

COURSE SYLLABUS

NT504: New Testament Survey: The Gospels and the Life of Christ

Course Lecturer: Terry C. Hulbert, ThD

About This Course



This course was originally created through the Institute of Theological Studies in association with the Evangelical Seminary Deans' Council. There are nearly 100 evangelical seminaries of various denominations represented within the council and many continue to use the ITS courses to supplement their curriculum. The lecturers were selected primarily by the Deans' Council as highly recognized scholars in their particular fields of study.

Course Description

Welcome to *The Gospels and the Life of Christ*, an online graduate-level course designed to expand your understanding of the time, places, circumstances, and people involved in Jesus' earthly life.

The most compelling and important story in history is the story of Christ. In this course, you will complete a chronological and synthetic study of the Gospels' accounts of Christ's birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. The Gospels and the Life of Christ focuses on the time, place, circumstances, and people involved in the events of our Lord's ministry. From the incarnation to the ascension, you will grasp a fuller understanding of Christ's words and works, especially in light of Old Testament prophecy and cultural context. The goal of the course is that Christ will impact your life as He did those first generation followers, leading you to worship and serve Him as you minister to others.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Trace the events and statements involved in Jesus' life in a logical and chronological sequence, demonstrating their development and purpose.
- Discern the significance of many of the words and works of Jesus Christ.
- Explain the implications for our lives of certain basic truths taught and demonstrated by Jesus Christ during His ministry on earth.
- Articulate to others the importance of Jesus' life, work, and teaching.
- Assess your life in the light of new understanding of what Jesus requires of His followers.
- Identify at least two attitudinal and/or behavioral changes made or mandated in your personal life as a result of increased understanding of the life and work of Jesus Christ.

Course Lecturer



Terry C. Hulbert, ThD

Education:

- Dallas Theological Seminary, ThM and ThD
- University of Western Ontario, BA

Teaching Career:

- Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Columbia Biblical Seminary, now Columbia International University
- Teacher of Bible courses, Columbia Biblical Seminary (1972-2010)
- Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Columbia Biblical Seminary (1988-1994)
- President, Columbia Biblical Seminary (1990-1991)
- Academic Dean, Columbia Biblical Seminary (1972-1988)
- Faculty, Northwestern College (1951-1957)
- Helped found and establish the Urban Theological College of Central Africa

Other Career Highlights:

- Missionary to Africa where he conducted church planting, worked in leadership training, and taught at the rural Chizera Bible Institute in Zambia (1957-1969)
- Chairman of the Evangelical Fellowship in Zambia and served three terms as the Chairman of the Association of Evangelical Bible Colleges of Africa and Madagascar
- Conductor of church growth workshops in Burundi, Central Africa Republic, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Sierra Leone, and South Africa
- Lecturer for countless institutions and parachurch organizations for more than three decades
- Key trainer for Campus Crusade and the Association of Christian Schools International

Publications:

- Contributor to numerous journals
- World Missions Today and Discipling Leaders with a Vision for the World
- Several interactive Bible CDs, including "Walking in Their Sandals," "Exploring Jesus' World," and "Israel in the Times of Gentiles"

Recommended Reading

Required:

Harrison, Everett. F. A Short Life of Christ. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968.

Thomas, Robert L. and Gundry, Stanley N. A Harmony of the Gospels. (New American Standard Version). San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1986.

Recommended, but not required:

Beitzel, Barry J. The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985.

Hoehner, Harold W. Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1977.

Textbooks can be ordered through our online store at CUGN.org, through your local bookstore, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The Reporter/Analyst Approach is emphasized in the course. For each event in the life of Christ, seek to answer the following questions:

- **WHO** is involved in the event? Who is spoken to or about? Who is the audience? In what way is this person/audience significant?
- **WHAT** is said? What is taking place? What is the key concept taught and/or the basic action accomplished? In what way is this event significant?
- **WHERE** does the action occur? In the open? A town? A building? In what part of the country? What are the surroundings? In what way is the location significant?
- **WHEN** does the action occur? At what time of the year? At what time in the religious calendar and in the sequence in Christ's ministry? In what way does the time affect the importance of the statement and/or action?
- WHY is the teaching or action significant in the ministry of Christ? Seek to determine the implications of the circumstances of the event (who-what-where-why?) What implications are involved for Jesus' contemporaries and for us?

