

DE 5330 | THE GOSPELS: LIFE OF CHRIST

3 sem. hrs.

I. Course Description

A chronological, synthetic study of the four Gospel records, emphasizing the time, place, circumstances, and persons involved in the events of our Lord's ministry, with a view to a fuller understanding of the significance of His words and works.

II. Course Objectives

On completion of the course, you should be able to:

- A. Trace the events and statements involved in Jesus' life in a logical and chronological sequence, demonstrating development and purpose.
- B. Describe the significance of the words and works of Jesus Christ in light of the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the Gospels.
- C. Describe the present implications of basic truths revealed in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.
- D. Identify personal attitudinal and behavioral changes based on an increased understanding of the life and work of Christ.

III. Course Approach

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? In what way is the teaching / action significant for His contemporaries and for us?

IV. Course Materials

All required course materials can be purchased through the TEDS bookstore (800.456.7323/ 847.317.6800).

A. Required

Hulbert, Terry C. Gospels: Life of Christ. Audio Lectures and Learning Guide. Grand Rapids, MI: Institute of Theological Studies, Ministry of OUTREACH, INC., 1990.

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: Harper & Row, 1978.

B. Recommended

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

Edersheim, Alfred. The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.

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

Pentecost, J. Dwight. The Words and Works of Jesus Christ: A Study of the Life of Christ. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981.

V. Course Requirements

A. Basic Procedure

1. Begin each session with prayer. Commit 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! Too often, however, we study the Bible expecting only cognitive information — not behavior change. Ask the Lord for insight into how the message of the Gospels should impact your life, your relationships, and your ministry.
2. Complete all Preparation activities in the Learning Guide (this is included with the purchase of the lectures) before beginning each lecture. These activities will provide an excellent context for your listening, allowing you to more easily integrate the information provided through lectures and reading assignments.

3. Listen to each lecture carefully. Have your Harmony and any pertinent parts of the Learning Guide easily accessible throughout the lecture.
4. Answer the Review / Reflect questions in the Learning Guide immediately after completing the lecture. The questions will serve as a review of some of the major points and will direct you toward personal application.
5. Complete reading and written Assignments described in the following sections.

B. Reading Assignments

1. **Scripture:** Read the Harmony sections listed for each lecture before 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.
2. **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.

C. Written Assignments

1. **Background Reports:** Complete ten independent research projects on people, groups, and institutions related to Christ's ministry which will greatly increase your understanding of the political, social, cultural, and religious milieu of the time:

<u>Reports</u>	<u>Items to be investigated</u>
(a) Galileans	Respond to these items for reports (a) and (b): Identity (Who they were), Historical development (How they came to be), Reaction to Christ (How they responded to Him)
(b) Samaritans	
(c) Pharisees	Respond to these items for reports (c) through (e): Identity (Who they were), Historical development (How they came to be), Doctrinal / political beliefs (What was important to them), Reaction to Christ (How they perceived and responded to Him)
(d) Sadducees	
(e) Herodians	
(f) Temple	Respond to these items for reports (f) through (h): Historical development (How it came to be), Importance / function in the time of Christ Significance in the ministry of Christ
(g) Synagogue	
(h) Sanhedrin	

- (i) Scribes/Lawyers Respond to these items for reports (i) and (j): Historical development (How they came to be), Function within Judaism at the time of Christ
- (j) Priests

The report on each group, sect, etc., should be at least 300 and not more than 600 words in length (1-2 pages), typewritten, single-spaced. The format should be an expanded outline format listing basic facts under the headings provided above, e.g., "Identity." Include as much information as possible (including biblical references) to provide a summary for your future use, yet be clear and concise. Include a bibliography at the end of each report listing your sources (including author, title, and page numbers).

The following items are preferred as references for the background studies. You should make every attempt to locate these standard works for your research. They should be readily accessible in any Christian college or seminary library; some may also be available in public libraries. Other books may be used to supplement these sources as needed. It is appropriate to consult several sources for each study.

Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible (not for Samaritans)

Jeremias, Jerusalem in the Times of Jesus (especially for Samaritans and other subjects as applicable)

Schurer, The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ (especially for Sanhedrin, priests, etc.)

Edersheim, The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah

Tenney, New Testament Times and New Testament Survey

Other standard reference books, including Bible dictionaries, handbooks, encyclopedias, etc.

