



Nipawin Bible College
BI2113: The Gospel and Letters of John
Dr. Peter John Barber
Fall 2020
3 Credit Hours
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Of the four canonical Gospel accounts, why is Apostle John's account so unique? While the three so-called synoptic Gospels are written from the perspective of Jesus as the man who is God, John's account is from the perspective of Jesus as God who became man. John wrote an evangelistic Gospel account, specifically intended to address the doubts of Israel (Jews) and the Gentiles about the identity of Jesus of Nazareth. Therefore, John's Gospel distinguishes itself from the others by taking the form of a doctrinal, theological treatise, as much as an historical account.

John says directly that this was his purpose in writing: "... these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name" (John 20:31; KJV).

John wrote for Jews and Gentiles, all who would believe that Jesus is the prophesied Christ, the Creator God in human flesh. He records the LORD Jesus' first coming in the flesh to announce the Gospel of His Kingdom to Israel, and to establish the prophesied New Covenant for Israel and all nations with His blood. This course is a thorough-going study of the Gospel of John, followed by a similar study of Apostle John's three letters to Jewish and Gentile proselyte believers in the diaspora outside of the Land of Israel.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Holy Bible (A literal translation of your choosing).

Welch, Charles H. 1996. *Life Through His Name: An Exposition of the Gospel of John*. London, Eng.: Berean Publishing Trust.

Ashby, William Brent, and Benjamin Galan. 2008. *Gospels Side by Side: A Harmony of the Gospels by Chronology and Topics*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Rose.

(No assigned text on the Letters of John. Instead, see the handouts.)

Handouts from:

Baker, Charles F. *Understanding the Gospels*.

Barber, Peter John. *Jesus and Myth*.

Fruchtenbaum, Arnold G. *Yeshua*.
Johnson, Justin. *Grace Ambassadors*.

Penny, Michael. *Approaching the Bible*.

Callahan, John. "Daniel's 69 Weeks."

Notley, R. Steven. *In the Master's Steps*.

Avi-Yonah, Michael and R. Steven Notley. *Understanding the Life of Jesus*.

THE BIG QUESTION

Do you believe that Jesus of Nazareth is in fact the Creator God, Sustainer, Saviour, and coming King?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will:

- 1) Develop an understanding of the place and purpose of John's Gospel and Letters in God's plan for the ages;
- 2) Build a working knowledge of the content of John's Gospel;
- 3) Come to an understanding of the literary and historical contexts of John's Gospel and Letters;
- 4) Learn how to interpret and apply the teaching of John's Gospel and Letters to the oneself as a member of the mystery Body of Christ.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The Miles Coverdale Exegesis Lab – 14%

- Miles Coverdale was the first man to publish the entire Bible in English (AD 1535). In the front matter of that first English Bible, Coverdale wrote, "It shall greatly help you to understand Scripture, if you mark not only what is spoken, or written, but of whom, and to whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstance, considering what goes before, and what follows."
- The purpose, then, of this lab, is to learn to observe these aspects of any given Bible passage, beginning with answering, 'Who is the audience?' and only then interpreting the passage with that Scriptural context in mind. That is, we are learning to interpret Scripture with Scripture, letting God be His own interpreter.

- Select a passage from the options listed below, under 'Labs and Writing Practica.' Follow the further instructions found there. The paper should be 3–4 pages in length.

Due: Friday, October 23rd, 2020 at 5:00 pm

The Right Division and Application Lab – 14%

- Application: 'Of this passage, what can be applied to the Christian's life today, a member of the mystery Body of Christ?'
- Before we can personally apply a passage that we have observed and interpreted, we must take into consideration the passage's relative agreement with Apostle Paul's teaching for us the Church, the mystery Body of Christ.
- More comparing of Scripture with Scripture is required when applying it to the Christian life. To do this, we identify relevant passages of Paul's letters (listed below under, 'Labs and Writing Practica'), and compare them to the Synoptic passage in question. To complete this Lab, follow the further instructions given below. The paper should be 3–4 pages in length.

Due: Friday, November 20th, 2020 at 5:00 pm

Weekly Quiz on Scripture, Textbook Reading, and Lectures – 32%

- At the beginning of each week, starting on October 6th, there will be a quiz on the reading and lecture from the previous week.
- Grading: /4 per quiz.

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

Final Exam – 40%

- The exam will cover the same material as the quizzes, and be based upon the Scripture reading, textbook reading, and lecture material.

Due: Exam Week

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance to the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2020-2021

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2020-2021

Reading: approx. 400 pages

Writing: 6–8 pages

COURSE SCHEDULE

*****Please Note:**

- Each day's reading is to be completed prior to each day of class. That is, the reading for 'Day 1: ...' should be done prior to the first day of class.

DAY 1: Introduction to John's Gospel, and Jesus' Origin (Sept. 29th, 2020)

Scripture: As Welch directs: Read all Scripture references that Welch makes at the heading of each section of his book.