Course Requirements

General Guidelines

- a. Begin each lesson with prayer, committing yourself to being open to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life during the course. Any study of the Bible is meant to change our lives! Ask the Lord for insight into how the message of the Gospels should impact your life, your relationships, and your ministry.
- b. Follow the instructions for completing each lesson, which are located in the introductory section of the Study Guide. Complete all Pre-Tape Preparation activities before listening to an audio lecture. These activities provide an excellent context for your listening, allowing you to integrate the information provided through the lectures and reading assignments.
- c. Listen to each audio lecture carefully, perhaps more than once. Have your *Harmony* and any pertinent parts of the Study Guide easily accessible throughout the lecture. Take notes in a separate notebook.
- d. Answer the Post-Tape Questions immediately <u>after</u> listening to the audio lecture. The questions will serve as a review of the major points in each lecture and will direct you toward personal application of these points.
- 1. **Time:** The student must complete the course requirements within a 6-month period unless the particular institution requires the completion of all work within the framework of the semester or quarter. During this time, the student is expected to devote a minimum of 120 hours to the completion of the course.

2. Reading:

<u>Scripture</u>: Read the *Harmony* sections listed for each lecture <u>before</u> you listen to the lecture. You may scan sections, which repeat content you have read thoroughly in one Gospel record, but be alert for differences in the accounts.

Harrison: Read the pages listed for each lecture before you listen to the lecture. Although only 100 pages are required from this book, you will benefit from reading the entire book.

Study Guide: Read and study the information in Sections A through F of the Study Guide as required.

3. Post-Tape Questions: Located in the Introduction to the Study Guide (pages Intro-1 to Intro-24), these questions cover highlights of the information presented in the lecture, Study Guide sections, and in Harrison. Use them as an opportunity to review the notes you took for a particular lecture and the accompanying Study Guide sections. This procedure will increase your retention of course content and help you on the exams.

Instructions for Post-Tape Questions:

- Generally, one page per set of questions. Your answers should never exceed two pages.
- Typed, single-spaced.
- **4. Background Reports**: Complete eight research projects on people, groups, and institutions related to Christ to increase your understanding of the political, social, cultural, and religious milieu of the time. (See also the details instructions on the next page.)

Reports	Items to Investigate
1. Galileans 2. Samaritans	Respond to these items for the Galileans and Samaritans: Identity (Who were they?)Historical development (How did they come to be?)Reaction to Christ (How did they respond to Him?)
3. Pharisees 4. Sadducees	 Respond to these items for the Pharisees and Sadducees: Identity (Who were they?) Doctrinal/political beliefs (What was important to them?) Response to Christ (How did they perceive and respond to Him? Why?)
5. Temple6. Synagogue	Respond to these items for the Temple and Synagogue: Historical development (after 200BC)Function and importance in the time of ChristSignificance in the ministry of Christ
7. Scribes/Lawyers 8. Priests	Respond to these items for the Scribes/Lawyers and the Priests: • Historical development (after 200BC) • Function in Judaism at the time of Christ

Instructions for Background Reports:

- Length = at least 300 and not more than 600 words for each group, sect, etc.
- Typed, single-spaced
- Format = Expanded outline (sentences, not paragraphs), listing basic facts under the headings above, e.g., "Identity," "Historical Development," etc.
- Style = Be concise, yet include as much information as possible (including Scripture references) for your future use.
- Bibliography = List your sources (including author, title, and page numbers) at the end of each report.
- Resources (full citations are in the Bibliography):

Green, McKnight, Marshall (eds.): Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels

Tenney (ed.): Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible

Jeremias: *Jerusalem in the Times of Jesus*

Schurer: The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ

Edersheim: The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah

Scott: Customs and Controversies: Intertestamental Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament

Tenney: *New Testament Times and New Testament Survey*

- Research procedure
 - 1. Locate these standard works for your research. They should be available in any theological library; some may also be available in public libraries. Consult several sources for each report if possible.
 - 2. Gather information that addresses the questions posed for each group (see previous page) and write the report according to the directions above.

5. 5W Eyewitness Report:

Selection of topic

Select an event from the *Harmony* sections 39, 73, 94, or 152.

Style, Length

- Emphasize your personal observation of the scene and the significance of the event in the life and ministry of Christ.
- Answer the 5W questions (see pages 1-2) in relation to the event.
- 1000-1500 words (4-5 pages)
- Typed, double-spaced
- On the cover page, include the title of the event, the *Harmony* section, and Scripture passage vou have chosen.

