

BL 152 A, B NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY II
Boyce College

Spring Semester, 2008

Monday 11:30 AM-2:15 PM

Monday 6:30 PM-9:15 PM

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Course Description:

A study of the background and content of the New Testament books of Acts, the letters, and Revelation.

Course Objectives:

The New Testament from Acts to Revelation continues the account begun in the four Gospels. It depicts how the first Christians struggled to understand, articulate and spread their faith, and offers to future generations their insight.

But as with all the biblical literature, the accounts given here have been interpreted in several different ways. Through this course, then, we will examine these accounts both to find out what the authors wrote and how their writings have been understood. Our goal is to understand the picture of the early church as given in these writings, and consider their impact on Christians today.

Textbooks:

Bible

Elwell, Walter A. and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*. Encountering Biblical Studies. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005 (1998). ISBN 080102806X

Frank, Harry Thomas, ed. *Atlas of the Bible Lands*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1990. ISBN 0805410589 **OR**

Hammond World Atlas Corporation. *Atlas of the Bible Lands (New Ed., Hammond World Atlas Corporation, 2007)*. ISBN 0843709839

Bring your Bible and Atlas to class every day.

Attendance:

1. Each student needs to be present in class. Attendance will be checked at each class session. A student who is absent 1/4 of the time will forfeit credit for the class and will receive an "F."

This means that students may miss all or part of three class sessions. Any absences beyond that may result in a failing grade. Being late to class four times counts as an absence.

If a student has a legitimate reason for missing class for an extended period of time (such as an illness or accident) it is the student's responsibility to notify the professor

2. If a student is absent when an assignment is due, it will be marked late unless the student informs the instructor there is an excused reason for the absence.
3. Students may make up tests only if they have an excused reason for missing class at the time of the test. Missed tests must be made up within one week, unless arrangements are made in advance. Failure to do so will result in at least 10 points being subtracted from the final grade, and could result in a grade of zero.

Classroom Policies:

1. Male students are not to wear hats or facial jewelry in class. Women may wear earrings but no additional facial jewelry.
2. No food or drinks are allowed in class, except water.
3. In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.
4. For instructional purposes the professor may employ the use of film, readings, and outside guests, however, this use does not constitute an endorsement by Boyce College of these sources.

Course Requirements:

1. Learn the order and proper spelling of the 27 books of the New Testament. A question concerning this will be asked on the first exam.
2. Three tests.
3. Map locations. See "Assignments."
4. *Encountering the New Testament* Study Questions. See "Assignments."
5. New Testament book background. See "Assignments."
6. During the term in which this course is taken, students are required to read the section of the Old or New Testament which this course covers. Students will be asked to affirm on the final exam that they have read this section. Students who fail to do so will be given a grade of "Incomplete" until the requirement is met.

Grading:

New Testament Book Quiz	5%
Three Tests	50%
Map locations	5%
Class Participation	5%
<i>Encountering</i> Study Questions	20% (4 sets of questions)
New Testament Book Background	<u>15%</u> (1 paper)

Total: 100%

NOTE: Students have a total of five typed assignments. They must turn in at least four of them to pass the class.

Grading Scale:

A+ 100-99	B+ 93-91	C+ 85-83	D+ 77-75
A 98-96	B 90-89	C 82-81	D 74-73
A- 95-94	B- 88-86	C- 80-78	D- 72-70

CLASS SCHEDULE

Preparation for class: Read the portion of the New Testament to be covered in class that day.

January 28	Introduction to the Course Introduction to the Early Church
February 4 <i>Assignment due:</i>	Acts 1-2 <i>Encountering</i> Study Questions 1 (Chapters 13-14)
February 11 <i>Assignment due:</i>	Acts 3-6 Map locations
February 18	TEST 1 Acts 7-10
February 25 <i>Assignment due:</i>	Acts 11-13 <i>Encountering</i> Study Questions 2 (Chapters 15-16, 18)
March 3	Acts 14-16
March 10 <i>Assignment due:</i>	Acts 17-28 <i>Encountering</i> Study Questions 3 (Chapters 19-21)
March 17	TEST 2 Romans
March 24 <i>Assignment due:</i>	1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians <i>Encountering</i> Study Questions 4 (Chapters 22-24)
March 31	Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus
April 7	Reading Days (no class)
April 14	Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter
April 21 <i>Assignment due:</i>	1-3 John, Jude, Revelation New Testament Book Background
April 28	TEST 3 (Final exam)

ASSIGNMENTS

NOTE: All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period they are assigned. They may not be turned in more than one class session late. Late assignments will be lowered one letter grade.

