

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
NT 501: Survey of the New Testament
January 6-11, 2014
Professor: Rev. Dr. David L. Palmer
davidpalmer@kenwoodbaptist.org
dpalmer@gordonconwell.edu

I. Course Objectives:

This course will prayerfully pursue the following five objectives:

- ❖ Students will deepen their love for God through a survey of the New Testament.
- ❖ Students will learn to approach the text with reverence as the divinely inspired Word of God and with humility due to the greatness of the subject.
- ❖ Students will strengthen their understanding of the New Testament as the divine fulfillment in Jesus Christ of the redemptive narrative that God Himself set in motion in the Old Testament.
- ❖ Students will improve their facility with the primary sources and be able to identify and recall key people, events, and dates in the New Testament as well as the main message and historical context for each of the twenty-seven New Testament books.
- ❖ Students will express the theological message of the New Testament for the benefit of the church that is the Body of Christ.

Each of these course objectives relates directly to the six articles of the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Vision, Mission and Purpose Statement (see Appendix I).

II. Course Required Texts:

1. English Study Bibles (ESV Study Bible or NIV Archaeological Study Bible, **AND** NRSV Harper Collins Study Bible with Apocryphal and Deuterocanonical Books).
2. David L. Palmer, *CASKET EMPTY: God's Plan of Redemption through History. New Testament Timeline* (available at www.casketempty.com).
3. Donald A. Hagner, *The New Testament: A Historical and Theological Introduction* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2012).
4. Calvin J. Roetzel, *The World that Shaped the New Testament*, revised edition (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002).
5. Primary source reading packet (available through GCTS).

III. Course Requirements:

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| 1. Primary and Secondary Text Reading | 10% |
| 2. New Testament Context Biographical Essay | 15% |
| 3. New Testament Book Outline and Sermon/Teaching Series | 15% |
| 4. Final Exam | 60% |

IV. Course Outline:

DAY 1: OVERVIEW OF NEW TESTAMENT USING ‘CASKET EMPTY’

‘E’ = EXPECTATIONS: GOD BUILDS EXPECTATIONS FOR A COMING KING

Historical Sequence: Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, Kingdom of God
Israel becomes part of the Greek world
Israel suffers in wars of Alexander’s successors
God delivers Israel through the Maccabees
Israel is humbled by the return of Roman rule
Israel expects the Messiah: awaiting the OT promises of God

Reading: *Primary*: Daniel 8-9, 11; 2 Maccabees 2:19-10:9; 4 Maccabees 1-18; Josephus, *Jewish War*, 1.120-158; 1.386-406.
All Old Testament passages under ‘Israel expects the Messiah.’
Secondary: C. Roetzel, *The World that Shaped the New Testament*, 1-36.
D. Hagner, *New Testament Introduction*, 1-55.

DAY 2: REVIEW OF NEW TESTAMENT USING ‘CASKET EMPTY’

‘M’ = MESSIAH: GOD SENDS HIS SON INTO THE WORLD AS KING

Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham
Israel suffers “birth pangs” of the Messiah after Herod’s death
Judea reduced to a Roman province ruled by procurators
The word of the Lord comes to John in the wilderness
Jesus proclaims the gospel of the Kingdom
Jesus demonstrates the Kingdom with signs
Jesus announces the Kingdom in parables
Rising opposition to Jesus’ preaching about the Kingdom
Peter confesses Jesus as Messiah, Son of God, at Caesarea Philippi
Jesus’ hour to be glorified has come
Jesus celebrates the Passover/Last Supper with His disciples
Jesus is crucified by the will of God for the sin of the world
Jesus is resurrected from the dead!

Reading: *Primary*: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John; Josephus, *Jewish War*, 1.117-164; Selections from Mishnah, *Abot*, *Berakhot*, *Shabbat*; Dead Sea Scrolls, 1 QS 1.1-25; 4Q MMT; and Philo, *Life of Moses*.
Secondary: D. Hagner, *New Testament Introduction*, 59-304.