2. *Review/Reflect Questions*: Answer the questions in the Learning Guide which are designed to (a) help you review some of the major points related to the ministry of Christ at the conclusion of each lecture, (b) prepare you for the two examinations, and (c) give you an opportunity to reflect on the application of these points to your own life and / or the church today.

The questions are taken from material presented in the lectures, the additional material found in Series A-E, and the readings in Harrison. Some questions will require specific, factual answers. Others are more open-ended, requiring your reflection and opinion on various points. [Note: The reflection questions will not be graded as if there were a right or wrong answer.]

Total length: Generally, one page per each set of answers, typewritten, single-spaced. (Questions may be handwritten if they are written clearly.) Your answers should never exceed two pages.

3. *5 W Eyewitness Report*: Describe one event in the life of Christ as an eyewitness journalist.

Select one event (one of the Harmony sections) from the following choices: Section 39 or 73 or 113. Do a background study of the event in such works as Edersheim's *Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* and others listed in the Background section of the Bibliography. Commentaries should not be used, except those listed in the Bibliography. Emphasis should be on your own personal observation of the event with an understanding of its importance in Jesus' life and ministry. Be sure to comment on the significance of each aspect of the paper.

Your paper should answer the 5 W questions clearly and precisely (see section II on Approach). Structure your paper using these questions as an outline. On the title page, include the title of the event, the Harmony section, and Scripture reference(s) involved. List the sources you consulted in a bibliography at the end of your paper.

Total length: 1000-1500 words (4-5 pages), typewritten, double-spaced.

4. *Personal Application Paper*: Describe two specific ways in which your attitude and / or behavior has been changed by something you have learned in this course.

For each application: (a) Indicate the biblical passage from which you are drawing a personal application. Give the reference and a short summary of the content. You may use any passages in the Gospels. (b) State the spiritual principle (timeless truth) in one or two sentences. Principles should be expressed by deleting all proper names, except "God" and any personal pronouns. (In other words, the principle should transcend the particular people or events in the biblical text. To use an Old Testament example, "Men of faith are men of prayer" is a timeless principle, whereas "Samuel was a man of prayer" is a historical fact.) (c) Describe how this principle relates to a specific situation in your life. Finally, (d) identify a specific behavioral or attitudinal change which would result from the application of the principle to this situation.

Total length: 400-600 words (2-3 pages). Each application should be approximately 1 page in length.

VI. Course Examinations

NOTE: You may not use a Bible or the Harmony during either exam.

A. Midterm Examination (Sections 4-95 of the Harmony; after Lecture 9) You will be asked:

1. To identify locations in Palestine and Galilee on maps Intro-28 and Intro-29. Maps will be provided; you will be asked to match numbers on the maps with a list of locations.
2. True / False questions: Covering lectures, Harrison, and information in Series A-E.
3. Integrative questions: These questions will ask you to demonstrate your knowledge of the material taught and discussed in the lectures, the information in Series A-E, and the required readings in Harrison (A Short Life of Christ). Limit your answers to the essential matters and use only the space provided. You may omit one of the questions listed on the examination.

Sample Questions:

"What did Jesus mean when he said: 'But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you'?"

"How were the time, place and people significant in Jesus' healing of the Sidonian woman's daughter?"

"Discuss the theme and significance of the Bread of Life Discourse."

Time for completion: 1 and 1/2 hours (90 minutes)

B. Final Examination: (Sections 96-259 of the Harmony; after Lecture 24). You will be asked:

1. To identify locations in Jerusalem listed on the map Intro-30 by matching numbers on the maps to the appropriate names.
2. True / False questions: Covering lectures, required readings in Harrison, and information in Series A-E.
3. For one of the civil or religious trials of Christ, to describe the occasion briefly in 5 W format. The particular trial will be specified; no options will be given.
4. Integrative questions: Consult the directions above for Mid-Course Examination. Items will be similar to those on the previous test.

Time for completion: 2 hours

VII. Course Grading

Review / Reflect Questions	15%
Background Reports	25%
5 W Eyewitness Report	10%
Personal Application Paper	5%
Mid-Course Examination	20%
Final Examination	25%

All assignments should be submitted directly to your Course Tutor using the Submit Work icon within your TriNet course. Exams should be mailed by your proctor to the address below. Course work may be submitted by mail if necessary.

