

e. Poetry

f. Dialogue

4. The arrangement of New Testament literature and the development of the message:

The arrangement of the New Testament is one more of scope than Chronology although some chronological sequence is observed. But as the book has been given to us:

a. The Gospels lay the foundation through the telling of the life of Christ and His atoning work,

b. The Book of Acts shows us how the church was founded and how the message of the resurrected Christ directed the life and witness of the apostolic company,

c. And the Epistles teach the foundational truths of the New Testament revelation as well as outlining the practical relationship of the Christian and the world about him,

d. While the apocalyptic Revelation shows the intention and feeling God has for His church and what the prophetic line of instruction is to come.

Therefore we say the New Testament is arranged more on a pattern of the scope of theology or instruction so that the basic material puts down a foundation for what will follow.

e. Within the departments of New Testament literature we think:

(1) the Gospels are arranged on a traditional pattern of the date of authorship.

(2) the Pauline letters may have had length as a principle of arrangement subject to keeping paired letters together and in chronological order. Note what a nice general division may be made on this line:

Soteriological letters (Rom. Cor. Gal)
 Christological letters (Eph. Philip., Col)
 Eschatological letters (Thess)
 Pastoral letters (Tim., Titus)
 Personal letter (Philemon)

(3) The general Epistles may have also had a length principle involved although although there is a spectrum of movement from Jewish to Gentile readers (Hebrews to John/Jude). A similar note may be made for the Gospels (Matthew to John)