Scholarship to Read: Welch, *Life Through His Name*, 1–22, 23–56; Penny, "Dating John's Writings," 309–27; Calahan, "What is the Correct Calculation of Daniel's 69 Weeks?" 5 pages. (78)

DAY 2: The LORD Jesus in the Flesh, John the Baptist, and the First Sign (Oct. 6th, 2020)

Quiz 1: On lectures and readings from week 1

Scripture: As Welch directs: Read all Scripture references that Welch makes at the heading of each section of his book.

Scholarship to Read: Welch, *Life Through His Name*, 57–100; ... (43)

DAY 3: The LORD Jesus Offers His Kingdom Gospel to Israel (Oct. 13th, 2020)

Quiz 2: On lectures and readings from week 2

Scripture: As Welch directs: Read all Scripture references that Welch makes at the heading of each section of his book.

Scholarship to Read: Welch, *Life Through His Name*, 101–63; ... (62)

DAY 4: The LORD Jesus' Second and Third Signs, and the Son's Father-work (Oct. 20th, 2020)

Quiz 3: On lectures and readings from week 3

Scripture: As Welch directs: Read all Scripture references that Welch makes at the heading of each section of his book.

Scholarship to Read: Welch, *Life Through His Name*, 165–224; ... (69)

DAY 5: The LORD Jesus' Fourth and Fifth Signs, and the Son's Father-work (Oct. 27th, 2020)

Quiz 4: On lectures and readings from week 4

Scripture: As Welch directs: Read all Scripture references that Welch makes at the heading of each section of his book.

Scholarship to Read: Welch, *Life Through His Name*, 225–85; ... (60)

DAY 6: The LORD Jesus' Sixth and Seventh Signs, and the Son's Father-work (Nov. 3rd, 2020)

Quiz 5: On lectures and readings from week 5

Scripture: As Welch directs: Read all Scripture references that Welch makes at the heading of each section of his book.

Scholarship to Read: Welch, *Life Through His Name*, 287–357; ... (70)

DAY 7: The LORD Jesus Teaches 'His Own' (Nov. 17th, 2020)

Quiz 6: On lectures and readings from week 6

Scripture: As Welch directs: Read all Scripture references that Welch makes at the heading of each section of his book.

Scholarship to Read: Welch, *Life Through His Name*, 359–408; ... (49)

DAY 8: The LORD Jesus' Home in His Believers (Nov. 24th, 2020)

Quiz 7: On lectures and readings from week 7

Scripture: As Welch directs: Read all Scripture references that Welch makes at the heading of each section of his book.

Scholarship to Read: Welch, *Life Through His Name*, 409–444; ... (35)

DAY 9: The LORD Jesus' Priestly Prayer (Dec. 1st, 2020)

Quiz 8: On lectures and readings from week 8

Scripture: As Welch directs: Read all Scripture references that Welch makes at the heading of each section of his book.

Scholarship to Read: Welch, *Life Through His Name*, 445–503; ... (58)

DAY 10: The LORD Jesus' Indescribable Gift, Eighth Sign, and Witnesses (Dec. 8th, 2020)

Scripture: As Welch directs: Read all Scripture references that Welch makes at the heading of each section of his book.

Scholarship to Read: Welch, *Life Through His Name*, 505–52; ... (47)

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE GOSPEL AND LETTERS OF JOHN

Anderson, G.W. and D.E. 2002. *A Textual Key to the New Testament: A List of Omissions and Changes*. London, Eng.: Trinitarian Bible Society.

Avi-Yonah, Michael and R. Steven Notley. 2015. *Understanding the Life of Jesus: An Introductory Atlas*. Jerusalem, Is.: Carta Jerusalem.

Baker, Charles F. 1989. *A Dispensational Synopsis of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Grace.

Calahan, John. 2007. "What is the Correct Calculation of Daniel's 69 Weeks?" <https://www.neverthirsty.org/bible-qa/qa-archives/question/what-is-the-correct-calculation-of-daniels-69-weeks/>

Cooper, Wm R. 2017. *New Testament Fragments Amongst the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Portsmouth, Eng.: Creation Science Movement.

Edersheim, Alfred. 1993. *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson.

Fruchtenbaum, Arnold G. 2018. *Yeshua: The Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective*. Abridged Version. San Antonio, Tex.: Ariel Ministries.

Missler, Chuck. 2015. *Daniel's 70 Weeks*. Coeur d'Alene, Id.: Koinonia House.

Morris, Henry M., and Henry M. Morris III. 1996. *Many Infallible Proofs: Evidences for the Christian Faith*. Green Forest, Ark.: Master.

Notley, R. Steven. 2014. *In the Master's Steps: The Gospels in the Land*. Vol. 1. Jerusalem, Is.: Carta Jerusalem.

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

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

Robinson, John A.T. 1976. *Redating the New Testament*. London, Eng.: SCM.

