

Review Questions

Chapter 1: the Beginning of the Story

1. On p. 10, Drane asserts the point that the writings of the New Testament have unique place in world literature, despite the relative unsophistication of its writers. What are at least five arguments used to support the claim of the New Testament's literary importance?
2. Define the term, "metanarrative" within the context of the Bible.
3. What made Jesus' teachings distinct from traditional teachings of his day?
4. What was the nature of the riot in Rome in AD 49 according to the Roman historian, Suetonius (see p. 14)?
5. Who are Antiochus IV Epiphanes, Alexander the Great, Caesar Augustus (Octavius). Explain their significant contributions to New Testament history.
6. What military action did Alexander take that defined him as one of the greatest political strategists in world history?
7. Prior to the time of the Roman Empire, the language and ideologies of the Mediterranean people was much different. Alexander's emergence of the world stage was the chief contributor to the changes in these cultural elements through a vigilantly enforced program called Hellenism. Define Hellenism and briefly define its in terms of language, infrastructure, religion, and social impact upon how the diverse citizenry viewed itself collectively.
8. Who were the Stoics? What distinguishes this philosophical system?
9. Who were the Epicureans? What distinguishes this philosophical system?
10. What is Gnosticism? Explain its view of supernatural beings and what is to be considered evil and good.
11. In Acts 19, Paul is involved in a confrontation with the followers of Artemis at Ephesus. What details/ reactions of the Ephesians express what might be considered typical Hellenistic first century religious ideologies? What details/ reactions are atypical and most likely provide us important information about how Christianity was viewed by some?
12. Define mystery religions. Why is the study of mystery religions significant to New Testament background studies?
13. What benefits does Christianity offer those who were searching for meaning and purpose in life?
14. At what critical point in history does Hellenism encounter Judaism? Who were the primary influencing figures on both sides?
15. Trace the history of Herod the Great and the three Herods after him.
16. What are the pros and cons of Herod the Great's rule?
17. Distinguish between the Sadducees, Pharisees, Zealots, Essences, God-fearer, Proselyte, Zealot. Where does each stand in terms of Messianic expectation?

Chapter 2: Jesus' Birth and Early Years

1. Mary's *Magnificat* is found in Luke 1:46-55. After reading these verses, explain what ironic history this hymn communicate about Jesus' birth and the earlier witnesses of his early years?
2. Who was emperor at the time of Jesus' birth? Describe his rise to power.
3. When was Jesus born?
4. Trace Jesus journeys from birth to death. In what region was he born? In what other regions did he reside? Why?

5. What is significant about Nazareth?
6. How was the trade of carpentry viewed in Jesus' time?
7. Who is John the Baptist? To whom is Hebrew figure is he compared? Why? How does he compare with the other religious teachers of his day?
8. What was John's hesitancy in baptizing Jesus? Why does Jesus insist?
9. On p. 59-60, Drane builds the point that "...Jesus' baptism was in a sense the first stop on the road to the cross." Provide three reasons from your text that explain why it was necessary for Jesus to be baptized.
10. Read Matthew 4: 1-11. In what three ways did Satan tempt Jesus and what was Jesus' response? With what three human systems did Satan seek to entice Jesus? See pp. 61-63.

Chapter 3: Jesus and His Message

1. "The kingdom of God" is a very popular term, especially in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. To the Jews, what does this term mean? What does it mean when Jesus uses it?
2. What is John Drane's working definition of "the kingdom of God"?
3. In Mark 9:43-47, Jesus compares "entering the kingdom" with "entering into life." Discuss the significance of this comparison for those who wish to gain entry. What assurance for the present life does entrance into the kingdom promise? What assurance for the future does it hold?
4. Define eschatology, futurist eschatology, realized eschatology, and inaugurated eschatology.
5. The Gospel of Matthew uses the term "kingdom of heaven" most often where the other gospel writer use "kingdom of God." Why?
6. Define the terms, "Son of Man," "Messiah," "Son of God," and "the servant" in relation to Jesus.

