

## **THE ORDERLY LOGIC OF THE FIRST FIVE NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS**

- 1. MATTHEW (A.D. 53)**
  - (1) Destination: the Jews**
  - (2) Purpose: To present Jesus as the Messiah**
  - (3) Symbol: Lion (strength, kingship)**
  - (4) Focus: on the Past / sets forth the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy**
  - (5) Span: opens with Genealogy; closes with Resurrection**
  
- 2. MARK (A.D. 69)**
  - (1) Destination: the Romans**
  - (2) Purpose: to present Jesus as the Servant**
  - (3) Symbol: Ox (lowliness, service)**
  - (4) Focus: on the Present / manifests life and activity congenial to the Roman mind**
  - (5) Span: opens with Jesus' public ministry; closes with His ascension.**
  
- 3. LUKE (A.D. 58)**
  - (1) Destination: the Greeks**
  - (2) Purpose: to present Jesus as Man**
  - (3) Symbol: Man (intelligence, personality) the highest order in Creation**
  - (4) Focus: on the Future / sets for universal and comprehensive character of the Gospel**
  - (5) Span: opens with the birth of John the Baptist; closes with promise of the Holy Spirit.**
  
- 4. JOHN (A.D. 85)**
  - (1) Destination: the Church**
  - (2) Purpose: to present Jesus as God**
  - (3) Symbol: Eagle (heavenliness, mystery, divinity)**
  - (4) Focus: on Eternity / presents the Gospel in its absolute perfection as related to the Father in eternity.**
  - (5) Span: opens with eternity; closes with Christ's Second Coming**
  
- 5. ACTS (A.D. 62)**
  - (1) Destination: Theophilus ("lover of God")**
  - (2) Purpose: to account for the origin, nature, founding and growth of the Church**
  - (3) Emphasis: Witnessing (1:8)**
  - (4) Development: (following 1:8)**
    - A. Jerusalem (1-7)**
    - B. Judea and Samaria (8-12)**
    - C. The uttermost parts (13:-28)**
  - (5) Span: from the Ascension to Paul's Roman Imprisonment (covering 30 years)**