

What was the Purpose of the New Testament?

I get information from Heaven 5 different ways:

1. Teaching
2. Information
3. Revelation
4. Downloads
5. Prophecy

Types 2-5 are spiritual, that is, I receive them via my spirit. Number 1, on the other hand, is mentally received. The last 4 fit under the Greek word *rhema* and represent the active word I have been given.

My teaching comes from various sources:

- I am spoken to by someone
- I read a book
- I read the Bible
- I listen to a podcast
- I watch a teaching video

All 5 sources provide the spiritual knowledge I have to live as a son in the Kingdom and all are resources for the teaching I present.

Now, many spiritual people will applaud my knowledge gained from #2-5, but look down on #1. They believe that only *rhema* is worthy of being a source of spiritual knowledge. This is short-sighted.

To help with our understanding on this matter, I ask you the question: What was the purpose of the books of the NT? In other words, why were they written?

The answer is simple – to provide teaching or knowledge for the reader. Such teaching is mental knowledge about spiritual matters and is received by reading them. They were not written with the intent of providing *rhema*, even though *rhema* can come from any verse in the Bible.

Paul describes the content of the OT as useful “for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”¹. All these are mental functions. There is no spiritual impartation implied or inferred by his statement.

The Gospels were written to give an account of what occurred in Jesus’ life. Luke states this in the beginning of his biography of the acts of the Apostles: “The former account I made, O Theophilus”².

The epistles were written to teach the new churches how to live righteous lives, and to understand spiritual ideas. Many of them were for correction in response to letters the writer had received or information that they knew. All this was for sound doctrine³ (i.e. spiritually healthy teaching).

Revelation is also an epistle recounting a vision John saw of events in Heaven. The purpose of sending it out to the churches was to provide prophetic information about events that were “soon to come”.

Rhema is essential for feeding the spirit,⁴ but sound doctrine is also essential for the Kingdom life. The NT provides both, but was written primarily to provide sound doctrine.

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1 – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 – Acts 1:1

3 – 1 Timothy 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1

4 – Luke 4:4