Chapter 4: Stories and Signs

1. Define *Sitz Im Leben*, *Kerygma*, *Targums*
2. Define allegory, parable, metaphor, analogy
3. What lessons do the following stories teach? Are they considered parables or allegories?
 - The Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:23-35)
 - The Sower (Matthew 13: 1-23)
 - The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
 - The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
 - The Vine and the Branches (John 15: 1-11)
 - parable of the wicked tenants (Matt 21:33-41)
 - The sheep and the goat (Matt 25:31-33)
 - The unjust steward (Luke 16:1-8)
 - The workers in the vineyard (Matt 20:1-16)
 - The hidden treasures and the pearl (Matt 13:44-45)
 - The Lost Sheep (Luke 15: 3-7)
 - The Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14)
4. Briefly define the roles of C.H. Dodd and Joaquim Jeremias in the study of the parables of Jesus.
5. Why did Jesus teach in parables? What principal messages do they teach? See p. 94-101
6. A number of parables concern the coming of God's kingdom in the future (Matt 13:24-30, 47-50; 25:2-33). What is the main lesson taught in these stories?

7. Do all parables have only one meaning? Discuss briefly why or why not.
8. Discuss the role of rationalism on how western scholarship views miracles. See p. 101.
9. Discuss the role of the historical method of interpretation over against the allegorical method over the last 200-300 years. Which one has been normative world-wide?
10. The healing of the lepers (Matt 8:1-4) and Roman centurion (Matt 8:5-13) are described as mimetic (p. 103). In other words, these miracles are representational of some of the kingdom of God that Jesus wishes to communicate. What are their messages?
11. What three major lessons do miracles communicate? See pp. 103-105.

Chapter 5: How to Live Like Jesus

1. Generally speaking, were Jews and Christians always antagonistic toward each other during the time of Christ?
2. How were Jews viewed who were not able to practice Torah observance within a Roman context?
3. What factors contributed to the corruption that came to define certain aspects of Jewish society?
4. What key issues created a convergence of differences between Jesus and the Jewish establishment? What was the opinion of the establishment on the matter? What was Jesus' view on the matter? List all discussed in chapter 5 in detail.
5. What made Jesus' teachings unique from that of other Jewish teachers of his day?
6. Define *didache*.
7. Did Jesus abolish the law? How or how not?

Chapter 6: Crucifixion

1. Why did Jesus die? Present all factors discussed in chapter 6.
2. What was the nature of the political conflict Jesus seem to have had with the Roman rulers?
3. Could the Jewish officials carry out a death sentence? Why or why not?
4. Describe the trials of Jesus, which led to his crucifixion. What was the sequence of event of the Jewish trial? The Roman trial?
5. On what grounds was Jesus accused ultimately by the Jewish leaders?
6. In what way was Jesus' death a battle? An example? A sacrifice? A ransom? See pp. 129-135.
7. What does it mean to say that "Jesus died in the place of other people"? See pp. 135-137
8. What is the sequence of events leading to Jesus' death during his last week before the crucifixion?

Chapter 7: Resurrection

1. What did the earliest Christians understand by "resurrection"?

2. In what way has the idea of a resurrection been difficult to accept by commentators of a rationalist-materialist worldview?
3. What four proofs does Drane present to validate the event of a resurrection? Describe each.
4. How is the *kerygma* defined by C.H. Dodd in light of the resurrection?
5. What are the three evidence submitted on p. 151, that seem to cast doubt on the fact of a resurrection?
6. Drane distinguishes “resurrection faith” from “resurrection fact.” Define both terms. See 151, 154-156.
7. Paul claimed that the Christian faith would be meaningless without a resurrection. How so? Read 1 Cor 15 and Rom 5.
8. What three realities does that fact of a resurrection imply? See pp. 157-160

Chapter 8: Understanding the Gospels

1. What is a gospel?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses for the view of the gospels as a biography?
3. Define form criticism and redaction criticism.
4. How are the gospels similar to Plutarch’s *Parallel Lives*? How are they different? See pp. 163-165.
5. In composing the gospels, the writers seem to look back at the life of Jesus and onward to their own cultural context and Christian communities to find meaning for their faith. What conclusions does Drane draw from this process? Summarize the four presented on p. 167-168.
6. How were the gospel accounts gather to form what we have today? What method and messages formed the components of them? See p. 168-171.
7. Define Q (*Quelle*), *logia*, *testimonia*, *euangelion*.
8. What is *The Gospel of Thomas*?
9. Define “synoptic gospels.” What is the synoptic problem?
10. What significant contribution did the work of Hermann Gunkel bring to synoptic studies?
11. What was J.J. Griesbach’s proposal for the order in which the gospel were compiled? What reason underlie the popularity of Griesbach’s hypothesis? See pp 171-172.
12. What are the five main considerations for the popular belief that Mathew and Luke borrowed information from Mark? Answer based on wording, order, content, style and ideas and theology. See pp. 172-174.
13. What is the two-source hypothesis? Four-source hypothesis?
14. What arguments does Drane present to affirm the existence of Q?
15. For whom were the gospels originally compiled?