- Select topic and begin “New Testament Context Biographical Essay” assignment (see below Assignment 2 for more detailed instruction)

DAY 3: REVIEW OF NEW TESTAMENT USING ‘CASKET EMPTY’

‘P’ = PENTECOST: GOD POURS OUR HIS HOLY SPIRIT UPON THE CHURCH

The exalted Jesus extends His Kingdom in Jerusalem

The exalted Jesus extend His Kingdom in Judea and Samaria

The exalted Jesus extends His Kingdom to the ends of the earth

1st Missionary Journey

2nd Missionary Journey

3rd Missionary Journey

Paul’s journey to Jerusalem

Paul’s journey and witness to Rome

The word of Christ continues to spread throughout the world!

Reading: *Primary:* Acts, begin Paul’s letters.

Secondary: D. Hagner, *New Testament Introduction*, 307-425. R. Brown, “An Appreciation of Paul,” in *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Anchor Bible Reference Library (New York: Doubleday, 1997), 447-455.

DAY 4: REVIEW OF NEW TESTAMENT USING ‘CASKET EMPTY’

‘T’ = TEACHING: GOD COMISSIONS HIS PEOPLE TO TEACH THE GOSPEL TO THE NATIONS

Planting churches, teaching, and writing letters

KEY NEW TESTAMENT BELIEFS:

Jesus is the Messiah, Christ the Lord

Justification by faith in Christ

Indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit

Jews and Gentiles are “one in Christ”

Obedience of faith among the nations

Living sacrifices “holy to the LORD”

Return of Christ in glory as Judge

Reading: *Primary:* Paul’s letters (finish), Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude

Secondary: D. Hagner, *New Testament Introduction*, 426-742.

- Select topic and begin “New Testament Book Outline and Sermon/Teaching Series” assignment. (See Assignment 2 below for more detailed instructions)

DAY 5: REVIEW OF NEW TESTAMENT USING ‘CASKET EMPTY’

‘Y’ = YET-TO-COME: GOD REVEALS PRESENT RULE AND FUTURE GLORY OF HIS SON

The exalted Son of Man as Lord of the church (Rev. 1-3)
The exalted Son of Man is worshiped in heaven (Rev. 4-5)
The exalted Son of Man releases wrath and gathers a people (Rev. 6-11)
The spiritual battle between God and the Serpent (Rev. 12-12)
God opposed by the serpent
Son of Man counterfeited by the beast
Mark of the Son counterfeited by the mark of the beast
Bride of Christ imitated by the whore of Babylon
New Jerusalem and Babylon the Great
Tree of life versus the lake of fire
The exalted Jesus Son of Man returns in glory and final victory
Christ’ judgment on the whore of Babylon
Messiah’s final victory over the beast, serpent, and death
The new creation of heaven and earth
New Jerusalem descends like a bride for her husband
Redeemed humanity has access to the tree of life

Reading: *Primary: Revelation, 4 Ezra (NRSV, pages 1774-1807)*
Secondary: D. Hagner, New Testament Introduction, 745-780.

DAY 6: REVIEW OF NEW TESTAMENT USING ‘CASKET EMPTY’

Recapitulation and consolidation of primary texts

‘E’ EXPECTATIONS
‘M’ MESSIAH
‘P’ PENTECOST
‘T’ TEACHING
‘Y’ YET-TO-COME

Main message and historical context of each New Testament book
Key to learning theology of the New Testament (EMPTY chart)
Report on New Testament context essays
Preaching and teaching from the New Testament
How to build an effective sermon series or small group study from a New Testament book

Reading: *Primary: Matt 1:1-17; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-18; Acts 1:1-8; Rom 1:1-7; 1 Cor 1:1-10; 2 Cor 1:1-11; Gal 1:1-8; Eph 1:1-14; Phil 1:1-11; Col 1:1-14; 1 Thess 1:1-10; 2 Thess 1:1-12; 1 Tim 1:1-7; 2 Tim 1:1-14; Titus 1:1-9; Phlm 1:1-25; Heb 1:1-14; Jas 1:1-12; 1 Pet 1:1-16; 2 Pet 1:1-11; 1 John 1:1-10; 2 John 1:1-13; 3 John 1:1-14; Jude 1:1-4; Rev 1:1-20*
Secondary: D. Hagner, New Testament Introduction, 783-827.

