

What is the New Testament, and Where Did it Come From?

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Christianity began as a sect within Judaism, out of the same social and religious upheaval from which Rabbinic Judaism emerged. But it went in a very different direction. This course will explore the origins of Christianity within and against its Jewish environment, and examine how it grew and moved outside of Judaism to become the dominant religion of the Roman Empire. Through an exploration of the writings in the New Testament - and a few writings that didn't make it into the New Testament - we will study the ways in which early Christians drew on various Jewish concepts and symbols to craft a variety of Christianities that flourished in the first few centuries CE.

Schedule:

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| Lecture 1 | Jews, Greeks, and Romans |
| Lecture 2 | The Synoptic Gospels & The Historian: Mark |
| Lecture 3 | For the Jews, or For the World? Jesus in Matthew & Luke |
| Lecture 4 | Pre-existing Cosmic Redeemer: Jesus According to John |
| Lecture 5 | Non-Canonical & "Gnostic" Gospels |
| Lecture 6 | From Saul to Paul: Our Earliest Christian Documents |
| Lecture 7 | Paul's Mission |
| Lecture 8 | Apocalypse & Revelation |