Chapter 9: Four Portraits of Jesus

1. What significant contribution did Papias make to Marcan studies? Where is this contribution found?

2. Construct a tabular paradigm comparing Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. For each evangelist, answer the following:
 - a. Latin/Hebrew name
 - b. Readers
 - c. Date
 - d. Purpose
 - e. Style/ key words
 - f. View of Jesus
 - g. Outline/ Unique structural detail/ ending
3. What are two recommendations for the structure of Matthew? What are the drawbacks/ benefits of each structure?
4. Define *heilsgeschichte*, *parousia*, Christology and soteriology
5. Describe the major structural, chronological and interpretative differences between John and the Synoptic gospels.
6. Define ethical dualism
7. Memorize Luke 6:31-36

Chapter 10: Can We Trust the Gospels?

1. What language must have been the one Jesus used primarily when teaching?
2. How did language impact the way Jesus' sayings were transmitted?
3. How soon were the gospels written after Jesus' death?
4. How did moving the gospel from an oral *testimonia* to a written one affect the end result?
5. Did the evangelists write with any form of bias? Why
6. What is the main method of communication used around the world?
7. According to Drane, how has Western Enlightenment philosophers and theologians interpreted the seemingly discrepant accounts of the gospel, which ultimately casts doubt on its validity? What does Drane call this approach? Why? See pp. 211-214.
8. What historical and cultural factors explain the diversity of within the gospel accounts and their apparent acceptance by their first century readers? See pp. 214-216.
9. What is "the quest for the historical Jesus," briefly defined? How many quests were there?

Chapter 11: Engaging the Wider World

1. Using the map on p. 227, locate the following places: Achaea, Alexandria, Antioch, Arabia, Asia, Black Sea, Caesarea, Cappadocia, Carthage, Cilicia, Corinth, Crete, Cyrene, Cyrus, Egypt, Ephesus, Galatia, Jerusalem, Lycia & Pamphylia, Macedonia, Mediterranean Sea, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Rome, Syracuse, Syria, Thessalonica, Thrace, Tyre,

2. Trace the overarching plot of the transmission of the gospel in the Acts of the Apostles from the time Jesus' resurrection and ascension to Paul's missionary journeys. In what stages was the church born and established?
3. How does Drane discuss Jewish expectations for keeping the law? In what ways did Jesus' teachings detach itself from these standards? See pp. 224-227.
4. What was Jesus' position on a mission to the Gentiles?
5. Prior to Jesus' ascension, his disciples seemed to operate with a sense of doubt and fearfulness. By the tie of the events of Acts 2, we see a more bold and courage group, willing to share their faith despite the risks. What happened to produce such a transformation?
6. What was the outcome of the birth of the church? See cts 2:14-42.
7. Who was Phillip? What role did he play in the formation and transitional period of the church?
8. What is Jewish feast of Pentecost and how is it celebrated?
9. Define *glossolalia* and pneumatology.
10. Who was Stephen? What were the issues that warranted his involvement in the development of the church?
11. In what geographical direction did the church expand? See pp. 239-242.
12. Who was Peter? What role did he play in the expansion period of the church?
13. Who was Nero?
14. Why did Luke write Acts? What sort of book is it?

Chapter 12: Paul: From Persecutor to Apostle

1. Who was Paul? Where was he born? Raised? How was he educated? What qualifies him to be an apostle and biblical writer?
2. Define the following terms: Synagogue, Temple, Sanhedrin
3. What were the general positions of Hillel? Gamaliel?
4. How did Judaism influence Paul's religious thinking? How was his thinking divergent from it?
5. How did Greek philosophy influence Paul's philosophical thinking? How was his thinking divergent from it?
6. How did mystery religions influence Paul's religious and philosophical thinking? How was his thinking divergent from it?
7. How did the emperor cult influence Paul's religious and philosophical thinking? How was his thinking divergent from it?
8. Briefly discuss the collection for the Jerusalem churches. Why did Paul insist upon a collection?
9. Trace Paul's whereabouts and the time of his conversion and after. How long did he remain in each location? See 268-272. See also Gal 1 and 2.
10. Why is Damascus significant to early Christian studies?
11. What was Paul's view of the church and Israel? Describe briefly. See pp. 264-266

