

Philosophy & Ethics – New Testament Studies – PLC

How to use this PLC

You will need to keep your work on the New Testament in a separate folder from both your Philosophy & Ethics work

Once you have completed a topic, please indicate a date & your own security in the R/A/G column – feel free to add questions, notes, comments etc. in the Notes column & remember to address any areas of study yourself before asking for staff assistance

If you are unsure when you have completed a topic, please ask a member of staff and/or refer to the textbook

You will need to cross reference your PLC with the References included at the end – please also refer to the course handbook for specific Biblical references/chapters – it is advised you have your own copy of the New Testament to make notes in

Topic	Content	Red	Amber	Green	Notes / Questions/ etc.
1 – Social, historical & religious context of the NT	<p>Prophecy regarding the Messiah (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Suffering Servant of Isaiah, the importance of the line of David, the idea of the messianic secret b) The significance of these expectations & their impact on NT texts, including Matthew’s proof texts in the birth narratives & for understanding the Gospel texts <p>With reference to the ideas of R Brown & M Hooker</p>				
	<p>The world of the first century & the significance of this context for the life & work of Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Religious groups in Palestine b) Hellenism c) Roman occupation d) The role & impact of these influences on legal & ethical dimensions of life in first-century Palestine & the relationship of Jesus’ life & work to these influences 				

<p>2 – Texts & interpretation of the Person of Jesus</p>	<p>The Prologue in John (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The meaning & theological significance, including ideas about the nature & person of Jesus, the Word made flesh, concepts of life, light & dark, belief, children of God, flesh & spirit, law, grace & truth b) The influences of Judaism & Hellenism & the importance of these themes in understanding the gospel c) The implication for religious laws & codes for living of different understandings of the identity & message of Jesus, including its influence beyond a religious community <p>With reference to the ideas of CH Dodd & M Hooker</p>				
	<p>Titles of Jesus in the synoptic gospels & selected 'I am' sayings in John (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The meaning & significance of the terms Messiah, Son of God, Son of Man, & 'I am the bread of life/light of the world/good shepherd/true vine.' b) The background & context of these titles, including OT references & symbolism & the importance of these for interpreting & understanding the Gospels c) The implication for religious laws & codes for living of different understanding of the identity & message of Jesus, including its influence beyond a religious community <p>With reference to the idea of R Brown & CH Dodd</p>				

	<p>Miracles & signs (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The meaning & significance of the signs in the Fourth Gospel: Turning water into wine, the Healing of the Official's son, the Healing at the pool, the Feeding of the 5000, Walking on water, the Healing of the blind man & the Raising of Lazarus b) Ideas about the identity & role of Jesus & the importance of these signs for understanding Jesus' ministry c) The implication for religious laws & codes for living of different understandings of the identity & message of Jesus <p>With reference to the ideas of R Brown & CH Dodd</p>				
<p>3 – Interpreting the text & issues of relationship, purpose & authorship</p>	<p>Interpreting the text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The synoptic problem, source, form & redaction criticism – an examination of the relationship between the synoptic Gospels, including two source hypothesis (priority of Mark & 'Q source'), the idea of proto-Gospels & the four-source hypothesis b) Units of tradition & their type/form, the way texts appear to have been translated, edited & transmitted c) The significance of this for understanding the texts 				
	<p>The purpose & authorship of the Fourth Gospel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An examination of the different purposes of the Gospel & views of its authorship: Jesus as Christ, Son of God, life in his name, Spiritual Gospel, a Gospel to convert Jews & Gentiles, fulfilment of scripture b) The strengths & weakness of these views based on the text & modern scholarship, & their significance for understanding the text for individuals & communities <p>With reference to the ideas of R Brown & CH Dodd</p>				

