

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
BA HUMANITIES I/ IDE BA HUMANITIES I
FINAL EXAMINATION DECEMBER 2012

COURSE TITLE : INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL STUDIES

COURSE CODE : TRS 100

DURATION : TWO (2) HRS

INSTRUCTIONS :

- a. