**PART II: THE BLESSING (BEGIN NEW TESTAMENT)**

**CHAPTER 17 – BRIDGES TO THE NEW TESTAMENT (pg. 371)**

**21 pages of reading**

1. **Why did the OT canon end with Malachi (pg. 350)?**
2. **What is the Apocrypha, and how was it viewed by the Jews at the time of Jesus (pg. 351-352)?**
3. **What is the Mishnah? How is it different from the Talmud? Why are they important (pg. 353-353)?**
4. **What are Pseudepigrapha (pg. 354)?**
5. **How did the Sadducees develop (pg. 357)?**
6. **How did the Pharisees develop (pg. 357-358)?**
7. **Who were the Essenes, and why are they important (pg. 358-359)?**
8. **Who were the scribes, and what role did they play in Judean society (pg. 359)?**
9. **Trace the rise and demise of Alexander the Great (pg. 361-362).**
10. **What happened to Alexander’s empire after his death (pg. 362)?**
11. **Who were the Ptolemies and the Seleucids, and why are they important (pg. 362-365)?**
12. **Who were the Maccabees, and what did they do for Judea (pg. 365-369)?**
13. **How did Herod, an Edomite, become king of Judea (pg. 368)?**
14. **How did Rome make Judea part of the Roman Empire (pg. 370)?**

**CHAPTER 18 – WHO IS JESUS THE MESSIAH? (pg. 398)**

**22 pages of reading**

1. **Why would someone who claimed to be Messiah have to prove it (pg. 374-375)?**
2. **What is the genre called “gospel” (pg. 376-377)?**
3. **What is the synoptic problem (pg. 377)?**
4. **What is the difference between the two-source and the four-source theory (chart caption on page 379)?**
5. **What is Q, and why is it significant (pg. 378)?**
6. **How does this book (Harbin) suggest that the gospel accounts originated (pg. 380-382)?**
7. **How and why was the birth of John unique (pg. 383-384)?**
8. **How and why was the birth of Jesus unique (pg. 384-385)?**
9. **Trace the activities of Jesus up to the peak of His popularity (pg. 387-393).**
10. **What are parables, and why did Jesus use them (pg. 392-393)?**
11. **Why did many people stop following Jesus after He fed the five thousand (pg. 396-397)?**