Distance Education
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
2065 Half Day Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

If you have questions related to your assignments, please contact your Course Tutor in TriNet. All other questions should be directed to the Distance Education office (email or 847-317-6554).

VIII. Course Lectures

(Note that Review / Reflect Questions should be completed after listening to each lecture.)

Lecture 1	Preparation for the Birth of Christ
Lecture 2	Preparation for the Birth of Christ (continued)
Lecture 3	The Birth and Boyhood of Christ
Lecture 4	John's Ministry & Jesus' Baptism The Temptation of Jesus Christ
Lecture 5	The Temptation of Jesus Christ (continued) Introductory Ministry in Galilee, Judea, and Samaria
Lecture 6	Introductory Ministry in Galilee, Judea, and Samaria (continued) Assignment: Background Reports (Galileans and Samaritans)
Lecture 7	Introductory Ministry in Galilee, Judea, and Samaria (continued) Sabbath Controversies Discourse I: The Sermon on the Mount
Lecture 8	Discourse I: The Sermon on the Mount (continued) Increasing Fame and Conflict with the Pharisees

Lecture 9	Increasing Fame and Conflict with the Pharisees (continued) Discourse II: The Parables of the Kingdom Travel Around the Sea of Galilee Assignment: Background Reports (Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians)
Midterm Examination	
Lecture 10	Travel Around the Sea of Galilee (continued) Discourse III: The Bread of Life
Lecture 11	Discourse III: The Bread of Life (continued) Ministry in Gentile Areas
Lecture 12	Ministry in Gentile Areas (continued) Concluding Teaching of the Twelve in Galilee
Lecture 13	Concluding Teaching of the Twelve in Galilee (continued) Assignment: Background Reports (Temple, Synagogue, and Sanhedrin)
Lecture 14	The Feast of Tabernacles Later Judean Ministry
Lecture 15	Later Judean Ministry (continued)
Lecture 16	The Perean Ministry and the Raising of Lazarus
Lecture 17	The Perean Ministry and the Raising of Lazarus (continued) The Final Entry into Jerusalem and Confrontation with Leaders
Lecture 18	The Final Entry into Jerusalem and Confrontation with Leaders (continued) Assignment: Background Reports (Scribes / Lawyers and Priests)
Lecture 19	The Final Entry into Jerusalem and Confrontation with Leaders (continued) Discourse IV: The Olivet Discourse and the Betrayal Agreement
Lecture 20	Discourse V: The Upper Room Discourse The Arrest Assignment: 5 W Eyewitness Report
Lecture 21	The Arrest (continued) The Trials
Lecture 22	The Crucifixion and Burial

Lecture 23	The Crucifixion and Burial (continued) The Resurrection
Lecture 24	The Post-Resurrection Ministry and Ascension Assignment: Personal Application Paper
Final Examination	

IX. Bibliography

Archaeology

- Blalock, E. M. The Archaeology of the New Testament (Zondervan)
- Finnegan, Jack. "The Archaeology of the New Testament," The Life of Jesus and the Beginning of the Early Church (Princeton)
- Kelso, James L. An Archaeologist Looks at the Gospel (Word)
- Thompson, J. A. The Bible and Archaeology (Eerdmans)
- Unger, Merrill F. Archaeology and the New Testament (Zondervan)
- Wiseman, Donald J. and Yamauchi, Edwin. Archaeology and the Bible, An Introductory Study (Zondervan)

Geography

- Baly, Denis. The Geography of the Bible (Harper)
- Baly, Denis/Tushingham, A. D. Atlas of the Biblical World (World)
- Grollenburg, J. H. Atlas of the Bible (Nelson)
- Nun, Mendel. Gergesa (Kursi) Site of a Miracle, Church and Fishing Village (Kibbutz Ein Gev, Israel)
- Nun, Mendel. The Sea of Galilee and Its Fishermen in the New Testament (Kibbutz Ein Gev, Israel)
- Nun, Mendel. Sea of Galilee, Newly Discovered Harbours from New Testament Days (Kibbutz Ein Gev, Israel)
- Oxford Bible Atlas, 3rd Edition (Oxford)

History

- Bruce, F. F. New Testament History (Doubleday)
- Ellisen, Stanley A. Who Owns the Land? (Multnomah)