4 – Ways of interpreting the scripture	<p>Ways of interpreting scripture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Bible as inspired: literal, allegorical & moral senses of scripture, modern scholarship on the value of scripture including Barth on scripture as the ‘story of God’, Bultmann on demythologising the text & an overview of the four main approaches to post-Enlightenment biblical interpretation of rational, historical, sociological & literacy b) The contexts, strengths & weaknesses of these positions & the significance of these models of interpretation for understanding the text today & its relevance for the modern world 				
5 – Texts & interpretation : the kingdom of God, conflict, the death & resurrection of Jesus	<p>Texts & interpretations – The Kingdom of God in Luke: parables of the kingdom & eschatology (5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The teachings of Jesus concerning the Kingdom of God, differing views on the arrival of the Kingdom, past, present & future b) The meaning, theological significance & importance for early believers <p>With reference of the ideas of IH Marshall & E Schweitzer</p>				
	<p>Why did Jesus have to die? (6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Religious & political conflict in the ministry of Jesus as presented in the Fourth Gospel: the religious & political authorities & why they were so concerned about Jesus, the arrest, trials, & charges made against Jesus. References may be made to the Law of Moses, Temple cleansing, Sabbath controversies b) Other elements to Jesus’ challenge to Judaism: Christology, blasphemy, threat to power, political expediency. The context 				

	<p>of conflict in Jesus' ministry, its key themes & differing views on who was responsible for the death of Jesus</p> <p>With reference to the ideas of E Rivkin & RA Culpepper</p>				
	<p>The crucifixion & resurrection narratives in Luke's Gospel (7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) OT references, symbolism, fulfilment of scripture, God's saving plan. The religious significance of the crucifixion narratives b) The meaning & significance of the resurrection narratives for early believers, including terms such as sacrifice, salvation, atonement, power of God, forgiveness of sins, relationship with God, the future of the early Church <p>With reference to the ideas of IH Marshall & F Matera</p>				
6 - Scientific & historical-critical challenges, ethical living & the works of scholars	<p>Scientific & historical-critical challenges – faith & history: the death & resurrection of Jesus in modern scholarship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Context of scientific challenges to the resurrection as a miracle; the challenge of the Enlightenment – resurrection as a fictional event, the resurrection as myth, the resurrection as an event in the experience of the disciples b) The work of Ian Wilson & Frank Morison on the historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus based on analysis of the different Gospel narratives & alternative explanations for the empty tomb (8) (9) c) Context, comparison & the strengths & weakness of these views. Their significance for understanding the texts & their impact on other areas of study over time 				

	<p>How should we live? (10)</p> <p>a) Christian life: the ethical teaching of Jesus from the Sermon on the Plain in Luke 6 & other texts on the poor, outcasts, wealth & forgiveness, including the parables of the Lost (Luke 15), the Good Samaritan (Luke 10), the Rich Man & Lazarus (Luke 16)</p> <p>b) The relationship of the teaching of Jesus to that of Judaism at the time. Interpretations of the material for today, including religious & secular views, & the impact on Christian codes of living, including equality & pluralism</p> <p>With reference to the ideas of IH Marshall & L Matera</p>				
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References –

- (1) Matthew 1: 18 – 2:23
- (2) John 1: 1-18
- (3) John 6: 24-59, 8:12, 9:1-12, 10:1-21, 15:1-17
- (4) John 2:1-11, 4:43-54, 5:1-15, 6:1-24, 9:1-34, 11:1-57
- (5) Luke 8: 1-15, 11:14-32, 13:22-30, 14:15-24, 17:20-37, 18:18-30, 19:11-27
- (6) John 2:12-25, 5:16-47, 7:25-52, 8:12-59, 9:13-34, 10:22-42, 11:45-57, 18:1-19:16
- (7) Luke 23:26 – 24:53
- (8) **Morison F** – *Who Moved the Stone?* Chapter 8 Between Sunset & Dawn, pp.88-102 (Magdalene Press, 2015) ISBN 9781897384480
- (9) Luke 10:25-37, 15:1-32, 16:19-31
- (10) **Wilson I** – *Jesus: The Evidence*, Chapter 10 Did Jesus Really Rise From the Dead? Pp.139-153 (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1996) ISBN 9780297835295