12. In every town where Paul ministered, he carried his work giving consistent emphasis to the preaching of the Gospel to the Jew first, then the Gentiles. What was Paul's view on a mission to the Gentiles? To the Jews?
13. Define Stoicism, Mystery Religion, Syncretism

Chapter 13: Travels and Letters

1. Trace Paul's whereabouts on his first missionary journey. What significant happening took place there?
2. Define "Judaizers."
3. What are the elements of a Greek letter?
4. Answer the following questions concerning Galatians:
 - a. Readers
 - b. Date
 - c. Purpose, *Sitz Im Leben*
 - d. Central theme
 - e. Outline by chapters
5. Where did Paul get his authority?
6. Galatians is said to be one of Paul's most frank, unceremonious letters. What are the points of contention that Paul addresses? See pp. 282-287
7. What issues were presented at the Council of Jerusalem? What was the verdict of it?
8. What is significant about the following cities within Paul's missionary expeditions: Rome, Athens, Jerusalem, Corinth, Philippi
9. How were Paul's missionary efforts in Philippi conducted? Who was first converted there?
10. Answer the following questions concerning 1 and 2 Thessalonians:
 - a. Author's location
 - b. Readers
 - c. Date
 - d. Purpose, *Sitz Im Leben*
 - e. Central theme
 - f. Outline by chapters
11. How did Paul reach Macedonia? What is significant about this region within Pauline studies?

Chapter 14: Paul and His Churches

1. What was the outcome of Paul's missionary work in Ephesus? What impact did the gospels preached have there?
2. Answer the following questions concerning both Corinthian letters:
 - a. Author's location
 - b. Readers
 - c. Date
 - d. Purpose, *Sitz Im Leben*

- e. Central theme
 - f. Outline by chapters
3. Which letters did Paul write during his third missionary expedition?
 4. What are the six stages of Paul's dealings with the Corinthians? What is the situation behind each encounter and what is Paul's response in each?
 5. Summarize the arguments in chaps 1-4; 5-11; and 11-15.
 6. What was the nature of the schism at Corinth? Describe the four parties involved.
 7. What are the three teachings Paul draws to their attention in chaps 5-7?
 8. Define *charismata*, *glossolalia*
 9. What does Paul conclude about expression of the *charismata* and the appropriateness of *glossolalia* in chap 11?
 10. What argument(s) does Paul use for the resurrection of the body in chap 15?
 11. Define Paul's opponents in both Corinthian letters.
 12. Summarize the major sections within 2 Corinthians: 2:14; 8-9; 10-13.
 13. Why does Paul feel it necessary to defend his apostolic authority in chaps 2-7? Provide at least 5 arguments he uses as grounds for his authority.
 14. Why is Paul so defensive in 2 Corinthians? What factors within the church contribute to his response?
 15. What factors outside of the church, in terms of his opponents, contribute to this response? List three argument presented by his imaginary opponent (interlocutor). See pp. 316-319; 2 Cor 2-7 and 10-13.
 16. What happens to Paul after he leaves his dealings with the Corinthian issues? Where does he plan on going? Where does he actually go?
 17. Did Paul ever visit Rome? What is his relationship with the churches in Rome? On what basis does he have apostolic authority over them? Why does he write them?
 18. Answer the following questions concerning both Corinthian letters:
 - a. Author's location
 - b. Readers
 - c. Date
 - d. Purpose, *Sitz Im Leben*
 - e. Central theme
 - f. Outline by chapters
 19. Discuss briefly what Paul means by the term, "the righteousness of God" (See p. 322; Rom 1:18-3:20).
 20. Paul uses the term "obedience of faith" in Rom 1 and 16. What is his meaning by the use of it in both contexts?
 21. In Rom 9-11, who is Paul's view of Israel within god's salvation history?
 22. Define Ecclesiology

