

# Diploma Certificate Course

## **Introduction**

This Diploma Certificate Course covers every major theme in the Holy Bible. You will be expected to submit a 20,000 word thesis on completion of the course. Please contact your tutor regarding the proposed subject of the thesis. Also, three of these modules will be examined under surveillance, your tutor will advise.

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

### Introduction to the Old Testament

#### **Compulsory Questions.**

1. Give some thought on the meaning of the inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture. What observations can you make also regarding the influence of the Bible on the world?
2. What is the root meaning of the word "Canon" and what is the significance when applied to the books of Scripture? In what divisions are the books of the Hebrew Bible to be found?
3. Did Moses actually write the Pentateuch, or is it of composite origin? If you accept the Mosaic authorship of the first five books of the Old Testament, state your reasons for this.

#### **You may choose any seven of the following questions:**

4. Give a comprehensive analysis of any three of the five books of Moses.
5. Estimate the work of Moses as Statesman, Prophet and Lawgiver.

6. Discuss the explanations which have been given to account to either, "The Ten Plagues" or "The Crossing of the Red Sea".
7. Describe the main features of the Religion of the Patriarchs, with particular reference to Abraham.
8. Describe the features of the Leaders we know as "The Judges", and provide a detailed survey of two of these figures, together with any criticisms that you feel reasonable to make in the light of your readings.
9. Give a brief account of the events which led up to the foundation of the Monarchy and indicate the part played by the prophet Samuel.
10. Summarise the achievements and describe the character of either Saul or David
11. Describe the architecture and religious significance of Solomon's Temple.
12. Show clearly how the teaching of Amos and Hosea is related to the conditions of life prevailing in Israel at their particular time in ministry.
13. State your reasons for the decline and fall of the Northern Kingdom and show why the Southern Kingdom outlived its neighbour by so many years.
14. What do you know about the Reformation begun by either Hezekiah or Josiah?
15. Why is Jeremiah described as the most spiritual of the Old Testament prophets? Would you agree with this statement yourself? How would you compare him with Isaiah?
16. Describe the conditions under which the exiles lived after they had been taken to Babylon. Do you see this in any way as a period of preparation for the coming of the Messiah?
17. Construct a life of Ezekiel, as far as you are able, and indicate the lines along which he developed his message.
18. Discuss the meaning of the "Servant" passages in Isaiah 40-66
19. Describe the parts played by Ezra and Nehemiah in the return from the Exile.
20. Outline a short lecture to demonstrate the message of the author Jonah.

## Module 2

### Introduction to the New Testament

### **Compulsory Questions.**

1. Give an outline of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ from His birth to His ascension.
2. Seven leading topics are brought before us in the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ. Can you name them? What does He tell us about the Holy Spirit and the Second Advent.
3. Write an analysis of the Book of Acts and what you know about the author of the book. Write down the lessons contained in the Book of Acts on the following: a) Prayer, b) Courage under persecution, c) The brotherhood of believers.
4. Outline the life and missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul. Draw a map of one of these journeys with the names and locations of each place visited.

### **You may choose any six of the following questions:**

5. Give brief analyses of the Gospels according to Matthew and Luke. Is it correct to declare that the main themes of Luke's Gospel "find mention in the first two chapters"? What are these?
6. What do we learn from the fourth Gospel about John, the son of Zebedee, and what indications are there that he himself was the author?
7. What do you consider to be the main aim of Paul's letters?
8. By what name are the Three letters from the last group of Paul's writing, 1 and 2 Timothy and the book of Titus, generally called? Give a summary of the lives of both Timothy and Titus.
9. Name all the Catholic Letters. What do you know about James and Jude?
10. Give your reasons for or against the Pauline authorship of the letter to the Hebrews. What do you consider to be the authors main thesis?
11. What were the various dangers of which Peter warned his readers against? Compare them with those which threaten the Church and the individual believer today.
12. Paul's letter to the church at Rome has been described as a Theological masterpiece. Would you agree with this description of the letter? State the reason for your answer. Outline three doctrines portrayed by Paul in the letter.
13. Outline the reasons why Paul wrote the letters to the Galatians and Colossians.
14. What does Paul teach about the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ in both 1 and 2 Thessalonians?

15. Outline Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians on the following: A. The Lord's Supper; B. Spiritual Gifts; C. The Resurrection.