Research

- In addition to your own study of the text, use resources from the Backgrounds section of the Bibliography. *Do not use commentaries*.
- List the sources you used in a bibliography at the end of your paper.

6. Spiritual Formation Project

RATIONALE: Ministry preparation and the Christian life require more than academic exercises.

Learners also need personal, spiritual formation, which involves theological reflection and critical thinking on their current practices and assumptions. This process occurs as learners engage in self-reflection and interaction in a community of learning. With this in mind, CUGN includes in all courses a capstone project addressing these issues and facilitating interaction beyond the formal learning environment (ATS schools, note Standards 3.2.1.3; 4.1.1; 10.3.3.3).

Write a five-to-six page reflective essay and interview a mentor, discussing the spiritual impact of this course on your life. Identify your mentor early in the course, and submit the essay to your grader when you take the final exam. This last project should not be a summary of course content, but an application of course principles. Complete the following:

- **A. Personal Reflection and Evaluation:** Reflect on the course To integrate your academic studies with your walk of faith, reflect on the content of the course and evaluate your life in light of what you learned.
 - i. Follow these steps in your reflection:
 - Step 1: What one theme, principle, or concept in the course is the most significant to you personally? Why is it significant?
 - Step 2: What portion(s) of the course brought this theme/principle/concept to light?
 - Step 3: Think about your past. Why is it vital now for you to deal with and apply this theme/principle/concept?
 - Step 4: How should this affect your thoughts and actions, and what specific steps should you take to concretely apply what you have learned?
 - ii. Write your answers to the above questions in full paragraph form. (Recommended length for this reflection: approximately three pages)
 - iii. Give a copy of this reflection to your mentor (see #2).
- **B. Community Reflection and Interaction:** Interview a mentor Since the Holy Spirit uses the input of others to guide and form His people, interview a mentor according to the following guidelines:
 - i. Who should you interview? (1-3 are required; 4-6 are recommended)
 - 1. Someone with whom you have a reasonably close relationship.
 - 2. Someone who is a mature Christian ministry leader (i.e. a pastor).
 - 3. Someone who is not your grader or a family member.
 - 4. Someone who values the spiritual formation process.
 - 5. Someone who is familiar with and values the subject of the course.
 - 6. Someone who has experience using the content of the course in ministry.

NOTE: Identify your mentor early in the course, and give him/her the page entitled "Guidelines" for Mentors."

- ii. Focus of the interview Your interview should focus on the issues and questions you raise in your essay. For example:
 - What feedback can your mentor give in response to your essay?
 - In light of the course content, are the conclusions you made appropriate? Why or why not?
 - What additional advice, deeper insights or broader applications might he/she suggest from his/her own life and ministry?

NOTE: Conduct this interview either in person (preferred) or over the phone. Do not use electronic communication (i.e. email, instant messenger, etc). Suggested length: 45 minutes.

C. Synthesis and Application: Draw your final conclusions – Having reflected on the curse and the discussion with your mentor, synthesize what you have learned in these three sections:

- i. Section 1: Begin your essay with the personal reflection from #1 above. This should be exactly what you gave your mentor for the interview.
- ii. Section 2: Comment on your interview, explaining what you discussed and the insights you gained from your mentor. Include the following:
 - What were the mentor's comments regarding your essay?
 - What advice did he/she give?
 - How did his/her comments expand or correct your application of the course?
 - Include the person's name, occupation, and the length of the interview.
- iii. Section 3: Conclude with a synthesis of what you have learned. Answer the following:
 - If your mentor corrected any thoughts in your "Personal Reflection and Evaluation", how do you feel about these corrections? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
 - Synthesizing your thoughts from section one and your mentor's insight in section two, what final conclusions have you reached? How is this different from section one?
 - In light of the interview and further reflection, what additional, specific changes need to occur in your life and what concrete steps will you take to implement them?

NOTE TO STUDENTS: Your effort in this assignment will determine its benefit. If by the end of this course you have not yet reflected critically on your life in light of what you have studied, allow this assignment to guide you in that process. The instructor for this course will not score your essay based on the amount of spiritual fruit you describe; so do not exaggerate (or trivialize) what you have learned. The primary grading criteria is that you have thoughtfully considered the principles of the course and realistically sought to apply them to your life. If you have done this and met the minimal requirements (as noted above), you will earn the full points for this assignment.

Note on confidentiality: Perhaps the Holy Spirit is dealing with you in some very personal areas of your life. Because of this, your grader will keep your essay entirely confidential and either return or discard it.