Chapter 15: The End of the Journey

1. Define circular letter and situational/ occasional letter.

2. After Paul's third missionary expedition, he returned to Jerusalem despite caution from the believers at Ephesus. What was his intention in returning to Jerusalem? What issue is he set on resolving there?
3. On what basis is Paul arrested? See Acts 21; Eph 2:11-22 .
4. Answer the following for Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. What relationship do they have to one another?
 - a. Author's location
 - b. Readers
 - c. Date
 - d. Purpose, *Sitz Im Leben*
 - e. Central theme
 - f. Outline by chapters
5. Who are the following persons? What role do they serve in Paul's missionary efforts?
 - a. Titus
 - b. Timothy
 - c. Philemon
 - d. Onesimus
6. Why was there a riot in Ephesus in Acts 19:18-41. Why is the goddess Artemis/Diana so important to the Ephesians?
7. What is the Colossian Heresy about?
8. Define *kenosis*, Docetism, antinomianism.
9. Why is *The Letter to the Lodiceans* important in talking about the Prison Letters?
10. Answer the following for 1 -2 Timothy and Titus
 - a. Author's location
 - b. Readers
 - c. Date
 - d. Purpose, *Sitz Im Leben*
 - e. Central theme
 - f. Outline of arguments

Chapter 16: What does it Mean to Be a Christian?

1. How does Paul use make use of occasional letters in his ministry to the churches?
2. Was Paul a chauvinist? How are the passages addressing various situations involving women in the church to be understood within his ecclesiology? See pp. 372-374.
3. How did Paul's encounter on the road to Damascus transform his thinking?
4. Who is Jesus to Paul?
5. What is the essence of Paul's gospel?
6. Define social gospel. How does Paul view it in relationship to his view on soteriology?
7. What is the role of the law within the Christian community for Paul?
8. In terms of Paul's eschatology, what is his thinking on the Christian's responsibilities within this age and the age to come? See pp. 356-361.
9. What is Paul's view of death? See pp. 362-363.

10. What is the purpose of the church for Paul? See pp. 361, 366-368. What are the 4 aspects of the church and its members? Discuss briefly.
11. Define "the body of Christ."
12. Discuss what constitutes leadership in the body. What is the role of *charismata* with the body of Christ?

Chapter 17: The Church and its Jewish Origins

1. Who was James?
2. Why was the book of James dismissed earlier as a Jewish writing and not Christian? See p. 377.
3. Answer the following for James, Hebrews, 1 Peter and Revelation
 - a. Author's location
 - b. Readers
 - c. Date
 - d. Purpose, *Sitz Im Leben*
 - e. Central theme
 - f. Key words
 - g. Outline of arguments
4. Why is *1 Clement* significant to New Testament studies?
5. Define typology.
6. Define preterist, symbolic presentation, historical, futurist, and Dispensationalist view in terms of how to interpret Revelation.

Chapter 18: Heresy, Orthodoxy, and Organization

1. Define heretic and orthodox.
2. How did the first century church determine what was orthodox and what was heretical? How did the second century church determine such matters?
3. On what were some major issues did the church often argue to determine orthodoxy? See pp. 430-433.
4. How did the early church address the matter of the delayed *parousia*?
5. What was the leadership structure life in the first century church?
6. Answer the following 1-2-3 John, Jude and 2 Peter
 - a. Author's location
 - b. Readers
 - c. Date
 - d. Purpose, *Sitz Im Leben*
 - e. Central theme
 - f. Key words
 - g. Outline of arguments
7. Who was Jude?

8. What is significant about the letters to the seven churches, especially as they relate to Gnosticism? See pp. 412-416.
9. What role does the Enlightenment have on how biblical interpretation is conducted? What role does globalization have?
10. When was the New Testament finally confirmed? What significant events formed milestones in its canonization history?

Chapter 19: Reading and Understanding the New Testament

1. What makes the New Testament such a unique compilation?
2. Describe Robert McAfee Brown's paradigm for biblical interpretation? How do our experiences color the hermeneutical process? See pp. 439-440.
3. What do we mean by "objectivity" in the context of New Testament interpretation?
4. Through what methods can the New Testament be interpreted? What are the strengths/ weaknesses of each process? See pp. 438-440
5. What four questions ought we to ask when studying any passage?
6. What are the four aspects of the New Testament texts' own context?
7. Discuss briefly the historical-critical method, its strengths and weaknesses. See pp. 446-447.
8. Define manuscript, papyrus, vellum, miniscule, uncial, scribe and copyist. See pp. 449-452.
9. Under what four families do we classify early manuscripts? Describe briefly. See pp. 452-453.