



Syllabus

THE 453: Introducing Jesus: A Historical and Theological Perspective Genesis Bible Institute

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How do we know who Jesus really was – and is? How can we be assured that someone who lived on earth two thousand years ago rose from the dead with invincible life and therefore lives today? Scholars traverse two general paths when pursuing evidence of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. One path is that of scholarly historical research. This path traces out all the evidences for the historical reliability of the gospels. The other path is sometimes called the “testimony of the Holy Spirit.” This path embraces the conviction that divine truth is self-attesting and that the Holy Spirit is able to fully persuade us that Scripture is the very Word of God.

In this course, students will journey down both paths. In Mark Strauss’ *Introducing Jesus: A Short Guide to the Gospels’ History and Message*, students will survey the historical and religious backgrounds of the gospels and examine a variety of questions related to the historical Jesus; and John Piper’s *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ* will challenge students to see the self-authenticating greatness and glory of Jesus Christ – to delight in him as true and beautiful and satisfying.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the historical evidence that supports the life, death and resurrection of Christ;
- Explain how the life of Christ through the testimony of the Holy Spirit authenticates the life, death and resurrection of Christ;
- Explain and apply key theological terms relating to the life of Christ;
- Analyze the major Old Testament prophecies about Jesus against their New Testament fulfillments;
- Describe the historical, literary and structural features of each of the four gospels;
- Summarize the main events of Israel’s history from the close of the Old Testament to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD;
- Quote four Bible verses from memory: John 20:30-31 and John 21:24-25.

REQUIRED READING

Piper, John. *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2004. Print.

Strauss, Mark. *Introducing Jesus: A Short Guide to the Gospels’ History and Message*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018. Print.

Study Guide: A Historical Look Into the Life of Christ.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

- *Study Guide Answers* (worth 30 points / 30% of grade)
As you read the Study Guide: A Historical Look Into the Life of Christ, you will be prompted to answer questions based upon Strauss' book. The Rubric for Study Guide Responses (see *Genesis Writer's Manual*) will be used to evaluate the quality of your answers. There are 30 questions, and each answer is worth 1 point.

- *Assignment 1: Fulfillment of Prophecy* (worth 10 points / 10% of grade)
You will be given a list of Old Testament prophecies about Jesus and their New Testament fulfillments. In 10 words or less, you will analyze each of these prophecies against these New Testament fulfillments.

- *Assignment 2: Reaction to Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ* (worth 25 points / 25% of grade)
In Part 1 of this assignment, you will summarize each chapter of Piper's book and explain how it affected you. In Part 2, you will consider the life of Christ through the testimony of the Holy Spirit. Each chapter summary must be 100 words (minimum), and your conclusion of the life of Christ through the Holy Spirit must be a minimum of 400 words.

- *Scripture Memory Test* (worth 10 points / 10% of grade)
This test will allow you to demonstrate your memorization of John 20:30-31 and John 21:24-25.

- *Final Exam* (worth 25 points / 25% of grade)
The Final Exam consists of True/False, Multiple Choice, and fill-in the blank questions. The exam will help measure your knowledge of course concepts.

Summary of Assignments and Grading		
Study Guide Answers	30 points	30%
Fulfillment of Prophecy	10 points	10%
Reaction to Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ	25 points	25%
Scripture Memory Test	10 points	10%
Final Exam	25 points	25%
Total	100 points	100%