Purpose: to stimulate reflection and interaction on course principles in order to enhance personal spiritual formation.

7. **Examinations**: You will complete two exams for this course. The Mid-Course Examination (taken after Lecture 10) covers Sections 1-103 of the *Harmony*. The Final Examination (taken after Lecture 24) covers Sections 104-259 of the *Harmony*. Both exams are closed book. You may not use a Bible or the *Harmony* during either exam.

Types of items: Detailed study sheets for the exams are located in the introductory section of the Study Guide. Both exams have two types of items:

- Integrative questions: In precise, concise responses, demonstrate your understanding of key themes in the Life of Christ by summarizing and synthesizing the information and issues presented in class.
- Map identification: On maps of Palestine, Galilee, and Jerusalem, identify key locations in the life of Christ.

Completion times: You will have 2 hours to complete each exam under proctored conditions.

Course Grading

Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Post-Tape Questions	15% of Course Grade
Background Reports	20% of Course Grade
5W Eyewitness Report	10% of Course Grade
Spiritual Formation Project	15% of Course Grade
Mid-Course Examination	20% of Course Grade
Final Examination	20% of Course Grade

		Interview
Student Name:	Course:	Date/Time:

Guidelines for Mentors

(Students, give this sheet to your mentor for the Spiritual Formation Project.)

Thank you for your involvement in this student's CUGN coursework. We believe the Christian life is more than an academic exercise, so we encourage students to critically reflect on their life in light of what they learn and then apply those insights to the daily life of faith.

Therefore, students taking CUGN courses are required to complete a final assignment called the "Spiritual Formation Project." This assignment involves two parts: an essay and an interview:

The ESSAY: After completing their coursework, students reflect on the content of the course, evaluate their lives, and discuss the one theme, principle or concept that is most significant to them and why. Students are to identify specific ways this theme/principle/concept should apply to their lives and what action steps they plan to take in order to make these changes a reality.

The INTERVIEW: After writing this reflection, students give a copy to their mentor and meet with him/ her to discuss their thoughts and get feedback. The goal of this interview is to facilitate the student's growth through interaction with a mature believer.

NOTES ON THE INTERVIEW:

- You do not need to be familiar with the course to participate in this interview. You will primarily respond to the thoughts of the student. (However, general knowledge of the subject matter of the course and/or experience applying it to ministry is valuable.)
- Prior to meeting with the student, read his/her "Personal Reflection and Evaluation" and prepare to discuss the following:
 - 1. What feedback can you give the student in response to his/her essay?
 - 2. Are the student's conclusions from the course appropriate? Why or why not?
 - 3. What additional advice, deeper insights or broader applications would you suggest from your own life and ministry?
- Meet with the student either in person (preferred) or over the phone. Do not use electronic communication (i.e. email, instant messenger, etc.).
- Suggested length of the interview: 45 minutes

Thanks again for participating in this project! You have a real opportunity to guide this student in the application process and to help him/her connect academics to life – a valuable process for all who wish to grow in Christ.

NOTE: If the student's school makes any changes to this assignment, their requirements should replace those described here.

Course Bibliography

1. Archaeology

Blailock, E.M. *The Archaeology of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970)

DeVries, LaMoine F. Cities of the Biblical World (Peabody, MA: Henrickson Publishers, Inc., 1997)

Kelso, James L. *An Archaeologist Looks at the Gospel* (Waco, TX: Word, 1969)

Price, Randall. The Stones Cry Out: What Archaeology Reveals about the Truth of the Bible (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1997)

Thompson, J. A. *The Bible and Archaeology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982)

Unger, Merrill F. Archaeology and the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1962)

Wiseman, D. J. and Yamauchi, Edwin. *Archaeology and the Bible, An Introductory Study* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979)

2. Geography

Baly, Denis. The Geography of the Bible: A Study in Historical Geography (New York: Harper, 1957)

Baly, Denis and Tushingham, A. D. *Atlas of the Biblical World* (New York: World, 1971)

Cleave, Richard. The Holy Land Satellite Atlas (Nicosia, Cyprus: Rohr, 1994)

Grollenburg, J. H. *Atlas of the Bible* (London: Nelson, 1957)

Nun, Mendel. Gergesa (Kursi): Site of a Miracle, Church and Fishing Village (Kibbutz Ein Gev, Israel: Tourist Department and Kinnereth Sailing Col, 1989)

