

20th-Century New Testament Theologies

[Ladd, George Eldon. *A Theology of the New Testament* . 1993.](#) Ladd provides a landmark, comprehensive survey of New Testament theology written from a critically engaged evangelical perspective. His primary contribution is the development of an "already/not yet" eschatology, arguing that the Kingdom of God was historically inaugurated in the ministry of Jesus but awaits its ultimate consummation in the future. Throughout the work, Ladd maintains a high view of Biblical authority and historic orthodoxy while directly engaging with—and offering a robust conservative critique of—higher critical European scholarship. This text remains a foundational and highly accessible resource for understanding the historical-theological unity of the New Testament documents.

[Moris, Leon. *New Testament Theology* . 1990.](#) Morris, a premier conservative evangelical scholar, approaches New Testament theology with a strict commitment to the text's historic reliability and divine authority. Rather than forcing a unified, systematic grid over the entire New Testament, Morris organizes his work by authorial groupings (Pauline, Synoptic, Johannine, and General Epistles) to let the individual human writers speak contextually to the needs of their original audiences. His focus remains firmly pastoral and practical rather than merely academic, highlighting core conservative themes such as the centrality of God, the substitutionary atonement of Christ, and the permanent validity of Biblical truth for the modern church.

[Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Theology* . 1981.](#) Guthrie's massive work stands as a premier defense of the inner unity of the New Testament from a thoroughly conservative evangelical perspective. Unlike scholars who organize by individual author, Guthrie employs a thematic (or systematic) approach, tracing major doctrines—such as Christology, the Holy Spirit, and the Church—across the entire New Testament canon. He explicitly writes to counter the fragmented, hyper-critical methodologies dominant in mid-20th-century European scholarship, arguing successfully that a coherent, divinely inspired theology binds the diverse New Testament writers together. It remains a dense but indispensable reference tool for traditional biblical exposition.

[Ladd, George Eldon. *A Theology of the New Testament* . 1974.](#) This is the older edition.

[Bultmann, Rudolf. *Theology of the New Testament* . 1951.](#) Bultmann's work represents the absolute apex of mid-20th-century theological liberalism and radical historical skepticism. Utilizing an aggressive form-critical methodology, Bultmann famously divorces the "Jesus of

history" from the "Christ of faith," asserting that the historical Jesus is largely unknowable and essentially irrelevant to Christian faith. His central project is "demythologizing" the New Testament—stripping away its supernatural elements (such as the virgin birth, miracles, and the bodily resurrection), which he views as obsolete first-century myths. Influenced heavily by the existentialist philosophy of Martin Heidegger, Bultmann reconstructs New Testament theology not as an account of objective, historical acts of God, but as a subjective call to "authentic human existence." For conservative scholars, this volume stands as the definitive text to engage when critiquing anti-supernaturalist presuppositions and existential hermeneutics.

[Volume I](#) , [volume II](#)

[Sheldon, Henry.](#) [New Testament Theology . 1922.](#) Sheldon, a prominent Methodist theologian and professor at Boston University, delivers a compact and highly structured survey of biblical doctrine that aligns closely with historic, orthodox Protestantism. Employing a clear "anatomical" approach, he isolates and analyzes the distinct theological frameworks of the various New Testament sources (such as the Synoptic Gospels, the Pauline epistles, and the Johannine writings). While the book is undogmatic in its historical-critical method, Sheldon throws his full scholarly weight behind traditional evangelical pillars, including the supernatural nature of revelation, the true deity of Jesus Christ, and the substitutionary character of the atonement. It serves as an excellent early-20th-century example of conservative Wesleyan-Arminian biblical theology.

19th-Century New Testament Theologies

[Adeney, Walter Frederic.](#) [The Theology of the New Testament . 1894.](#) Written by a prominent 19th-century British Congregationalist scholar, this pioneering handbook provides a clear, accessible entry point into early biblical theology. Adeney adopts a distinctively historical approach, intentionally breaking the New Testament canon down into its natural literary and chronological developments—focusing first on the teachings of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels, progressing through primitive apostolic preaching, and culminating in the distinct theological architectures of Paul and John. While open to the emerging historical-critical methodologies of his era, Adeney maintains a fundamentally reverent and conservative-leaning posture, consistently championing the divine origin of the text, the reality of the incarnation, and the spiritual unity underpinning the diverse apostolic testimonies.

[Oosterzee, Johannes Jacobus van.](#) [The Theology of the New Testament: A Handbook for Bible Students . Translated by Maurice J. Evans. 1871.](#)
Van Oosterzee, a brilliant Dutch Reformed divine and the foremost evangelical leader at the

University of Utrecht, delivers one of the earliest systematic, conservative treatments of New Testament biblical theology. Writing specifically to counter the rising tide of European naturalism and historical skepticism, he rigorously maintains a supernaturalist presupposition, validating the divine origin and infallible authority of the text. His methodology is explicitly historical and developmental; he firmly grounds the New Testament in its Old Testament foundation (Mosaism) before tracing the progression of doctrine from the teachings of Jesus in the Synoptic and Johannine accounts through the distinctive Petrine, Pauline, and Johannine epistles. Designed as a practical handbook for pastors and students, this work presents a unified testimony of Christ's person and work while providing a timeless defense of orthodox biblical revelation.

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compilation of online books on New Testament Theology and corresponding topics.

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