16. Write brief notes on Onesimus and Philemon

17. Write a brief introduction to the Book of Revelation in no more than 300 words.

## Module 3

### Set Old Testament Book - Psalms

**Please answer all questions.**

1. The Book of Psalms is divided into five books and each of these include an introduction and a doxology. List and comment on these five sections.

2.

a) What do you think is the most important theme of the Psalms?

b) What Psalms do you consider to be Messianic?

c) What proof can you give to support your answer?

3. List the Psalms that were written by David. How many of them fit into the framework of David's life, as it has been recorded in the Bible? List both the Psalms and the experience he was passing through when they were written.

4. Describe the conditions that led to the writing of Psalm 32. What sections can it be divided into, and what lessons has it for the Christian today?

5. Comment on the theme contained in Psalm 115 and state what idols a present day Psalmist would mock in a contemporary Psalm.

6. The following words are used over twenty times in Psalm 119:

a) Commandment(s)

b) Judgement(s)

c) Law

d) Precepts

e) Statutes

f) Testimonies

g) Word

State the meaning of these words in the context of the Psalm.

## Module 4

### Set New Testament Book - Luke

### **Compulsory Questions.**

1. State what you know about:
  - a) The author of the Gospel.
  - b) The date and sources of information of the Gospel.
  - c) The style and purpose of the Gospel.
2. Was Dr. Luke accurate in the details he wrote down? Give the reasons for your answers.
3. Write a brief outline of the Gospel.
4. What reasons can be given as to why this Gospel has been called "The Gospel for the sinner"?

### **You may choose any three of the following questions:**

5. Discuss 8 parables and 3 miracles which are only recorded in this particular Gospel.
6. How many nautical terms are used in the Gospel? What do they suggest?
7. Luke alone preserves the first 5 Christian hymns. Name them and analyse them.
8. Do you consider that there is any difference between Luke's account of Christ's discourse on His second coming to those given by Matthew and Mark? If your answer is yes, name and describe them.
9. Write brief notes on the following:
  - a) The Prodigal Son
  - b) The sending out of the Seventy
  - c) The conversion of Zacchaeus
  - d) The Rich man and Lazarus
10. Compare Luke's account of The Resurrection with that of Matthew. Would you consider Luke's account more detailed? Give your reasons for your answers.

## Module 5

### Creation

**Please answer all questions.**

1. Genesis chapter 1 and 2 is the Biblical record of Creation. Read through these chapters and answer this three part question.

- a) Should Genesis be taken literally?
- b) How long were the days of Genesis 1?
- c) What's the best 'proof' of creation?

2. There are three main theories regarding the creation of the world:

- a) Special / Divine Creation
- b) Theistic Evolution
- c) Evolution

Give a brief summary of each of these theories and state which best agrees with the Biblical record.

3. Did early Church leaders and reformers believe the literal creation account given in Genesis? Explain.

4. How does biblical Christianity explain the origin of wars, disease, famine, and other evils? (Take special note of Genesis 3).

## Module 6

### Systematic Theology

#### **Compulsory Questions.**

1. In your opinion should Christian creeds be given similar authority with the words of scripture in determining points of Christian doctrine? State your reasons, and indicate clearly the relation of creeds to the scriptures.

2. Write a complete list of the Casual and Moral Attributes of God. What is meant by the terms Omnipresence and Omnipotence in relation to the person of God?

3. Outline the Biblical teaching on the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Give Scriptural proof of the virgin birth of our Lord.

4. Write brief notes on the following:

- A. The Eternal state of the Redeemed.
- B. The Eternal state of the finally impenitent.

5. Write brief notes on the following:

- A. Saving Faith.
- B. Justification.
- C. Regeneration.
- D. Propitiation.
- E. Reconciliation.

6. What are the fundamental principles underlying the Scriptural presentation of the Doctrine of Sanctification?

7. Would the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ be any poorer if the observances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper were discontinued? Give some reasons why some Christians neglect them.

8. Some "Liberal Theologians" declare that our Lord's Return took place when the Holy Spirit came to the world on the Day of Pentecost. Would you say that this idea is true or false? Give Biblical reasons for your answer.

**You may choose any five of the following questions:**

9. Write an analysis of the following:

- A. The Inspiration of the Scriptures.
- B. The Revelation of the Scriptures.
- C. The Canon of the Scripture.

