



**Nipawin Bible College**  
**Course: BT123 – Approaching the Bible**  
**Instructor: Dr. Peter Barber**  
**Fall 2018**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
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### ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

What is the Bible, who authored it, and how should we approach it? The Westminster Confession (1647) states: “The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man, or Church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received because it is the Word of God” (1.iv).

When we approach the Bible and open to the first page, we read: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). We are immediately confronted with a critical – perhaps *the* critical question – how do I take the first verse? Historically or Allegorically? We ask this question because in the back of our minds is our cultural milieu, the worldview that states that the universe ‘evolved’ and was not created *by* the Biblical God or *how* God says He did it. How should we respond?

The Bible presents itself as the Word of God, in which He lays out the revelation of the history of His universe, from the Creation in the book of Genesis all the way to the future Consummation in the book of Revelation. In this course, students will be introduced to the Bible, its interpretation, and the seven major movements of Biblical history; thus, they will develop a Biblical worldview. Students will be encouraged to receive and live by the Word of God, the Bible: “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves” (James 1:21-22, NASB).

### ***COURSE TEXTBOOKS***

The Holy Bible (A translation of your choosing). **38 pages:**

Selected readings: WHAT THE BIBLE IS: 2 Samuel 7:28; Proverbs 22:19-21; Luke 11:49-51; Romans 3:2; 1 Corinthians 1:21, 2:1, 2:13-14; Ephesians 3:4-5. INTERPRETATION: Matthew 22:29, 31; Acts 15:15-16, 28:25; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21. CREATION: Genesis 1:1-2:25; Exodus 20:11; John 1:1-5. CORRUPTION: Genesis 3:1-6:12; Romans 1:18-32. CATASTROPHE: Genesis 6:13-9:29; Luke 17:26-7, 2 Peter 2:5. CONFUSION: Genesis 10:1-12:9; 15:1-21; Acts 17:26-7. CHRIST: Genesis 22:1-24; Exodus 3:1-22; 12:1-13, 23-41; 20:1-18; Leviticus 17:1-16; Deuteronomy 18:9-22; 30:1-20; 1 Chronicles 17:10b-14; Isaiah 7:13-14; 8:9-10; 9:6-7; 11:1-3; 50:4-9; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:1-2:23; Luke

3:21-4:21. CROSS: Psalm 16:1-11; 22; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Mark 14:1-15:41. CONSUMMATION: Psalm 2:1-14; 72:1-20; Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:6-9, 65:17-25; Mark 13:1-37; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; Revelation 20:1-22:21.

Morris, Henry M. III. 2013. *Six Days of Creation*. Dallas, TX: ICR. **48 pages:**

Read the entire booklet and write a one to two (1-2) page review.

Cooper, Barry. 2014. *Can I Really Trust the Bible?* London, Eng.: The Good Book Company. **81 pages.**

Read the entire book and write a two (2) page review.

Bartholomew, Craig G., and Michael W. Goheen. 2014. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. London, Eng.: SPCK. **77 pages:**

Selected readings: Creation: 28-9. Corruption: 39-43. Catastrophe: 48-9. Confusion: 50-51. Christ (Through Israel): (OT) 64-66, 74-5, 80-2, 90-1, 95-8, 100-17; (NT) 135-145. Cross (and Church): 170-80, 188-94. Consummation: 227-31.

Handouts (recommended reading):

- "Presuppositions: The Need for an Ultimate Standard" (Lisle, *Ultimate Proof*, 142-54).
- "Types of Literature in the Bible" (Lisle, *Understanding Genesis*, 79-105).
- "The Bible's Scientific Authority" (Morris, *Biblical Basis*, 19-21).
- "The Trinity in the Old Testament" (Fruchtenbaum, *Mashiach*, 110-28).
- "Genesis, Evolution, and Six Days" (Ham, *The Lie*, 147-72).
- "Overflowed with Water" (Morris, *Genesis Record*, 198-203).
- "Jesus in Symbolic Prophecy" (Reagan, *Jesus*, 33-44).

### ***THE BIG QUESTION***

Is the Bible the ultimate authority in every area, even history and science?

### ***LEARNING OUTCOMES***

Students will:

- 1) Develop an appreciation for, and be able to articulate with Scriptural support, the nature of the Bible as God's Word.
- 2) By the end of the course, be able to list the sixty-six books of the Biblical canon.
- 3) Learn and be able to describe the basic principles of Bible-reading, interpretation, and application of the Biblical worldview.
- 4) Discover, and be able to name and summarize, the seven (7) major movements of God's Word throughout history, and where we are today in God's sovereign plan.
- 5) Come to understand, and be able to explain with Scriptural support, the centrality of the LORD Jesus Christ – our Source, Sustenance, Saviour and Sovereign – from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21.

