: The righteousness of God

Key Verse: Romans 1:7 (KJV) To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians-

Theme: God's wisdom

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 2: 6-8 (KJV) 6. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world that come to naught. 7. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery , even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world unto our glory. 8. Which none of the princes of this world know: for had they known it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

2 Corinthians-

Theme: God's encouragement

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 4: 1, 6 (KJV) 4. Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.6.

Galatians-

Theme: Christian liberty in the grace of God

Key Verse: Galatians 5:1 (KJV) 5 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Ephesians -

Theme: The believers' riches in Christ

Key Verse: Ephesians 1:3(KJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Philippians -

Theme: The joy of the Lord

Key Verse: Philippians 3:1 (KJV) Finally my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe

Colossians

Theme: Jesus Christ is preeminent

Key Verse: Colossians 1:18 (KJV) 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

1 Thessalonians

Theme: The coming of Christ for the church

Key Verse:1 Thessalonians 5: 9-10(KJV) 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

2 Thessalonians

Theme: The Church and the day of the Lord

Key Verse: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 (KJV) 1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

1 Timothy

Theme: How to manage the ministry of the local church

Key Verse: 1 Timothy 3:15 (KJV) 15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

2 Timothy

Theme: Preparation for the ministry in the last days

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 1:13-14

2 Timothy 1:13-14(KJV)13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

Titus

Theme: Christians should maintain good works

Key Verse: Titus 3:8 (KJV)This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Philemon

Theme: Christian forgiveness

Key Verse: Philemon 15-16 (KJV) 15 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him forever; 16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

Hebrews:

Theme: Press on to maturity

Key Verse: Hebrews 6:1(KJV) Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

James

Theme: Spiritual maturity

Key Verse: James 1:4 (KJV) But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

1 Peter

Theme: God's grace and the living hope

Key Verse: 1 Peter 1:3; 5:12

1 Peter 1:3 (KJV)3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 5:12 (KJV) 12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.

2 Peter

Theme: Spiritual knowledge

Key Verse: 2 Peter 1:3 (KJV) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

1 John

Theme: The test of reality in the Christian life

Key Verse: 1 John 5:13 (KJV) These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

2 John

Theme: Loving and living the truth

Key Verse: 2 John 4 (KJV) I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

3 John

Theme: Having a good witness in the church

Key Verse: 3 John 3(KJV) 3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

Jude

Theme: Overcoming the apostates

Key Verse: Jude 3-4 (KJV) 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation

Theme: Jesus Christ is Victor

Key Verse: Revelation 1:19; 17:14

Revelation 1:19 (KJV) 19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Revelation 17:14 (KJV) 14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

*Themes and verses from The Wiersbe Bible Commentary, 2007