10. A "Jehovah's Witness" worker has just called at your door and challenged you to prove the Doctrine of the Trinity from the Bible. Clearly state how you would respond and give Scriptural reasons for your answers.

11. Which person or persons of the sacred Trinity were responsible for the acts of Creation? Discuss this matter thoroughly.

12. Was the death of the Lord Jesus Christ absolutely necessary for the salvation of mankind? Do you think that there is any other way of deliverance for mankind? Give the reasons for your answers.

13. The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ has been called the greatest miracle in the Bible. Give Scriptural reasons why this statement is true.

14. What Scriptural proofs can you give that the Holy Spirit is a person and not just an influence?

15. Is the Holy Spirit functioning today as much as He was during the days of the Apostles? On what Scriptural observations do you base your reply?

16. Is there any Scriptural Authority for stating that some men are predestined to Eternal Condemnation? How has this subject been treated by various Christian Theologians?

17. Do you consider that every soul is immortal? On what Biblical grounds do you base your belief? What difference does the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ make to the Christian departed?

18. What do you personally consider to be the great climax of World History?
19. In your opinion is the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ one single event, or does it take place in two distinct phases? Give the Scriptural reasons for your answer.
20. In your opinion will there be just one general judgement of mankind at the consumption of all things, or does God judge mankind in different ways? Give Scriptural reasons for your answer.

## Module 7

### The Second Coming of Christ

#### **Compulsory Questions.**

1. Read Luke 21. Christ's discourse in this chapter is in response to two questions from His disciples (Cf. Matthew 24:3).
  - a) When would the temple in Jerusalem be destroyed?
  - b) When would Christ return and this present age end?
  - c) List in chronological order the events in Luke 21 from the ascension of Christ until His return.
2. Read Daniel 2. This chapter covers the entire period of Gentile rule from the time of Nebuchadnezzar until the Return of Christ. What four Gentile Powers are referred to in verses 38-40? What do you understand by the "Divided" Kingdom of verses 41-43? Give approximate starting dates for each of the five kingdoms mentioned: i.e. Gold, Silver, Brass, Iron, Iron and Clay.
3. One of the hallmarks of the Last Days is shown to be a departure from the true faith (2 Timothy 4:3-4, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, Luke 18:8 etc.). Using Matthew 24:23-31 and any other relevant Scriptures, explain how believers become deceived and what the antidote to deception is.
4. a) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. In your own words describe what these verses teach about the Rapture of the Church.
  - b) Discuss briefly the following positions in light of your answer in 4a:
    - i. A-millennialism.
    - ii. Post-millennialism.
    - iii. Pre-millennialism.
5. Read Ezekiel 37. This chapter is dealing with the future of Israel not the church (see verse 11). What significance do you feel the establishing of the Israeli state in 1948 has in light of these verses? What would these verses have to say to survivors of the Holocaust? Do you believe that they can be linked with end of "The times of the Gentiles"?

**You may choose any five of the following questions:**

6. Read Luke 17:26-30. What were the characteristics of society in Noah's and Lot's days and how are these reflected in our own day?

7. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-13. What are the hallmarks of the last days said to be in these verses and how do you see these apply to our own society?

8. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. What two events does the apostle Paul say must occur before Christ returns?

9. Using the same Scriptures, explain what you think Paul was writing about when he said, "Ye know what withholdeth" and "letteth" in verses 6 to 8. The three views are:-

- (a) The Holy Spirit.
- (b) The Church.
- (c) The Caesars.

10. Read Luke 21:24-33. Verse 24 indicates a definite end to the "Times of the Gentiles" that began in Nebuchadnezzar's day. In your view:

- (a) Have those "times" now come to an end? Give your reasons either way.
- (b) What is meant by the word "generation" in verse 32 and how does this tie in with your answer to (a)?

11. Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. What do these verses teach us concerning believers alive at Christ's return, how does 1 John 3:1-3 agree?

12. Read Revelation 19:5-20:6. In what way do these verses throw light upon the Rapture, the Tribulation, and the Millennium?

13. Read Revelation chapter 2-3. Apart from these letters being actual letters written to churches in the apostle John's day, how could they also be seen to be describing seven distinct periods of church history?