### ***COURSE ASSIGNMENTS***

#### **Participation – 15%**

- In addition to general attentiveness and note-taking, students are expected to participate in class by reading Scripture aloud in turn and contributing to class discussions of Scripture.
- Grading: /15. Students begin with full participation marks, and *may* lose marks only through conspicuous and repeated lack of participation.

#### **Daily Quiz on the Previous Day's Lecture and the Books of the Bible – 20%**

- At the beginning of the second through ninth days of class, students will write a short quiz on: 1) two key principles learnt the previous day, 2) two key Scriptures from the previous day, and 3) listing the names of a section of the 66 books of the Bible.
- Grading: /5 per quiz.

***Quiz Due: 8 quizzes total, written and submitted at the beginning of class***

#### **Book Reviews – 15%**

- Read *Six Days of Creation* by Morris in its entirety. I recommend underlining and/or highlighting the text as you read, and making notes as desired in the margins. This practice aids in focussing on the text and imbibing its message. Also, your notes will help in writing your review. Using the guidelines provided in class, you will write a two-page (2) review of the book.
- Grading: /5

***Book Review Due: Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm***

- Read *Can I Really Trust the Bible?* by Cooper in its entirety. Engage with it the same way you did Six Days of Creation. Using the guidelines provided in class, write a two-page (2) review of the book.
- Grading: /10

***Book Review Due: Friday, September 14th at 5:00 pm***

**Course Integration Paper – 20%**

- Write a five-page (5) paper outlining the past, present and future account of the universe as revealed in God’s Word, the Bible. It is recommended that you structure your paper on the seven Biblical movements of history as presented in class. A goal of the paper is to observe the LORD Jesus’ central presence in each movement, and what He is doing. In your conclusion, include reflection on what the LORD is showing you regarding your own place in His sovereign plan for all things. You will be provided further guidelines in class for writing the paper.
- Grading: /20

***Course Integration Paper Due: Tuesday, September 18th at 5:00 pm***

**Final Exam – 30%**

- **Tuesday, September 18th, 8:30 am**

All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the NBC Study Guide for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. Assignments will be due **no later than 5:00 pm** on the day that they are assigned.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/2019

**LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/2019

**Reading: 244 pages**

**Writing: 8-10 pages**

**SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Edwards, Brian H. 2017. *All You Need to Know About the Bible*. 6 book set. Leominster, Eng.: Day One Publishing.

Ham, Ken. 1987. *The Lie: Evolution (Genesis – The Key to Defending Your Faith)*. Green Forest, Ark.: Master Books.

Lisle, Jason. 2015. *Understanding Genesis: How to Analyze, Interpret, and Defend Scripture*. Green Forest, Ark.: Master Books.

-----, 2009. *The Ultimate Proof of Creation: Resolving the Origins Debate*. Green Forest, Ark.: Master Books.

Mason, Dale. 2017. *The 10 Minute Bible Journey*. Green Forest, Ark.: New Leaf Press.

Morris, Henry M. 1984. *The Biblical Basis for Modern Science*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House.

Packer, J.I. 1958. *'Fundamentalism' and the Word of God*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans.

Penny, Michael. 1992. *Approaching the Bible*. Reading, Eng.: The Open Bible Trust.

Tyndale, William. 2012. *The Obedience of a Christian Man (1528)*. Overland Park, Kans.: Digireads.com.

### **Recommended Online Resources**

The searchable Holy Bible in every English translation:

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

Searchable Bible in English and the original languages with concordances, lexica, and commentaries:

[www.biblehub.com](http://www.biblehub.com)

The Westminster Confession of 1647:

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/westminster-confession-faith/>

Resources and searchable database of articles on the Bible's reception, application, and communication (especially relating to origins):

[www.answersingenesis.com](http://www.answersingenesis.com) ; [www.creation.com](http://www.creation.com) ; [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org)

Resources and searchable database of articles on Biblical archaeology from a Bible-believing stance:

[www.biblearchaeology.org](http://www.biblearchaeology.org) ; [www.baseinstitute.org](http://www.baseinstitute.org)

Resources on Biblical Creation and Science:

<https://www.creationsciencemovement.com/>

Resources on the authenticity of the Bible:

<http://www.authenticity.billcooper.org.uk/>

The Creation Science Association of Saskatchewan: sharing scriptural and scientific evidence for special creation and the Creator:

<http://www.creation-science.sk.ca/>

Resources on the reliability of Bible prophecy (about one-third of the Bible is prophecy):

[www.ariel.org](http://www.ariel.org) ; [www.beholdisrael.org](http://www.beholdisrael.org) ; [www.christinprophecy.org](http://www.christinprophecy.org)