

# New Testament Survey

August 5 to September 16, 2022

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## Main Goal

To help disciples of Jesus read the New Testament with the appropriate perspectives, backgrounds, and contexts.

## Primary Objectives

- Provide NT backgrounds as a whole
- Introduce each group of documents and vital backgrounds for each (Gospels, Acts, Paul's Letters, General Epistles, and Revelation)
- Give interpretive tools, resources, lenses for further study

## Core Competencies (10-12)

1. Understand vital cultural, political, and religious backgrounds of the first century
2. Name the major Second Temple extra-biblical document groups
3. Identify when each group of documents was written
4. Identify the major authors of NT documents
5. Identify audience and occasion for major NT documents
6. Pinpoint the purpose for major NT documents
7. Place each document within its appropriate literary genre
8. Be familiar with the names of NT criticisms and what they mean
9. Navigate the general timeframe for major NT documents using the book of Acts as a framework
10. Gain confidence in NT interpretation

## Activities

- Attend six class sessions.
- Certification candidates:
  - Read class text(s)(see below).
  - Memorize ten memory verse (see below).

## Main Class Text

Pages 1–270 only from Jerome H. Neyrey, ed., *The Social World of Luke-Acts: Models for Interpretation* (Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson Publishers: 1991).

## Recommended Books

- N. T. Wright, *New Testament and the People of God* (535 pages): scholarly backgrounds
- *Dictionary of New Testament Background* (The IVP Bible Dictionary Series): topical articles
- N. T. Wright, *Paul: A Biography* (480 pages): a background to Paul's life
- N. T. Wright, *The Challenge of Jesus* (176 pages): a background to Jesus' life
- Bruce J. Malina, *The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology*, 3rd ed. (Louisville, Kent.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001): solid cultural anthropology for NT studies

## **Recommended Memory Passages**

- John 20:31
- Acts 1:1-2
- Romans 1:1-4
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

## **Class Schedule**

Class 1: New Testament Backgrounds (August 5<sup>th</sup>)

Class 2: The Gospels (August 12<sup>th</sup>)

Class 3: Acts (August 19<sup>th</sup>)

Class 4: Paul (Part 1) (August 26<sup>th</sup>)

*No Class, Break for Labor Day weekend (September 2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Class 5: Paul (Part 2) (September 9<sup>th</sup>)

Class 6: The General Epistles and Revelation (September 16<sup>th</sup>)

*\*Final Inventory, Memory Verses, and Reading Due (Take Home): Due one week after class is finished.*