



The Biblical Studies Program at All Nations Biblical Study Center

The Biblical Studies Program at All Nations Biblical Study Center is comprised of the following 25 core courses.

I. Historical & Cultural Studies

Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament

This course provides a general introduction to the Jewish backgrounds of the New Testament. The following topics will be discussed during this course: a survey of Jewish history from the Persian to the Roman period; an introduction to the Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and Rabbinic Literature; the various Jewish parties and sectarian groups, to include the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots, Herodians, Samaritans, proselytes, and God-fearers; the temple and the priesthood; the Sanhedrin, rabbis, and the synagogue; and Jewish festivals and holy days. Extensive visual presentations are provided for each class session.

* Suggested Textbook: *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, by Everett Ferguson.

The Greco-Roman World of the First Century

The course provides a thorough introduction to the Greco-Roman world of the New Testament Period. Political, social, literary, and religious backgrounds will be addressed in light of their importance for an accurate understanding of both the New Testament and the early church. Class discussions highlight the ancient empires of the ancient Near East, the societal and cultural environment of the first-century Roman World, and the Hellenistic-Roman religions.

* Suggested Text: *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, by Everett Ferguson.

Biblical Backgrounds Series I

This Biblical Backgrounds Seminar explores the Jewish world of Jesus, the first three centuries of Christianity, the literature that enlightens the Bible, and the formation of the Biblical Canon. Class topics include: Jesus in His Jewish Context, Messianic Thought, Jewish Religious Groups, Judaism and Christianity --- the Parting of the Ways, Life in the Early Church, Spiritual Blindness, Discovering the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Importance of the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, What Outsiders said about Early Christianity, The Book of Revelation and Apocalyptic Literature, an Introduction to the Hebrew Canon, and an Introduction to the New Testament Canon.

Biblical Backgrounds Series II

This Biblical Backgrounds Seminar explores the cultural background of the Bible, significant places of the Biblical World, and vital issues facing the Early Christians. Class topics include: The History of the English Bible, The Hard Sayings of Jesus, Idioms in the Bible, Manners and Customs of the Bible, Important Archaeological Discoveries, A Tour of the Biblical World, Israel and The Land, and The Seven Churches of Revelation.

The Origins of Christianity

This seminar explores the major issues and events surrounding the establishment of the Christian Church. Course discussions highlight how Jewish beliefs, practices, and institutions influenced and shaped early Christianity. Class topics include: Jesus and the Kingdom of Heaven; The Early Jerusalem Community; God's Appointed Times: The Fall Feasts; The Mission to the Gentiles; The Church of Jewish Believers; Encounters with Paganism; Orthodoxy and Heresy; Elder and Younger Brothers: Early Debates; The Jesus Tradition: Origins of the Gospels; Conversion, Baptism, and New Life.

The Journeys of Jesus: Video Teaching Series filmed in Israel

This course features The Journeys of Jesus video series, filmed on-location in Israel by Daniel and Michelle Ramsey. Each class session will feature a video segment and associated lecture focused upon a specific geographic region in the Promised Land, Israel. This unique class offers students a special opportunity to study the life and teachings of Jesus on-location in their geographic setting.

II. The Hebrew Bible

The Hebrew Torah

This course provides an introduction to the first five books of the Hebrew Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, known as the Torah. The central role of the Torah in Judaism and early Christianity will be highlighted throughout this course.

The Hebrew Prophets

This course provides a general introduction to the Prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures. Class discussions will focus upon the individual prophet, the historical setting of each prophetic book, dominant themes, messianic prophecies, and references to the prophets in the New Testament writings.

The Jewish Writings: From Conquest to Exile

This course provides a thorough treatment of the biblical writings beginning with the Jewish conquest of the Promised Land through the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon. The following books are discussed in this course: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, Ezra and Nehemiah.

III. New Testament Studies

Synoptic Gospels I: The Early Years

Part one of a three part series. This course will provide an introduction to the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. While gospel studies can often be aimed at

harmonizing these gospel accounts, this course will focus on highlighting the uniqueness of each synoptic account. This approach will allow the individual theological interests of each author to be realized and appreciated. The student will have the opportunity to highlight and analyze the synoptic accounts in the required textbook through a special color-coding system.

Required Text: *Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels*, by Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr.

Synoptic Gospels II: Jesus' Galilean Ministry

Part two of a three part series. This course provides an in-depth study in The Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, focusing primarily on Jesus' Ministry in the Galilee. While Gospel studies can often be aimed at harmonizing the Gospel accounts, this course will focus on the uniqueness of each of the Synoptics. This approach will allow the individual theological interests of each author to be realized and appreciated. The student will have the opportunity to highlight and analyze the Synoptic Gospels in the required textbook using a special color-coding method.

While this is Part Two of a three part series, students are encouraged to take this course even if they have not taken Part One.

Required Text: *Gospel Parallels NRSV Edition*, by Burton H Throckmorton Jr.

Synoptic Gospels III: Jesus' Passion, Death & Resurrection

This course provides an in-depth study in The Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, focusing primarily on synoptic accounts regarding Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection. While Gospel studies can often be aimed at harmonizing the Gospel accounts, this course will focus on the uniqueness of each of the Synoptics. This approach will allow the individual theological interests of each author to be realized and appreciated. The student will have the opportunity to highlight and analyze the Synoptic Gospels in the required textbook using a special color-coding method.

