REL 1310 – Christian Scriptures

Hello and welcome to the weekly resources for REL-1310!

These resources are structured a bit differently from other online study guides on the Baylor Tutoring website because the content in these courses are organized largely around biblical histories and narratives. Please take a look at other weekly resources listed on our website for additional topics from Christian Scriptures throughout the semester. Your professor might be discussing these topics in a different order than presented here.

We also invite you to take a look at the group tutoring chart on our website to see if this course has a group tutoring session offered this semester.

If you have any questions about these study guides, group tutoring sessions, private 30-minute tutoring appointments, the Baylor Tutoring YouTube channel or any tutoring services we offer, please visit our website www.baylor.edu/tutoring or call our drop-in center during open business hours, M-Th 9am-8pm on class days, at 254-710-4135.

The Gospel of Matthew

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Fast Facts

- Tradition considers Matthew (one of Jesus’ disciples) to be the author.
- Written approximately 85-90 CE.
- Uses the Old Testament more than any of the other Gospels.
- 90% of Mark is included in Matthew.
- Matthew follows Mark’s narrative structure.
- Includes a story of Jesus’ birth.
- Includes Jesus appearing to people after his resurrection.

Summary

- Chapters 1-2
  - Begins with a genealogy (a list of a person’s ancestors)
  - An angel tells Mary & Joseph that Jesus will be born. Joseph is skeptical that Mary is having God’s child and thinks she may have had an affair.
  - Magi (wealthy foreigners) visit Jesus’ birth.
Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee (where Jesus was born) commanded that all boys two years and younger should be killed.

An angel visited Joseph before this happened and told them to leave, so he too his family to Egypt.

- Chapters 3-4
  - Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist to “fulfill all righteousness.”
  - Jesus went into the wilderness to fast for 40 days.
  - While Jesus was in the wilderness, the devil tempted him, telling him to turn stones into bread, leap from the temple roof to test God, and bow down and worship the devil.

- Chapters 5-7
  - Sermon on the Mount
- Chapter 10
  - Instructions to disciples
- Chapter 13
  - Collection of parables
  - “The kingdom of heaven is like…”
- Chapter 18
  - Instructions for the Church
- Chapters 19-23
  - Jesus arrives in Jerusalem humbly.
  - Jesus tells his disciples about the final judgment that will come one day.
- Chapters 24-25
  - Teaching in Jerusalem
- Chapters 26-28
  - At the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples his blood is the “blood of the covenant, which is poured out for the many for the sins of forgiveness of sins” (26:28).
  - Judas hangs himself for his guilt in turning Jesus over to those who wanted to kill him.
  - Peter is asked about knowing Jesus 3 times, and he says he doesn’t know Jesus all 3 times.
  - When Jesus dies, darkness comes, the veil in the temple is torn, and earthquakes break out.
  - Soldiers guarded the tomb when Jesus was buried.
  - When Jesus is resurrected, he tells his followers to make disciples of all nations. This is called ‘the Great Commission.’

**Jesus Genealogy**

- Traces Jesus back to Abraham, the great ancestor of Israel.
- Connects Jesus with Moses, the man who led Israel out of slavery in Egypt.
- 4 women in the genealogy: Tamar the Canaanite, Rahab the Canaanite, Ruth the Moabite, and Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. The fact that the identities of these women are from non-Israelite peoples (a.k.a. Gentiles) shows that Jesus is the savior of both Jews and Gentiles.
Teachings from the Sermon on the Mount

- Beatitudes: Blessed are the … for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Call for highest righteousness.
- Murder, adultery, divorce, swearing, are not only things that we do physically. They are also things that happen in our hearts by being angry.
- Pray, forgive, and fast.
- Do not worry.
- Think of the kingdom of heaven before you consider anything else.
- Do not judge.
- Jesus has authority.

Test your knowledge!

Answers are at the bottom of the document.

1) What is a genealogy?
   a. A list of a person’s siblings
   b. A list of a person’s ancestors
   c. A grocery list
   d. A list of places a person has lived

2) In what way was Jesus NOT tempted by the devil?
   a. Turn stones into bread
   b. Refuse to die on the cross
   c. Leap from the roof of the temple
   d. Worship the devil

3) Which is NOT a teaching from the sermon on the mount?
   a. The beatitudes
   b. Higher righteousness
   c. Loving those who have loved you
   d. Not worrying

4) What makes Jesus’ genealogy in Mathew distinct? (2 answers)
   a. It highlights women.
   b. It traces Jesus back to prominent Jewish leaders.
   c. It traces his heritage back to Adam.
   d. It traces his heritage back to God.

5) 90% of which other Gospel is included in Matthew?
   a. Mark
   b. Luke
   c. John
Answers: 1) b. 2) b. 3) c. 4) a. & b. 5) a.