**NT 501: New Testament Survey Assignment 1:
Primary and Secondary Reading**

“The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.” 2 Timothy 4:13.

“A man who comes up into the pulpit, professes to take his text on the spot, and talks any quantity of nonsense, is the idol of many. If he will speak without premeditation, or pretend to do so, and never produce what they call a dish of dead men's brains—oh! that is the preacher. How rebuked are they by the apostle!

He is inspired, and yet he wants books! He has been preaching at least for thirty years, and yet he wants books! He had seen the Lord, and yet he wants books! He had had a wider experience than most men, and yet he wants books! He had been caught up into the third heaven, and had heard things which it was unlawful for a men to utter, yet he wants books! He had written the major part of the New Testament, and yet he wants books!

The apostle says to Timothy and so he says to every preacher, ‘Give thyself unto reading.’

The man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted. He who will not use the thoughts of other men's brains, proves that he has no brains of his own. Brethren, what is true of ministers is true of all our people. You need to read.

Renounce as much as you will all light literature, but study as much as possible sound theological works, especially the Puritanic writers, and expositions of the Bible. We are quite persuaded that the very best way for you to be spending your leisure, is to be either reading or praying. You may get much instruction from books which afterwards you may use as a true weapon in your Lord and Master's service.

Paul cries, ‘Bring the books—join in the cry!’

*Excerpt from a sermon on 2 Timothy 4:13 entitled
“Paul- His Cloak and His Books”
Delivered by Rev. Charles Spurgeon, on Sunday Morning,
November 29th, 1863, Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington*

Christian faith is transmitted to us through the primary texts of the written Word of God. Reading is a vital habit for long-term ministry, spiritual growth and usefulness to Christ.

You will be asked to indicate on the final exam what percentage of the primary and secondary reading (approximately 1,500 pages) you have completed for this course.

**NT 501: New Testament Survey Assignment 2:
New Testament Context Biographical Essay**

The New Testament takes place in a historical context separated from our own by time, geography, language, and culture. Yet, it is the first century world that God chose as the perfect time and place for His Son to enter the world (Mark 1:15; Acts 17:26-27; Gal 4:4).

In order to understand and communicate the New Testament effectively, students must develop an awareness of the personalities and players, the conflicts and compromises, the rival accounts of the world and where it is going that animate the New Testament environment. One point of entry is to examine a specific individual life.

Select a person from the list below. The essay should be organized in four sections:

1. SOURCES: Describe the key primary and secondary sources for knowing about this life.
2. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: Provide a concise summary of the person's life.
3. LIFE WORK: Summarize their life work, literary output or monumental architecture.
4. SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE NT: Identify how this person is significant for the NT.

You should begin with an article in a major Bible Dictionary such as the Anchor Bible Dictionary or IVP Reference Collection.

You are not allowed to use Wikipedia or Internet searches for this assignment. You must use your own words, cutting and pasting is disposable and not personal knowledge.

Persons for New Testament Context Biographical Essay:

1. Herod the Great	2. Caesar Augustus
3. Salome Alexandra	4. Josephus
5. Philo of Alexandria	6. Herod Antipas
7. Pontius Pilate	8. Seneca
9. Hillel	10. Shammai
11. Gaius Caligula	12. Tiberius
13. Vespasian	14. Titus
15. Bernice	16. Judas of Galilee
17. Agrippa I	18. Caiaphas
19. Nero	20. Domitian

The New Testament Context Biographical Essay should be no more than five pages total!!!

THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 18TH

**NT 501: New Testament Survey Assignment 3:
New Testament Book Outline and Sermon/Teaching Series**

Preaching and teaching from the Word of God is the primary way we are to make disciples (Proverbs 9:9-10; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 28:20; Acts 20:27; 2 Tim 3:16).

Rigorous seminary study should always benefit the worshipping life of the local church.

The purpose of this assignment is to provide an opportunity for the student to explore one New Testament book in greater detail and to translate this study into a preaching or teaching plan for an eight to twelve week series.

Select one New Testament book for your study.

Read the book as a whole 2-3 times in English.

Construct an original outline of the contents of your book using your own headings and language. Do not use a study Bible or commentary. Do your own work.

Prepare a preaching series or small group study of at least eight weeks and no more than twelve separate lessons.

Decide on an original title for the entire series or study.

For each week, prepare the following elements:

Text portion
Title
Theme of the service or lesson
Pastoral contact

Example excerpt taken from “Peter: An Authentic Christ-follower in the Making” Series:

WEEK 5: Title: “Who do you say I am?”
 Text: Matthew 16:13-20
 Theme: Peter comes to believe that Jesus is the Messiah

Pastoral contact: We cannot love someone we know nothing about. Love is built on a personal knowledge and experience. Peter had accumulated numerous experiences and conversations with Jesus. Jesus and his disciples withdrew from the crowds. He asked them a decisive question: Who do you say that I am? Peter answers: “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Everything changes on this answer. Peter’s life is forever different. Jesus praises the revealing work of the Father in bringing Peter to this humble confession of faith

THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 25TH

**NT 501: New Testament Survey Assignment 4:
Final Exam Study Guide**

You will need to know the following persons, dates, events, and Bible references:

1. EXPECTATIONS 430 BC-6 BC

1. Darius I
2. Alexander the Great (330 BC)
3. Ptolemy II Philadelphus
4. Septuagint (LXX)
5. Antiochus IV Epiphanes
6. Judas Maccabeus (167-164 BC)
7. Pompey (63 BC)
8. Julius Caesar
9. Herod
10. Caesar Augustus
11. Caesarea
12. Be able to list ten facets of Israel's expectation of God's coming Messiah, including Scripture references

13. MESSIAH 6 BC- AD 33

14. Archelaus
15. Herod Antipas
16. Herod Phillip
17. Sadducees
18. Pharisees
19. Essenes
20. Zealots
21. Caiaphas
22. Hillel
23. Shammai
24. Diaspora
25. Tiberius Julius Caesar
26. Pontius Pilate
27. John the Baptist
28. Kingdom of God
29. Parable
30. AD 33

31. PENTECOST AD 33-65

32. Jerusalem
33. Caligula
34. Herod Agrippa I
35. James son of Zebedee
36. Peter
37. Claudius
38. Paul
39. Barnabas

40. 1st Missionary Journey
41. Apostolic Council
42. 2nd Missionary Journey
43. 3rd Missionary Journey
44. Paul's Journey to Jerusalem
45. Paul's Journey to Rome
46. Felix
47. Nero
48. Herod Agrippa II
49. Prison Epistles
50. Pastoral Epistles
51. James the brother of Jesus
52. The Jewish War

53. TEACHING AD 33-95

54. Jesus is the Messiah, Christ the Lord
55. Justification by faith in Christ
56. Indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit
57. Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ
58. Obedience of faith among the nations
59. Living sacrifices "holy to the Lord"
60. Return of Christ in glory as Judge
61. Vespasian
62. Titus
63. AD 70

64. YET-TO-COME AD 95- until the Return of Christ

65. Domitian
66. Jesus as exalted Son of Man
67. Seven churches of Revelation
68. Babylon the Great
69. New Jerusalem
70. Tree of Life

There will also be three text portions selected from the following list:

