

ZMTI 133: New Testament Backgrounds

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the formative events and developments of the Jews during the intertestamental period.
- Describe key influences of the Greco-Roman culture on the New Testament setting.
- Articulate the context of the four major political periods between 539 BC- AD 70.

Texts for the course, *The World of Jesus*, William H. Marty and *The 400 Silent Years*, H. A. Ironside

Course Requirements:

- Attendance. Participants must have 80% attendance to receive a passing grade.
- Assigned Reading
- Class Discussions
- Participants will write a 3-5 page double-spaced paper describing one of the political periods covered in class. Students can choose to write ONE of the following: Persian, Greek, Hasmonean, Maccabean Revolt, or Roman periods. Include the key events, dates, and people important to the period of history as well as the period's influence on the New Testament setting. Include a title page and a bibliography page citing any sources used. **(Remember that plagiarizing is cheating.)**

Class Schedule:

Week 1- Introduction of the syllabus, The Persian Period. Ironside, Pp. 7-14; Marty, Pp. 19-47.

Week 2-The Greek Period. Ironside, Pp. 15-32; Marty, Pp. 49-69.

Week 3-The Maccabean Revolt. Ironside, Pp. 33-70; Marty, Pp. 71-88.

Week 4-The Hasmonean Period. Ironside, Pp. 71-87; Marty, Pp. 89-102.

Week 5- The Roman Period. Ironside, Pp. 88-101; Marty, Pp. 103-120.

Week 6-The Roman Period. Marty, Pp. 121-140.

Week 7-The Early Church and the Herodians. **(Paper Due)**. Marty, Pp. 143-158.

Week 8- The Apocrypha Books, The Jewish Sects in the New Testament: Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes. Geography and summary of the timeline of events which lead to the Gospels. Ironside, Pp. 102-112; Marty, Pp. 159-175.

Grades will be based on the following:

Assigned Reading 25%

Class Discussions 25%

Paper 50%

Total 100%

Additional Resources (Not Required): *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*, Craig Keener. *The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament Era*, James S. Jeffers. *Holman Bible Atlas: A Complete Guide to the Expansive Geography of Biblical History*, Thomas Brisco.

ZMTI 134: The Book of Romans

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate the social-cultural background of the letter and how it impacts Paul's writing.
- Identify and explain the main theological themes of the letter.
- Apply to their spiritual walk the spiritual encouragements and admonishments of Paul found in the letter.

Text for the course, *Exalting Jesus in Romans, Christ-Centered Exposition Series*, Tony Merida

Course Requirements:

- Attendance. Participants must have 80% attendance to receive a passing grade.
- Assigned Reading
- Class Discussions
- Participants will write a 3-page double-spaced paper on the book of Romans. The paper should include the following information: A section describing the context of the writing including why Paul wrote and who he was writing to. The main theological themes of the book of Romans. Three points of personal application to the student's spiritual life. The paper is due in week 7 of the course. The paper should include a title page with the student's name, subject, and date as well as page numbers. **(Remember that plagiarizing is cheating.)**

Class Schedule:

- Week 1- Romans chapters 1 & 2. Power of the Gospel and God's Righteous Judgement.
- Week 2- Romans chapters 3 & 4. Salvation from Christ through Faith Alone.
- Week 3- Romans chapters 5 & 6. The Power of Justification and the New Life.
- Week 4- Romans chapters 7 & 8. Man's Weakness and Christ's Strength. God is for us!
- Week 5- Romans chapters 9 & 10. Paul's Plea and the Faithful Evangelists
- Week 6- Romans chapters 11 & 12. The Grafted Branch and the Living Sacrifice.
- Week 7- Romans chapters 13 & 14, Paper is due. Relational Expectations; Liberty/Law.
- Week 8- Romans chapters 15 & 16. Friendships and Greetings.

Grades will be based on the following:

Assigned Reading	25%
Class Discussions	25%
Paper	50%
Total	100%

Recommended Resources: *The Letter to the Romans*, Douglas Moo. *Romans, Baker Exegetical Commentary*, Thomas R. Schreiner. *Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Romans*, Frank Thielman.