The Sea of Galilee and Its Fishermen in the New Testament (Kibbutz Ein Gev, Israel: Kinnereth
Sailing Co., 1989)

. Sea of Galilee, Newly Discovered Harbours from New Testament Days (Kibbutz Ein Gev, Israel: Tourist Department and Kinnereth Sailing Co., 1992)

Oxford Bible Atlas, 3rd Edition (Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press, 1962)

3. History

Bruce, F. F. New Testament History (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1972)

Ellisen, Stanley A. Who Owns the Land?: The Arab Israeli Conflict (Portland: Multnomah, 1991)

Freyne, Seán. Galilee from Alexander the Great to Hadrian, 323 B.C.E. to 135 C.E. (South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1980)

Friedman, Thomas L. From Beirut to Jerusalem (New York: Anchor Books, 1990)

Habermas, Gary R. *Ancient Evidence for the Life of Jesus* (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1984)

Hoehner, Harold W. *Herod Antipas* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980)

Lewis, Jack P. *Historical Backgrounds of Bible History* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1971)

Mason, Steve. *Josephus and the New Testament* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1992)

Pixner, Bargil. With Jesus through Galilee According to the Fifth Gospel (Rosh Pina, Israel: Corazin Pub., 1992)

Rogers, Cleon. The Topical Josephus: Historical Accounts that Shed Light on the Bible (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992)

Wenham, John. Easter Enigma (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992)

4. Backgrounds (Cultural and Religious)

Barrett, C. K. (ed.) *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1989)

Batey, Richard A. Jesus & the Forgotten City: New Light on Sepphoris and the Urban World of Jesus (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991)

Bruce, F. F. Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974)

Clow, William M. *The Day of the Cross* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1909)

Edersheim, Alfred. Sketches of Jewish Social Life in the Days of Christ (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974)

. The Temple: Its Ministry and Services as they were at the time of Christ (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1958)

Hareuveni, Nogah. Desert and Shepherd in our Biblical Heritage (Kiryat Ono, Israel: Neot Kedumim Ltd., 1991)

. Nature in Our Biblical Heritage (Kiryat Ono, Israel: Neot Kedumim Ltd., 1980)

. Tree and Shrub in our Biblical Heritage (Kiryat Ono, Israel: Neot Kedumim Ltd., 1984)

Hopkins, Ian W. Jerusalem: A Study in Urban Geography (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1970)

Jeremias, Joachim. Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus: An Investigation into Economic and Social Conditions during the New Testament Period (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969) Longenecker, Richard N. New Dimensions in New Testament Study (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974) Maier, Paul L. Pontius Pilate, A Biographical Novel (Wheaton: Tyndale, 1968) . The First Christmas: The True and Unfamiliar Story in Words and Pictures (New York: Harper & Row, 1971) . The First Easter: The True and Unfamiliar Story in Words and Pictures (New York: Harper & Row, 1971) National Geographic Book Service. Everyday Life in Bible Times (Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 1967) Pentecost, J. Dwight. Things to Come: A Study in Biblical Eschatology (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1964) Pfeiffer, Charles F. *Jerusalem Through the Ages* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1967) Schurer, Emil. *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1973) Scott, J. Julius. Customs and Controversies: Intertestamental Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995) Scroggie, W. Graham. The Unfolding Drama of Redemption: The Bible as a Whole (3 vols.) (London: Pickering and Inglis, 1953-1970) Tenney, Merrill C. New Testament Survey (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985) . New Testament Times (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965) _. The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975) Wilkinson, John. Jerusalem as Jesus Knew It: Archaeology as Evidence (London: Thames and Hudson, 1978)

5. Life and Ministry of Christ

Andrews, Samuel J. *The Life of Our Lord Upon the Earth* (Minneapolis, MN: James Family Christian Publisher, 1978)

Bruce, A. B. The Training of the Twelve (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1971)

Wight, Fred H. Manners and Customs of Bible Lands (Chicago: Moody, 1953)

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6. Selected Commentaries

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Gaebelein, Frank E., ed. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Vol. 8: Matthew, Mark, Luke (1984); Vol. 9: John and Acts (1981) (Grand Rapids: Zondervan)

Hendrickson, William. Exposition of the Gospel according to Matthew (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973)

Hiebert, D. Edmond. *Mark: A Portrait of the Servant* (Chicago: Moody, 1974)

Lane, William L. Commentary on the Gospel of Mark: The English Text with Introduction, Exposition, and *Notes* (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1974)

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