

# Bible Certificate Course

## **Introduction**

This course will enable the student to have a working knowledge of the major themes of the Bible. It is possible to complete the entire course by only using the Bible, but you may want to use aids such as a Bible Handbook, Concordance or Commentary. A list of useful books can be found at the back of this booklet. Your local public library will have several volumes that may be of help to you.

As you complete each module please mail it to your tutor for inspection and marking, which will be returned to you as soon as possible. You will find your tutor's details on the front of this booklet. Do not hesitate to contact him if you need assistance or have questions relating to this course.

Please relax and work on this course in your own time, as there is no requirement for you to rush through it. It is our prayer that it will bless, encourage and edify you as you seek to know more of God's Word.

## **Module 1**

This paper covers the first five books of the Bible. These five books, written by Moses, are known by the title 'Pentateuch.'

### Genesis

1. Can you explain why it is important to take the Genesis account of Creation literally?
2. What does the Book of Genesis teach concerning sin, Salvation and Faith?
3. Give a brief character sketch of either Noah, Abraham or Jacob.

### Exodus

1. Write a brief account of the "Redemption Plan" as typified in this book.
2. Describe how Moses was prepared for his leadership (refer to Acts 7 and Hebrews 3).
3. List the events occurring from the crossing of the Red Sea to the arrival at Sinai. What New Testament comparisons can be drawn from these events?

### Leviticus

1. Write a short essay on the subject "Fellowship in the Light of Leviticus".
2. Leviticus is the book of "Feasts". What meaning do they have for us today?
3. Give an account as to the relativity and value of the book today.

### Numbers

1. What was the significance and purpose of the Cities of Refuge?
2. Submit a paper on the theme "God's Goodness and Severity", illustrated from events recorded in the Book of Numbers.
3. Briefly explain who the Levites were, their office and their function.

### Deuteronomy

1. Submit an essay on "The Greatest Commandment" (see Deuteronomy 6:4-5).
2. Compile a short analysis of the contents of Deuteronomy.
3. Discuss the subject of "Divine Faithfulness" in the light of this book.

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## **Module 2**

This paper is designed to give you a broad knowledge of the books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth and Esther.

1. Describe the character of Joshua and his training for the leadership of Israel.
2. What do you learn from the lifestyle and customs of the Jewish race in the time of the Judges and Ruth?
3. In your opinion who was the author of the Judges? Why? State when the book was written.
4. Name which of the Judges interest you most, and why. Submit a short essay.
5. The name or word "God" is not mentioned in the book of Esther. Can you prove that Esther knew and loved the Lord?

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## **Module 3**

This paper deals with the study of the Historical books of the Old Testament: Samuel, Kings and Chronicles.

1. Write a brief account of the life and ministry of the prophet Samuel.
2. It is recorded that both Saul and David fell into sin. Both equally acknowledged the fact. How do you account for the reason only one of them was restored?
3. Why was Elisha a worthy successor to Elijah, and what did his request for a double portion imply?
4. Describe what was the great sin of Jeroboam.

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## **Module 4**

This paper will direct your study to the Prophetic books of the Bible. Here you will study the Major Prophets - Ezekiel, Daniel, Jeremiah and Isaiah.

1. Give the verses and a brief explanation of the following truths found in Isaiah:-
  - a) Christ's Virgin Birth.
  - b) Christ's Death.
  - c) Christ's Resurrection.
  - d) Christ's Second Advent and Millennial Reign.
2. What does Isaiah tell us about his own home life, surroundings, character and call?
3. Write a short essay on Jeremiah incorporating the following:-
  - a) Jeremiah's call.
  - b) Jeremiah's character.
  - c) Jeremiah's suffering.
4. Ezekiel describes his vision of the valley of dry bones, but what was it meant to teach Israel, and what may we learn from it today?
5. Explain the meaning of the Great Image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in the book of Daniel.

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### **Module 5**

Now that you have looked at the Major Prophets you should spend some time studying all the Minor Prophets. In this section we will include Ezra and Nehemiah.

1. Choose one of the following subjects and write a short essay on it.
  - a) What reference does Hosea make to the past history of Israel?
  - b) The life and ministry of Hosea.
2. Name the chief sins of Israel that the prophet Amos was called to denounce.
3. Write an essay describing at least three of the great accomplishments of Ezra.
4. It is said that Nehemiah was an ideal servant of God. Name six reasons for this.
5. Summarise the implications of the spiritual teaching in Malachi's prophecy.

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### **Module 6**

We now turn to the New Testament. You should spend time reading the Gospels in preparation for this module.

1. Offer a short account of the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Write brief notes on the life and times of John the Baptist.
3. What impact does Christ's Sermon on the Mount have upon Christian living (compare Colossians 3:4-6)?
4. It is said that the Old Testament is incomplete. In what respect does its completion become revealed?
5. Write a brief account of two of the following incidents:-
  - a) The Feeding of the Five Thousand.
  - b) The turning of water into wine.
  - c) The healing at Bethsaida.
  - d) Peter's confession of faith.
  - e) The Transfiguration of Christ.
6. Did Jesus Christ claim to be God? Give scriptural proof for your answer.
7. Outline the events leading up to the death of Christ. Include details of the "Passion" of our Lord.
8. How important is the fact of the Resurrection for the Christian believer?

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### **Module 7**

This paper is concerned only with the Acts of the Apostles. You may want to refer to Paul's Letters in order to supplement your study.

1. Give a brief account of either:-
  - a) The conviction and conversion of Saul of Tarsus.
  - b) The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.
2. Write a short essay on the first Christian martyr, Stephen.
3. What were the reasons why the Jewish leaders opposed Paul's preaching and teaching?

4. Write brief notes on one of the following:-
  - a) Paul's arrest.
  - b) Paul's defence before the Sanhedrin.
  - c) Paul's testimony before King Agrippa and Festus.
5. How many epistles did Paul write whilst a prisoner in Rome? Name them.
6. In your opinion, what was Paul's reason for writing his letter to the Ephesians?

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### **Module 8**

The Epistles of the New Testament. Choose one of the Epistles or the book of Revelation and write a brief essay incorporating the following subjects:

- a) Why it was written.
- b) What has it to say about Christ.
- c) What has it to say about sin.
- d) What has it to say about salvation.
- e) What has it to say about the church.

With the completion of this paper you will have covered the whole Bible Certificate Course. Your certificate will be forwarded to you as soon as possible after you receive your marks from your tutor. We hope that you have been blessed and enriched by your study of the Word of God.

Why not think about doing further and more intense study? You can enrol for the Diploma in Religious Studies at any time. Please contact your tutor for further information.