While this is Part Three of a three part series, students are encouraged to take this course even if they have not taken Part One or Part Two.

Required Text: *Gospel Parallels NRSV Edition*, by Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr.

The Gospel of John

This course explores the Fourth Gospel in its historical, cultural, and religious setting. Special emphasis will be given to the unique purpose of John and its distinctive literary style. The deity of Jesus, His relationship with the Father, His signs, His atoning work, resurrection, eternal life, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and other dominant themes and nuances will be highlighted. Extensive visual presentations from the Land of Israel will also be provided throughout this course.

Understanding the Parables of Jesus

This course provides an in-depth look at each of the parables taught by Jesus. The course examines the various interpretative methods regarding this popular first century teaching style. This course explores what a parable is, why Jesus taught in parables, the various categories of parables and the major rules for interpreting parables. The historical, cultural and theological context of each parable will be discussed.

Jesus the Teacher: Studies in Matthew

This course focuses on the five main teachings of Jesus recorded in The Gospel of Matthew, namely, The Ideals of the Kingdom, True Discipleship, The Mystery of the

Kingdom, The Community of Believers, and Jesus' Apocalyptic Discourse. Topics such as the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' view of discipleship, His unique perspectives on the Kingdom, living as a community of faith, the coming of the Son of Man, and more are discussed in class. This course examines the heart of Jesus' message, highlighting its purpose and relevance for both the original audience as well as readers today.

The Book of Acts

This seminar explores the life and growth of the Early Church and the most crucial issues facing the early Jewish believers as they carried out Jesus' Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. Special emphasis will be placed on the Jewish roots of the Christian church throughout this seminar. This course provides extensive visual presentations from throughout the land of Israel and the ancient Roman world, allowing the student to discover the Mediterranean world of the first century A.D.

The Letters of Paul

This course provides a general introduction to the New Testament Pauline epistles. Extensive background details regarding Paul's correspondence with the churches at Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, and Thessalonica will be discussed throughout the course. Paul's personal letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon are also examined.

The General Epistles of the New Testament

This course explores what are known as the General Epistles of the New Testament. These works include: The Book of Hebrews, James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John, Jude and Revelation. Each of these epistles will be examined from a historical, cultural, and textual standpoint.

The Book of Revelation and Apocalyptic Literature

This course examines the Book of Revelation in its historical, cultural, and literary context as a late first century apocalypse. The purposes and general characteristics of apocalyptic literature will be discussed in this course, to include: the presence of heavenly messengers, heavenly journeys, the use of symbolic language, the extensive use of numbers, the appearance of strange creatures, end time battles, the New Heavens and New Earth, and more. This in-depth verse-by-verse treatment on Revelation will assist the student to better understand the historic and prophetic message of this complex New Testament apocalypse.

IV. Biblical Languages

A. Biblical Hebrew

Biblical Hebrew I

This course will provide an introduction to the Hebrew of the Biblical text. The Hebrew alphabet, vowel system, vocabulary building, Scriptures, songs, and readings for beginners will be covered in the first semester, enabling students to begin reading passages of the Hebrew Bible in its original language.

Required Textbook: *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*, by Allen P. Ross.

Biblical Hebrew II

This second semester course of Biblical Hebrew continues to introduce the student to the basic grammar, vocabulary, and verb system of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Prerequisite: Biblical Hebrew I or equivalent.

Required Textbook: *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*, by Allen P. Ross.

Biblical Hebrew III

This final semester of Biblical Hebrew continues to introduce the student to the basic grammar, vocabulary, and verb system of the Hebrew Scriptures. Special emphasis will be given to the verbal system and reading the biblical text.

Prerequisite: Biblical Hebrew II or equivalent.

Required Textbook: *Introducing Biblical Hebrew*, by Allen P. Ross.

B. Koine Greek

New Testament (Koine) Greek I

This course will provide a general introduction to the Koine Greek of the New Testament and will enable the student to begin reading and studying the New Testament in its original language. Upon completion of this first semester, students will be equipped with the most basic Greek skills, enabling them to utilize Greek dictionaries and other vital Greek helps. These tools will allow the student to more responsibly dig below the surface level of the New Testament text. *Note to prospective students:* this course requires significant work in addition to class sessions.

Required Textbooks:

Basics of Biblical Greek -- Grammar, Second Edition, by William D. Mounce.

Basics of Biblical Greek -- Workbook, Second Edition, by William D. Mounce.

New Testament (Koine) Greek II

This second semester course of New Testament (Koine) Greek continues to introduce the student to the basic grammar, vocabulary, and verb system of the Greek New Testament.

Prerequisite: Koine Greek I or equivalent.

Required Textbooks:

Basics of Biblical Greek -- Grammar, Second Edition, by William D. Mounce.

Basics of Biblical Greek -- Workbook, Second Edition, by William D. Mounce.

New Testament (Koine) Greek III

This final semester of New Testament (Koine) Greek continues to introduce the student to the basic grammar, vocabulary, and verb system of the New Testament.

Prerequisite: Koine Greek II or equivalent.

Required Textbooks:

Basics of Biblical Greek -- Grammar, Second Edition, by William D. Mounce.

Basics of Biblical Greek -- Workbook, Second Edition, by William D. Mounce.

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