You may not make up missed assignments. There will be no opportunity to earn “extra credit” at the end of the semester. Students have a total of five typed assignments. They must turn in at least four of them to pass the class.

Assignments (except Map Locations) must be typed. Staple the assignments in the upper left hand corner. Do not use folders.

Note: Do not copy, in whole or in part, the work of any current or former student. Doing so constitutes plagiarism, and could result in forfeiture of credit for the assignment and/or for the course.

If you work together with another person, you each must write out your work independently of the other. You may in no way copy the work that another person has done; doing so constitutes plagiarism.

MAP LOCATIONS

1. Using your *Atlas of the Bible Lands* (pp. 32-33 in old atlas, or pp. 40-41 in new atlas), make four maps detailing the three missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul and his trip to Rome.
2. You need to use the blank map distributed in class. Make four separate maps; do not do all four journeys on one map.
3. The map locations must be entered on the map by hand, not by computer. Also, do not fill in the locations on one map and then copy it. Each map must be done entirely by hand.
4. On your map, mark each city or town Paul visited on that journey, and the major geographical regions (i.e., Galatia, Pisidia, etc.). Do all the cities and towns in one color, and the geographical regions in another.
5. Draw a line indicating the route taken by Paul, and arrows showing the direction he traveled.
6. Put your name, box number, and the name of the journey on each map. Put the maps in order, and staple.
7. Maps will be graded on accuracy, completeness, and neatness.
8. Suggestion: you may want to do the maps in pencil first to determine how the different names should be placed.

NEW TESTAMENT BOOK BACKGROUND

1. This paper will enable the student to do background studies on a book of the New Testament.
2. The student may choose from any of the following NT books to write this paper: 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, Hebrews, 1 John.
3. For the book, the student is to discuss the following:
 - a. Author
 - b. Place of writing
 - c. Date of writing
 - d. To whom written (background of the church or person written to. If the book was written to church, tell when the church was founded, etc.)
 - e. Occasion and purpose of writing
 - f. Note the following:
 - 1) The student is not just to say, for example, “The author of the book is Paul.” Rather, by using commentaries and books on NT background, the student is to present the evidence that it was written by Paul and discuss any controversies concerning authorship, date of writing, etc.
 - 2) Be sure to use division headings to indicate when you are discussing the “Author,” “Place of writing,” etc.
 - 3) Discussion of the author. Don’t give a biography of the author (Paul, John, etc.), but rather evidence for or against his authorship of the book.

4. In addition, the student is to do the following for each chapter of the book:
- Write a brief, 1-2 paragraph summary.
 - These paragraphs should summarize the content of the chapter.
 - NOTE: If you refer to something specific in the chapter be sure to give the reference [i.e., “Paul says he is an apostle called by God (1:1-2). He then gives thanks for God’s goodness (1:3-6).”]
 - Summarize the whole chapter, not just selected verses.
 - Write the number of the chapter you are summarizing. Also, summarize by chapter (Chapter 1, Chapter 2), not by outline section (1:1--2:6; 2:7--3:12).
 - Use the following selection as a guideline (summary of 1 Peter 1)

1 Peter 1

Peter opens the letter with an introduction of himself and addresses the recipients of the letter in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia (1:1). He thanks God for the recipients being brought to God by Jesus and tells them that their hope is eternal life, which is being kept by the power of God (1:3-6). Peter goes on to tell them to rejoice in their trials so that their faith, being more important than gold, will be honorable to Jesus (1:6-9). He then talks about the faith needed for salvation. Salvation by grace was prophesied by the prophets and given now to the recipients. This salvation is none other than the Gospel of Jesus Christ (1:10-12).

Peter next discusses holiness through obedience. First, he discusses that to be holy is to be like God. Because God is holy, then we are to be holy. We are God’s children and should look to and obey the example of our heavenly Father (1:13-21). Peter ends the chapter by stating that once we become children of God, then we are united into one common bond with other redeemed brothers. God calls us to love our fellow redeemed brethren and this also leads to holiness (1:22-25).

