

## Category 15: Introduction to the Bible

1. 书名：《新约导读》
2. 作者：蔡春
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4. 页数：371 页  
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5. 作者简介：蔡春（1904-1983），福建晋江人，1930 年毕业于燕京大学。1947-1950 年先后获哥伦比亚大学硕士与博士学位。1950 年回国任教于燕京大学宗教学院。1956-1975 年任教于东北人民大学。主要著作有《中国人口问题与人民生活》（1930，英文版）、《大理白族丧礼》（1947，英文版）、《程颐哲学思想》（1950，英文版）、《但丁及其〈神曲·地狱篇〉》等。译著有《民族学和民族问题论文》、《中华归主》等。

6. 内容提要：本书是“宗教文化丛书”之一。作者在“导言”中写道：《圣经》不是一本书，而是一部丛书。全书共 66 卷，其中《旧约》39 卷，《新约》27 卷，各由不同的作者，在不同的年代编写的，有的经卷也不是出自一人之手，而是由几种资料编纂而成。《圣经》中最早的成文史料，如《史官记述》，写于公元前 10 世纪，而若干最早的诗歌，则可上溯到公元前一千年以前。《旧约》最早的经卷成书于公元前 8 世纪，《新约》最晚的经卷成书于公元 2 世纪，前后相距约一千年。

《新约全书》不但是宗教的经典，同时也是西方文化的一部重要文献，是研究西方文学、艺术、哲学、历史……的一部重要参考书，它对西方文化影响之大，是难以估量的。许多西方文学名著、艺术杰作或则采用《圣经》上的内容作为题材，或则广泛引用《圣经》上的典故或名言。但是由于它的篇幅巨大，编排次序不易查阅，又是一部西亚的经典，对我们来说，历史背景比较生疏，参考起来相当困难。为了解决这些困难，本书采取下列编选方法：

（1）压缩篇幅——《新约全书》汉文译本共 7981 节，本书只选取与社会科学各专业关系较大的部分，将经文压缩到 3907 节，略少于全书的一半。

（2）调整篇次——为便利读者阅读，本书将《新约》各卷的编排次序稍作更动。将《新约》分为耶稣言行录、早期基督教史、书信和启示文学四部分，每部分尽可能按照叙事次序或成书时间编排。另将原书目次放在本书之前，以备参考。

（3）简介——在每卷选文之前，提供一篇简介，对该卷的历史背景、主要内容、作者、成书年代等略作说明。

采取上述措施，目的在于向读者提供一把入门的钥匙，使读者用较短的时间

可以了解《新约》内容的梗概，并能比较顺利地在本书及原书中查找到所需要的资料。

本书主要内容有：耶稣言行录、最早的基督教史—使徒行传、保罗书信、保罗狱中书信、希伯来书、教牧书信、公开信、启示录等。

1. Title : *An Introduction to the New Testament*

2. Author : Cai Chun

3. Publisher/Date: Contemporary Chinese Publishing Company; March 1992

4. Number of Pages : 371

Number of Words : 270,000

Number of Copies : 10,000

5. Author's Profile : Cai Chun (1904-1983) was born in Jinjiang, Fujian Province. He graduated from Yanjing University in 1930, and obtained his MA and PhD from Columbia University in 1947 and 1950. He returned to China in 1950 and taught at the School of Religion, Yanjing University. Later he taught at the People's University of Beijing from 1956 to 1975. His major works include *The Demographical Problems of China and the Economical Conditions of its People* (1930, in English), *The Funeral of [dalibaizu?]* (1947, in English), *The Philosophy of Cheng Yi* (1950, in English), *Dan Ding and His Oratorio – on Hell and etc.* His translations include *A Treatise on Ethnology and Ethnic Problems, China for Christ* and etc.

6. Précis: This volume is part of the Religious Culture Series. In the 'Introduction', the author asserts that the Bible is not a single volume. It is a collection of writings, consisting of 66 books, of which 39 are the Old Testament and 27 the New Testament. These books were written by different authors in different eras. Some books were composed by more than one author, whose materials were used to compile these books. The earliest written history histories, such as [shiguanjishu?], were written in 1000 BC, while some of the earliest psalms can be traced back to 1000 B.C. The earliest book in the Old Testament was written in 800 B.C., while the latest book in the New Testament was written in A.D. 200, spanning a period of one thousand years.

The New Testament is not only a religious scripture, it is also an important literature on Western culture, an essential text in the studies of Western literature, art, philosophy, history and etc. Its influence on the Western culture is enormous. Many Western classics and masterpieces use biblical materials as their themes, and cite or allude to biblical stories or sayings. However, owing to its length, complicated arrangement, the fact that it is a West Asian scripture, and our unfamiliarity with its historical backgrounds, it is a rather difficult book to study. In view of these difficulties, this book presents the New Testament in the following ways.

1. An Abridgement – the Chinese version of the New Testament consists of 7,981 verses. This volume only includes verses that are more relevant to the various fields of social science, compressing the New Testament to 3,907 verses (less than half the original length).

2. A modified version – this book slightly rearranges the order of NT books so as to facilitate reading. The New Testament is divided into the words and deeds of Jesus, early church history, epistles and apocalypse. The arrangement of the books was guided by the chronological order of the narratives or the date of completion of the books. The book also provides a list of the original arrangement for reference.
3. Introduction – An introduction is given to each book, delineating its historical background, major contents, authorship, date and etc.

With these the author hopes to provide readers with a key to grasping the gist of the New Testament in shorter time and a convenient method of finding references in this book and the NT.

Major sections include ‘Words and Deeds of Jesus’, ‘Earliest Christian History – Acts’, ‘Pauline Epistles’, ‘The Prison Epistles’, ‘Hebrews’, ‘The Pastoral Epistles’, ‘Revelation’ and etc.