

Empower Syllabus for Understanding the New Testament
February 18, 2023, 9 am-12 pm
Dr. Amy F. Davis Abdallah

Required Reading: Anders, Max. 30 Days to Understanding the Bible.
(Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2011).

The Holy Bible: NIV 2010 preferred.

Paper Formatting: For all writing assignments: double-space, one-inch margins, Times-New Roman 12 font.

There is one pre-class assignment for this class and one post-class assignment. The Pre-class assignment is due on February 10, 2023, and the Post-class assignment is due on February 24, 2023.

Assignments may always be turned in early!

Pre-Class Assignment Due February 10, 2023

- **Reading Report**, including Bible reading (as indicated on page 2) and textbook reading (115-269 in Anders: “The Story of the New Testament” and “Ten Great Doctrines”).

Post-Class Assignment, Due February 24, 2023

- **New Testament Theology Paper**
 - Page 3 outlines the requirements of your New Testament Theology paper on Luke-Acts. It is the same kind of paper that you did for the Old Testament.
 - 6 pages in length.
 - Please properly cite any references (use MLA, APA, or Turabian).

(Reading Reports on page 2)
(Paper explanation on page 3)

New Testament Reading Report – Due February 10, 2023

If any chapter is listed, please read it entirely (5-7 means read chapters 5, 6 & 7)

| Assigned Passage | Percentage Completed |
|--|--|
| John 13-17 | |
| Acts 2, 4, 10 | |
| Ephesians 1-6 | |
| Revelation 1, 5-7 | |
| <i>Though the following is from different books, the goal is to read through “The Life of Christ” in chronological order;</i> | |
| Luke 1-2, Matthew 1-2, Mark 1 | |
| John 2-4, Luke 4-6, Matthew 5-7 | |
| Matthew 9-12, Mark 4-6, Luke 11-12 | |
| Mark 11-14:11, Luke 22-24, Matt 28 | |
| John 21, Luke 24, Acts 1-6; 7:54-8:3 | |
| Acts 8-13:3; 15-16; 21-23, 28 | |
| Galatians 1-3, 1 Corinthians 1-2, 6-7 | |
| 1 Corinthians 9, 12-15; 2 Cor 1, 11-13 | |
| Romans 1-8, 12, 15:14-chapter 16 | |
| Philippians 1-4 | |
| 1 Timothy 1-3:13, Titus 1-3 | |
| Hebrews 1-4:13, 7, 11-12 | |
| James 1-3, 1 Peter 1-3:7, 1 John 1-2 | |
| Revelation 1-7, 12-14, 19-22 | |
| Max Anders Reading 30 Days (p.115-269) | |
| Report Due – February 11, 2022 | Overall Percentage Read (Average total) |
| | _____ % |

HOW TO CREATE A NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY PAPER

By Dr. Linda Warren, used with permission

A theology is a study of God, His thoughts, relationships, and His activities. This paper will be an overview of what the Scriptures from Luke/Acts teach you about God, God's thoughts, and God's relationships. You will use the methodology of Bible Interpretation taught in class. Here's how to approach this paper:

- 1) **Begin by praying and inviting the Holy Spirit to lead you in this project.** Ask God to help you set aside any presuppositions that will block your understanding of the text.
- 2) Read the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts
- 3) **Write an accurate and concise summary** of the gospel of Luke and one for the book of Acts. (This may be done in 2-3 paragraphs).
- 4) **Under the Holy Spirit's direction, read the Bible texts, and put on the "mindset" of the original audience.**
- 5) **Under the Holy Spirit's direction, derive timeless principles from the Scripture**
- 6) **Clearly identify and describe 5 timeless principles** that you discovered from these texts in the paper.

Here's an example for Old Testament:

For example, from Luke 1 & Acts 2, we may derive the principle that: The Holy Spirit empowers impactful speaking
Example:

Timeless principle #1: The Holy Spirit Empowers impactful speaking

Many realize that the Holy Spirit empowers people, but most only think it is shown in the book of Acts when He is poured out on all flesh. However, from the beginning, the Holy Spirit has empowered; it is simply for *all* rather than a few in Acts. Holy Spirit empowers people to do many acts, but this principle focuses on speaking. In Luke, after Gabriel announced Jesus's conception to Mary, she flees to her cousin Elizabeth in Judea. Upon hearing Mary's greeting, Luke 1:42-45 states that Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and blesses Mary. This was an impactful speech that gave Mary confidence and helped to inspire her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). Further, when the Holy Spirit comes upon those in the upper room in Acts 2, Peter is empowered to preach the gospel to those gathered (Acts 2:14-41). His message is so powerful that 3000 people believe and are baptized. These are simply two examples that show the Holy Spirit empowering impactful speaking.

For this theological paper, look for principles that show up in both Luke and Acts (as in the example above).

7) Support the Principles/Themes with Evidence

Use at least two Scripture references (one from Luke, one for Acts) to show where you discovered the principles.

Write out the Scripture and show where it's found. Condense the Scripture, to highlight the important part, so your paper is concise (See the example above).

Include at least two quotes from Anders's book in the paper. The quotes may serve as support for any part of your paper.

8) Write a Specific Application (1 page) (Continued on next page)

Select **one** of the timeless principles and describe how this principle applies to you (your life, your family, your work, or your community, your nation, etc.). Make the application-specific, not general. Tell me how the principle makes a difference to you or your community. Clearly identify the principle

in the application section. Here's a condensed example that's a specific application of a timeless principle:

Example Application from Old Testament: Timeless principle: God is the source of blessing.

I don't know how I will pay for school next year. I was thinking about getting another part-time job. Now, that I see that God is the source of blessing, I am going to ask Him to bestow a blessing on me. If another part-time job is His answer to paying for school, I will pray that God will bless my work, and the work will bring forth what is good, fruitful, and abundant.

9) Include a Bibliography and footnotes/endnotes/works cited(continued)

Resources for Your Theology Paper

Your main source of information for this paper is your Bible. Do use Class notes, Anders (30 days to Understanding the Bible), and summaries about the books of the Bible. The ESV has a good overview of each book of the Bible at the beginning of each biblical book. You may also refer to New Testament Introduction books /Surveys (See Syllabus) to get a good understanding of Luke/Acts.

Do Not Use Commentaries. Caution with Internet information. Please note that free Biblical study information off the internet is usually weak, and often wrong. See the bibliography for some internet sources that may help you. However, do not use the commentaries even from these sources (Matthew Henry, for example).