- List two “practical” ideas that can be gained from the chapter. In other words, how can the content of this chapter be of benefit to you or someone else?
 - Use the title “Practical Ideas.” Number them “1,” “2.”
 - Each practical idea should be at least two sentences long.
 - Place the practical ideas at the end of each chapter, not at the end of the paper.
5. Format
- The paper is to be a minimum of 8 full pages long. If a paper is 7 1/2 or 7 3/4 pages long it will be marked off. It may be a maximum of 20 pages long.
 - It must be typewritten and double spaced.
 - Number the pages in your paper.
 - A title page is not required.
 - The margins must be 1" on all four sides, *not including* the page number. Note: you may write in the page numbers if you cannot get your computer to format the pages correctly.
 - Use Times Roman 12 point proportional font.
 - Do not use a series of quotations, strung together from your sources, without interacting with them. Your paper must reflect your own thinking on the topic. Any quotations that you do use that are 3 lines or longer must be indented and single spaced.
 - Do not quote entire verses of Scripture; just list the reference of the passage to which you are referring. It is all right to quote part of a verse if you are going to comment on it.
 - Do not list Bible references in a footnote. Put them in parentheses in the text. I.e., (Mark 7:12).
 - Note: Failing to follow the proper format may result in the loss of two quality points (i.e., from an A to a B+).

6. Sources

- Use at least 4 sources, including your textbook.
- Do not use a Study Bible, a concordance, or your class notes as sources. You may use at most one internet resource.
- You do not need to use footnotes unless you quote one of your sources.
- At the end of the paper, list the references you used. Do not list the Bible you used as one of your sources.

7. New Testament Book Background References

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------|
| a. Bible Dictionaries | Dewey Decimal System (DDS): | 220.3 |
| b. Bible Commentary Sets | | 220.7 |
| c. Individual Book Commentaries (Acts--Revelation) | | 226.6--228 |

- d. Check also the New Testament commentaries and reference books in the “Bible Study Center” in the library.

ENCOUNTERING THE NEW TESTAMENT STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Answer each of the “Study Questions” in this syllabus for *Encountering the New Testament*. Note: do not answer the Study Questions at the end of each chapter in your textbook. Answer the questions in this syllabus instead.
2. Be complete in your answers to the questions. Also, be sure that your answer is from the book.
3. Answer in complete sentences, and, do not copy directly from the book.
4. Use the following format in answering these questions:
 - a. Start each chapter on a new page.
 - b. At the start of each chapter, put your name, box number and the date. Type the chapter number and name, and the pages in the textbook. Do not use a cover sheet.
 - c. Type the number of the question and also the question itself. Underline or put the question in **bold print**.
 - d. Your papers must be typed. They do not need to be double spaced, but put two spaces after each answer before typing the next question.
 - e. Use one staple for the complete assignment in the upper left hand corner.
 - f. Starting with your second paper, points will be deducted if this form is not followed.
5. Use the following form for each chapter:

Your Name
Box Number
Date

Encountering the New Testament Study Questions

Chapter 13 The World and Identity of the Earliest Church. Pages 193-207

1. List the Roman emperors mentioned by name in the New Testament.

The Roman emperors mentioned by name in the New Testament are

2. Define the term *pax romana*.

The term *pax romana* means

And so on.

BL 152 New Testament Survey II

Encountering the New Testament Study Questions

Answer the following Study Questions instead of the ones in your textbook.

Chapter 13 - The World and Identity of the Earliest Church

1. List the Roman emperors mentioned by name in the New Testament.
2. Define the term *pax romana*.
3. a) Name the prevailing religions and philosophies of New Testament times.
b) Describe the key beliefs of those religions and philosophies.
4. Why did tensions arise between the early Christians, nearly all of whom were Jewish, and other Jews?
5. What were the distinguishing features of early Christian belief?