- Stam, Cornelius R. 1987. *The Dispensational Position of the Writings of John*. Germantown, Wis.: Berean Bible Society.
- Thiede, Carsten Peter. 1992. *The Earliest Gospel Manuscript? The Qumran Papyrus 7Q5 and Its Significance for New Testament Studies*. Guernsey, Eng.: Paternoster.
- Walvoord, John F. and Roy B. Zuck, eds. 2018. *Gospels*. The Bible Knowledge Commentary. Colorado Springs, Col.: David C. Cook.
- Watts, Macolm H. 1998. *The LORD Gave the Word: A Study in the History of the Biblical Text*. London, Eng.: Trinitarian Bible Society.
- Woods, Andrew M. 2016. *The Coming Kingdom: What is the Kingdom and How is the Kingdom Now Theology Changing the Focus of the Church?* Duluth, Minn.: Grace Gospel.

Recommended Online Resources

The searchable Holy Bible in every English translation:

www.biblegateway.com

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

www.biblehub.com

The Westminster Confession of 1647:

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

Resources and searchable databases of articles related to the biblical creation:

www.answersingenesis.com ; www.creation.com ; www.icr.org ; <https://www.creationmovement.com/> ; <http://www.authenticity.billcooper.org.uk/> ; <http://www.creation-science.sk.ca/> ; <https://biblicalscienceinstitute.com/> ; www.creationresearch.net

Resources and searchable databases of articles on biblical archaeology from a Bible-believing stance:

www.biblearchaeology.org ; www.baseinstitute.org ; www.askelm.com ; www.patternsofevidence.com ; www.ancientexodus.com

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

www.ariel.org ; www.beholdisrael.org ; www.christinprophecy.org

Resources on the Gospel of grace and right division and interpretation of Scripture:

www.graceambassadors.com

Labs and Writing Practica

The Miles Coverdale Exegesis Lab:

On the Gospel: John 1:12 **or** 3:18

On forgiveness of sins: John 20:23 **or** 1 John 1:9

On baptism: John 3:22–3

On salvation: John 4:22

On keeping the Law: John 15:10–14

On the Cross: John 3:11–18

On the great commission: John 15:26–7

Observation and Interpretation Lab Instructions:

The process of observation, beginning with answering the question, ‘Who is the audience of this passage?’ and continuing through Coverdale’s list of questions to ask a passage, leads to a sound contextual interpretation of a Bible passage’s meaning.

For your chosen passage, answer these questions by observation: 1) Of whom (that is by *and* about whom) is the passage? 2) To whom is the passage? 3) With what words? 4) At what time? 5) Where? 6) To what intent? 7) With what circumstance? 8) What goes before? 9) What follows? 10) What is spoken or written?

As you answer these questions by simple observation of the plain text, record your answers in point form. Then, write an orderly interpretation of the passage. See the next section for academic formatting instructions.

Paper Format Instructions:

Properly format your paper for academic writing according to Turabian. Your paper should have two sections (apart from the introduction and conclusion):

1) Observations; 2) Interpretation. The paper should be 3–4 pages in length. If there are any questions, contact the professor.

The Right Division and Application Lab:

On the Gospel: 1 Cor 15:1–4

On forgiveness of sins: Eph 4:32

On baptism: Eph 4:5

On salvation: Eph 2:8–9

On keeping the Law: Rom 6:14

On the Cross: Col 2:13–15

On the great commission: 2 Cor 5:17–21 **or** Eph 3:8–11

Application Lab Instructions:

While all Scripture is written *for* Christians today (2 Tim 3:16), not all Scripture is written *to* Christians, or *about* Christians. So how do we know which instructions in Scripture are for us, and which are for believers of another age and dispensation?

The answer lies in recognizing that the Christian is a member of the mystery Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:13, 27; Eph 2:13–17, 3:8–10). While there are many important distinctions to bear in mind when reading the Bible (e.g. Israel/Church; Law/Grace; gospel of the kingdom/gospel of grace; earth/heaven), the most important when considering personal application is distinguishing between God's mystery purpose, "... kept secret since the world began" (Rom 16:25), and God's prophecy purpose, "... spoken ... since the world began" (Acts 3:21).

Therefore, since the Christian is a member of the mystery Body of Christ, and a part of God's mystery purpose, hidden from the prophets, but revealed by Jesus through His Apostle Paul, the Christian is expected to learn to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15), by comparing and contrasting every other part of the Bible with Apostle Paul's thirteen letters for Jesus' Body the Church (1 Cor 4:16, 11:1; Phil 3:17–21; 4:9).

As such, when we read the Gospel accounts, we must recognize that they describe the fulfillment of prophecy, the first coming of the prophesied Messiah. Also, they are fulfilled under the Law of Moses, with Jesus' instructions to His twelve disciples and all His audience including the requirement to keep the Law. Therefore, not all of what we read today in the Gospel and Letters of John can be directly applied to the Christian life today, as members of the mystery Body, standing in grace apart from works of the Law.

In order to determine what to practice now and what to let be, we must conduct key word concordance searches and key phrase Bible searches, comparing the passage in question with Apostle Paul's writings.

Paper Format Instructions:

Properly format your paper for academic writing according to Turabian. Your paper should have two sections (apart from introduction and conclusion): 1) What to Let Be; 2) What to Apply. For each section, be sure to clearly explain why something from the passage is being left, and why something is being personally applied. Your reasons should be based upon comparison and contrast with the relevant Pauline text(s). The paper should be 3–4 pages in length. If there are any questions, contact the professor.