Freyne, Sean. Galilee from Alexander the Great to Hadrian (Notre Dame)

Friedman, Thomas L. From Beirut to Jerusalem (Anchor Books)

Habermas, Gary R. Ancient Evidence for the Life of Jesus (Nelson)

Hoehner, Harold. Herod Antipas (Cambridge)

Lewis, Jack P. Historical Backgrounds of Bible History (Baker)

Maier, Paul. Josephus: The Essential Writings (Kregel)

Mason, Steve. Josephus and the New Testament (Hendrickson Publishers)

Pixner, Bargil. With Jesus through Galilee According to the Fifth Gospel (Corazin)

Rogers, Cleon. The Topical Josephus (Zondervan)

Wenham, John. The Easter Enigma (Baker Book House)

Backgrounds (Cultural and Religious)

Barrett, C. K. The New Testament Background: Selected Documents (Harper & Row)

Batey, Richard A. Jesus and the Forgotten City (Baker)

Bruce, F. F. Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the New Testament (Eerdmans)

Clow, W. M. The Day of the Cross (Hodder and Stoughton)

Edersheim, Alfred. Sketches of Jewish Social Life (Eerdmans)

. The Temple and Its Services (Eerdmans)

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

. Nature in Our Biblical Heritage (Neot Kedumim Ltd., Israel)

. Tree and Shrub in our Biblical Heritage (Neot Kedumim Ltd., Israel)

Hastings: Dictionary of the New Testament, Vols. I and II (Baker)

Hopkins, I. W. Jerusalem (Baker)

Jeremias, Joachim. Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus (Fortress)

Longenecker, Richard N. New Dimensions in New Testament Study (Zondervan)

Maier, Paul L. Pontius Pilate, A Biographical Novel (Tyndale)

- . The First Christmas (Harper & Row)
- . The First Easter

National Geographic Society. Everyday Life in Bible Times

Pentecost, Dwight. Things to Come (Moody)

Pfeiffer, Charles F. Jerusalem Through the Ages (Baker)

Schurer, Emil. The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ (T. & T. Clark)

Scroggie, W. Graham. The Unfolding Drama of Redemption (Pickering and Inglis)

Tenney, Merrill C. New Testament Survey (Eerdmans)

- . New Testament Times (Eerdmans)
- . The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible (Zondervan)

Wilkinson, John. Jerusalem as Jesus Knew It (Thames and Hudson)

Wight, F. H. Manners and Customs of Bible Lands (Moody)

Life and Ministry of Christ

Andrews, Samuel J. The Life of Our Lord Upon the Earth (Scribner)

Bruce, A. B. The Training of the Twelve (Kregel)

Edersheim, Alfred. The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah (Eerdmans)

Green, McKnight, Marshall. Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels (InterVarsity Press)

Gundry, Robert H. Survey of the New Testament (Zondervan)

Habershon, Ada. The Study of the Parables (Kregel)

Harrison, E. F. The Son of God Among the Sons of Men (Wilde)

Lange, John Peter. The Life of the Lord Jesus Christ (Zondervan)
Morgan, G. Campbell. The Crises of the Christ (Revell)
Schilder, K. Christ in His Suffering (Eerdmans)
 . Christ on Trial (Eerdmans)
 . Christ Crucified (Eerdmans)
Scroggie, W. Graham. A Guide to the Gospels (Pickering and Inglis)
Smith, David. The Days of His Flesh (Hodder and Stoughton)
Stalker, J. The Life of Jesus Christ (Revell)
 . The Trial and Death of Jesus Christ (Revell)

Selected Commentaries

Carson, Don. The Gospel of John (Eerdmans)
Gaebelein, Frank E., ed. The Expositor's Bible Commentary. Vol. 8:
 Matthew, Mark, Luke; Vol. 9: John and Acts (Zondervan)
Hendrickson, William. The Gospel of Matthew (Baker)
Hiebert, D. Edmond. Mark (Moody Press)
Lane, William L. Commentary on the Gospel of Mark (Eerdmans)
Morris, Leon. Commentary on the Gospel of John (Eerdmans)
 . The Gospel According to Luke (Eerdmans)
Tenney, Merrill C. John: The Gospel of Belief (Eerdmans)