

CTM210 Biblical Studies and Exegesis

LEVEL ONE

Isaiah Assignments

1. How might one or more themes from the Book of Isaiah relate to the situation the contemporary church finds itself in.
2. How might one apply a passage of prophecy to a contemporary situation which is, by definition, far removed from that of the original author.
3. In what way was the book of Isaiah important to the New Testament writers and the early church?
4. Prepare a house group Bible study on ONE of the following passages: Isaiah 1:21-31; 7:1-8:10; 10:5-19; 52:13-53:12.

Matthew Assignments

1. Write a sermon on prayer using Matthew 6.5-13 as your text. Remember a sermon needs contemporary application. As an introduction outline who will hear the sermon, why you have taken the particular approach you do and summarize your aim in one sentence.
2. You have been asked by a house group to lead a Bible study on Matthew 12.15-23. Prepare a 1300 word bible study paying particular attention to what it reveals about Jesus identity. Complete your assignment with questions for the house group to spark discussion and justify your exegetical choices and questions.
3. Your local church primary school has asked you to lead three 10 minute assemblies focussing on the Sermon on the Mount. They will take place over three weeks and there will be around 200 children aged 5 – 10 present on each occasion. Write 300 words outlining which themes from the Sermon you would focus on and how you would present them. Use the remaining 1000 words (or so) to justify your choices and bring out the most important themes of the Sermon on the Mount as understood by modern New Testament scholars
4. Select three passages from Matthew and show how they provide a critique of the social context in which the first readers of Matthew lived, and show how they are relevant today.

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LEVEL TWO

Isaiah Assignments:

1. What was the intended audience of the book(s) of Isaiah, and why was it written? In what ways might a modern audience identify with the book's first hearers?
2. Show how the book of Isaiah relates the prophetic messages of judgment and salvation, using specific examples (such as chapters 6-12). How might this interrelation of judgment and salvation in the book affect our use of it today?
3. Show with examples how modern approaches to reading Old Testament books have either embraced or moved beyond historical-critical methods of reading. Is it important in modern interpretation to try to recover 'the prophet's words'?
4. Why was the book of Isaiah important to the New Testament writers and the early church? What role should the use of Isaiah by the New Testament and other early writers play in modern interpretation?
5. Give an exposition and interpretation of ONE of the following passages: Isaiah 1:21-31; 7:1-8:10; 10:5-19; 52:13-53:12. Place the passage in its context in the book, drawing on background information as far as possible, and draw out the main theological topics and themes for a Christian audience.

Matthew Assignments:

1. Matthew portrays 'a Jesus who both observed and in some cases even intensified Torah and yet also in other cases relaxed Torah' (Dale Allison). What is Matthew's understanding of the Law and what relevance does his understanding have for modern Christians?
2. 'Jesus substitutes a system of purity with a system of compassion' (Marcus Borg). Explore critically the roles women play in Matthew's Gospel. What significance do Matthew's narratives about women have for modern Christians?
3. How does Matthew's gospel reflect the relationship between Matthew's community and Israel? Is it fair to say that these Christians saw themselves as Jewish?
4. To what extent is Matthew a critique of the Roman Empire, and how does our awareness of this affect our use of Matthew in our present context?
5. Does Matthew's Jesus preach a salvation by works? Why?