Chapter 14 - Acts 1–7: The Earliest Days of the Church

1. Discuss Acts' historical and theological significance.
2. a) What is the difference between the terms *prescriptive* and *descriptive*?
b) What role does that difference play in our interpretation of Acts?
3. a) What was the primary theme of Peter's sermon at Pentecost?
b) What is its relevance today?
4. What role do miracles play in Acts?
5. a) What did Rudolph Bultmann say about miracles?
b) List four reasons why Bultmann was incorrect.

Chapter 15 - Acts 8–12: Salvation for Jew and Gentile

1. What can we learn from the stress on individual persons in Acts 8-12?
2. Name and briefly characterize five "minor characters."
3. Name and discuss on person who did not believe the gospel.
4. Why was Peter's visit to Cornelius controversial?
5. a) Describe Saul's conversion.
b) Why were many early Christians leery of Saul?

Chapter 16 - Acts 13–28: The Light of Christ to the Ends of the Earth

1. What message did Paul and Barnabas proclaim on their journeys?
2. a) What issue did the Jerusalem Council debate?
b) What conclusion did they reach?
c) What instructions did they give to the early church?
3. What effect did the spread of the gospel have at Ephesus?
4. Describe the occasion of Paul's arrest in Jerusalem.
5. a) What benefit did Paul see in his imprisonment?
b) What letters did Paul write while in prison?

Chapter 17 - All Things to All Men: Life and Teachings of the Apostle Paul

No questions.

Chapter 18 - Romans: Right With God

1. List the letters of Paul in New Testament order. Explain why they were organized in this way.
2. What great leader of the Reformation was influenced by the book of Romans and why?
3. Discuss the two theories as to how Christianity arrived in Rome.
4. What is the date and purpose of Paul's writing the book of Romans?
5. a) How is Paul's greeting like other letters of that day?

b) How is Paul's greeting unlike other letters of that day?

Chapter 19 - Corinthians and Galatians: Apostolic Counsel for Confused Churches

1. What is the date and purpose of 1 Corinthians?
2. What is the date and purpose of 2 Corinthians?
3. a) Discuss the reasons why 1 Corinthians is relevant today.
b) Discuss the reasons why 2 Corinthians is relevant today.
4. What is the date and purpose of Galatians?
5. a) Who were the Judaizers?
b) How was Paul's message different from theirs?

Chapter 20 - Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon: Letters from Prison

1. What is the date and purpose of Ephesians?
2. In what ways was the situation in Ephesus similar to modern times?
3. a) What chapter in Philippians focuses on the person and work of Christ?
b) Discuss Paul's Christology as found in that chapter.
4. Why is Colossians so relevant today?
5. What practical advice can the reader take from Philemon?

Chapter 21 - Thessalonians, Timothy, and Titus: A Legacy of Faithfulness

1. a) List the four ways in which Paul encouraged the Thessalonians.
b) Choose one of those ways and discuss how you might use Thessalonians to encourage someone today.
2. Discuss the theme of suffering in 1 and 2 Thessalonians.
3. Why are 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus called Pastoral Epistles?
4. Some people challenge the Pauline authorship of the Pastoral Epistles. How would you respond? Support your argument from the biblical text.
5. Discuss the three aspects of wisdom found in the Pastoral Epistles.

Chapter 22 - Hebrews and James: Maintaining Full Commitment to Christ

1. What is the central theme of Hebrews?
2. a) List three of the names given as possible authors of Hebrews.
b) What does the author of the textbook conclude concerning who wrote Hebrews?
3. What role does the Old Testament play in Hebrews?
4. a) List the four "warning" passages of Hebrews.
b) In what way are these passages meant to be an encouragement to the reader?
5. Does James contradict Paul? Why or why not?

Chapter 23 - Peter, John, and Jude: A Call to Faith, Hope, and Love

1. How does Peter attempt to comfort his readers in 1 Peter?
2. List and discuss the four-fold purpose of 2 Peter.
3. What reason(s) does John give for writing 1 John?
4. Summarize the theme 2 John.
5. 3 John. Who are Gaius and Diotrephes and what can we learn from them?
6. Who wrote the book of Jude? Defend your position biblically.

Chapter 24 - Revelation: God is in Control!

1. What guidelines should we follow as we read Revelation?
2. a) List the major theories of interpretation.
b) Give the distinguishing features of each.
3. What advice does Luther give concerning Revelation?
4. What does Revelation teach about God?
5. What does Revelation teach about the people of God?