

## CTM210 Biblical Studies and Exegesis Assignments

### 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?