14. Read Daniel 9:24-27.

- (a) Show how these verses clearly pinpoint the date for the crucifixion of Jesus.
- (b) How do these verses, especially (:26) help us to identify the coming evil "prince"? (otherwise known as the Antichrist?)
- (c) Futurists believe that (:27) describes the final seven years before Christ's return. If this is your position, explain likewise!

15. Read Revelation 17. Many believe that these verses describe the Church of Rome.

- (a) What characteristics of the "great whore" of these verses are seen in the Church of Rome?
- (b) Show how the popes titles: Holy father, Supreme Pontiff and Vicar of Christ are "names of blasphemy" (:3).
- (c) What influence does this "Mother of Harlots" (:5) have upon the world government in the last days?

16. Read Revelation 13. What does this chapter tell us about the Antichrist' control in the Last Days over:

- (a) Universal worship.
- (b) Commerce and Industry.
- (c) The forces of nature.

17. Read Acts 1:6-8. What events do you feel must occur before Jesus is openly declared King of Israel and what verses indicate that Abraham's decedents will once again take their place as God's leading nation? If you do not believe that God has any plans for Israel as an earthly nation, explain the disciples question and Christ's answer.

The following modules are for those intending to apply for ministerial accreditation with The Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries. All questions are compulsory.

If you are not applying for ministerial accreditation, then you only have to write your 20,000 word thesis. All quotations referred to in your work must be entered as footnotes at the bottom of each page. Discuss the subject of your thesis with your tutor.

## Module 8

### Homiletics

**Answer all questions.**

1. What is the true nature of preaching and how does it differ from an address?
2. Select one of the preachers from each of the Testaments and show how God's call enabled them to fulfil His will for their lives.
3. Choose one of the miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ and give an outline of the message contained in it.
4. Clearly define the word "Homiletics" and reveal its use in preaching God's Word.
5. The five main classifications of the sermon are, Textual, Expository, Topical, Devotional, and Allegorical. Briefly describe each one separately.
6. What do you think is meant by the phrase "Taking the Text out of Context", and do you think that a preacher should ever use a text in this manner? Give reasons for your answer.
7. Give two complete sermon outlines on either John 3:16 or Galatians 2:20. Offer three points for each sermon outline and three sub-headings to each point. One outline must be alliterated.

8. Give a sermon illustration for each of the following subjects:
  - a) The Love of God
  - b) The Way to God
  - c) The Call to Repentance
  - d) The Consecrated Life
9. Give a reason why you think illustrations are or are not essential to preaching.
10. Show clearly how you would introduce a sermon on Hebrews 2:3. Write the introduction in full.
11. Now write out a full conclusion to Hebrews 2:3. Remember that it should be short and to the point.
12. You have been asked to present a Bible Study on Daniel 1. State how you would approach the chapter and give an outline of it.
13. Give a sermon outline on the Return of Christ. Choose your own texts for this subject.
14. Write out in full a sermon on one of the following texts:
  - a) Genesis 1:1
  - b) Isaiah 9:6
  - c) Luke 24:6
  - d) John 5:24
  - e) Romans 12:1
  - f) Hebrews 2:3

## Module 9

### Pastoralia

#### **Answer all questions.**

1. What is the Scriptural meaning of the word "Pastor"? Would you say that the Lord was linked to this office? Give reasons for your answers.
2. The Christian ministry of Comfort and Reconciliation may be defined both from Scripture and contemporary need. Give examples of these.
3. Words of comfort are not always soothing words. What other forms may such words take in the Pastoral Ministry?
4. The "Mind of Christ" for any given situation must be sought in the exercise of the Pastoral Ministry. Show how the pastor should go about seeking this both from the examples found in Scripture and in daily experience.

5. Link Titus 2:1 with 2 Timothy 4:2-4 and show what special great attribute, seen in these texts, is to be required of the pastor both in his ministry and dealings with his own people.

6. Give example of particular friendships which should be encouraged and avoided the Pastoral Ministry.

7. What pastoral lessons can be learned from the picture of the shepherd? What would you say that today's shepherd in the western world, particularly regarding modern technology, could teach about pastoral work?

8. Can a man be a "good pastor" and a "poor preacher" at the same time? In your own opinion, is it necessary to be both if one is to be a successful minister of the Gospel?