Matt 1:1-17; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-18; Acts 1:1-8; Rom 1:1-17; 1 Cor 1:1-10; 2 Cor 1:1-11; Gal 1:1-8; Eph 1:1-14; Phil 1:1-11; Col 1:1-14; 1 Thess 1:1-10; 2 Thess 1:1-12; 1 Tim 1:1-7; 2 Tim 1:1-14; Titus 1:1-9; Phlm 1:1-25; Heb 1:1-14; Jas 1:1-12; 1 Pet 1:1-16; 2 Pet 1:1-11; 1 John 1:1-10; 2 John 1:1-13; 3 John 1:1-14; Jude 1:1-4; Rev 1:1-20.

You will be able to select two of the three portions for short essays. Your essay should include a summary of the main message and historical context represented by the passage. Your essay should also identify KEY NEW TESTAMENT BELIEFS reflected in the passage. Finally, your essay should integrate perspectives on your passage from both primary and secondary readings.

THE FINAL EXAM IS DUE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 25TH

Appendix 1: Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Vision, Mission and Purpose Statement

"To advance Christ's Kingdom in every sphere of life by equipping Church leaders to think theologically, engage globally and live biblically."

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary is an educational institution serving the Lord and His Church. Its mission is to prepare men and women for ministry at home and abroad. The seminary undertakes this task as a training partner with the Church so that what is learned on campus may be complemented by the spiritual nurture and the exercise of ministry available through the Church.

Gordon-Conwell's mission arises out of God's redemptive work in this world effected in Jesus Christ, understood through the biblical Word and mediated by the Holy Spirit. As a theological seminary, it provides learning, resources and training through which men and women may acquire knowledge, gain skills and develop attitudes needed in Christ's ministry. Its mission, accordingly, is to serve the Church in the following ways:

Article 1: To encourage students to become knowledgeable of God's inerrant Word, competent in its interpretation, proclamation and application in the contemporary world. Because the teaching of God's Word is indispensable to the well-being and vitality of God's people, the seminary has a fundamental responsibility to encourage in its students a love for Scripture. The seminary is to teach exegetical skills by which they will be able to apply Scripture effectively.

Article 2: To maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship in the teaching of the biblical, historical and theological disciplines. Theological education, which is properly done within and for the Church, ought to function with rigor and academic integrity. The seminary, therefore, must provide an environment within which teaching and learning can best occur and encourage high levels of scholarly competence and research in its faculty.

Article 3: To train and encourage students, in cooperation with the Church, to become skilled in ministry. The Church and the seminary share the goal of seeing knowledge, skills and attitudes integrated in the person who ministers. Both in traditional degree programs and in continuing education, a combination of careful training and supervised experience in ministry are educational practices essential to achieving that goal.

Article 4: To work with the churches towards the maturing of students so that their experiential knowledge of God in Christ is evidenced in their character, outlook, conduct, relationships and involvement in society. Academic learning divorced from a life of biblical spirituality neither honors God nor serves His people. Such spirituality is to be expressed cognitively, relationally and socially. It is to be translated into action, God's people embodying His compassion, declaring His justice and articulating His truth in society.

Article 5: To provide leadership and educational resources for shaping an effective evangelical presence in Church and society. Gordon-Conwell's academic and institutional resources are to be put into the service of the Christian community to provide careful research on and informed understanding of critical issues, as well as in exercising leadership in learned societies, in movements of renewal and reform and in a variety of off-campus ministries in order to develop a more informed understanding of what the lordship of Christ means in our world.

Article 6: To develop in students a vision for God's redemptive work throughout the world and to formulate the strategies that will lead to effective missions, evangelism and discipleship. The central mission of the Triune God is the creation of a fellowship of men and women who are mature in Christ and who will love and serve Him forever. This mission is realized evangelistically through the proclamation of the biblical gospel by those who embody the message they proclaim and who seek to make disciples from all peoples.