## Module 10

### Analysis of Two Christian Books

**Please answer all questions.**

1. Please obtain the book entitled "The Seduction of Christianity" by Dave Hunt, then answer the following questions:

a) What conclusions does the author make in chapter 1?

b) Analyse chapter 6.

c) Write brief notes on "The Temptation to Power" in chapter 7 (chapter 8 in some editions).

d) Write brief notes from chapter 12 on the following:

(i) The Spirit Guide called Jesus

(ii) Psychospirituality on the Move

(iii) Jesus, Mary, and other Spirit Guides

(iv) Deifying the Birthing Process.

e) Examine and analyse chapter 14.

2. Write a book review for one of the following:

a) Christ in All the Scriptures by A M Hodgkin

b) Mystery, Babylon the Great by I. A. Sadler

c) The Genesis Record by Henry Morris

d) The Kingdom of the Cults by Ralph Martin

## Thesis

You are now required to submit a 20,000 word thesis. Your thesis must be typed not handwritten. It is advisable to make print a second copy of your work. Please discuss the subject of your thesis with your tutor.

### **The structure of a thesis**

Title Page.

Title (including subtitle), author, institution, date.

Table of Contents.

List all headings and subheadings with page numbers.

indent subheadings.

Chapter headings and sub-headings if necessary.

Paragraphs should be double-spaced (as used in this booklet).

### **Introduction**

You can't write a good introduction until you know what the body of the paper says. Consider writing the introductory section(s) after you have completed the rest of the paper, rather than before.

Be sure to include a hook at the beginning of the introduction. This is a statement of something sufficiently interesting to motivate your reader to read the rest of the paper, it is an important /interesting scientific problem that your paper either solves or addresses. You should draw the reader in and make them want to read the rest of the paper.

*What else belongs in the introductory section(s) of your paper?*

- \* A statement of the goal of the paper: why the study was undertaken, or why the paper was written.

- \* Sufficient background information to allow the reader to understand the context and significance of the question you are trying to address. Explain the scope of your work, what will and will not be included.

- \* A verbal "road map" or verbal "table of contents" guiding the reader to what lies ahead.

### **Conclusion**

What is the strongest and most important statement that you can make from your observations?

If you met the reader at a meeting six months from now, what do you want them to remember about your paper?

Include the broader implications of your results.

Do not repeat word for word the abstract, introduction or discussion.

### **References**

Cite all ideas, concepts, text, data that are not your own as footnotes on each page. Please use the small number e.g. <sup>1,2,3</sup> to identify footnotes.

All references cited in the text must be listed

cite single-author references by the surname of the author (followed by date of the publication in parenthesis)

... Seduction of Christianity, Pg.54, Dave Hunt, Harvest House (1994)

... If your quote is from a web site add the address, e.g.  
[www.goodnews/gospel.htm](http://www.goodnews/gospel.htm).

### **Bibliography**

After your conclusion add, in alphabetical order, the sources you quote from using the title, author, page, publisher and date format.

### **Recommended Book List**

A History of Christianity, K. S. Latourette, Prince Press  
Believer's Bible Commentary, William MacDonald, Nelson  
Bible Doctrine, Wayne Gruden, IVP  
Boyd's Bible Handbook, Robert Boyd, Harvest House  
Christian Theology, Alister McGrath, IVP  
Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology, Walter Elwell, Baker  
History of the Reformation, J. H. Merle d'Aubigne, Baker  
In Defence of the Faith, Dave Hunt, Harvest House  
Institutes of the Christian Religion, John Calvin, Collins  
New Bible Dictionary, IVP  
New Dictionary of Theology, IVP  
New Illustrated Bible Dictionary, R. F. Youngblood, Nelson  
Old Testament History, Charles F. Pfeiffer, Baker  
Outline of Theology, A.A. Hodge, Banner of Truth  
Systematic Theology, A. H. Strong, Pickering and Inglis  
Systematic Theology, Wayne Gruden, IVP  
Systematic Theology, John Miley, Hendricksons  
The Fundamentals for the Twenty-First Century, Couch, Kregal  
The Other Side of Calvinism, Laurence M. Vance, Vance Publications  
The Pilgrim Church, E. H. Broadbent, Gospel Folio Press  
The Reformation, Will Durant, MJF Books  
The Westminster Confession, G. I. Williamson, Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co  
Thompson's Chain Reference Bible, Kirkbride  
Today's Handbook of Bible Characters, E. M. Blaiklock, Bethany Publishing House  
What Love is This?, Dave Hunt, Loyal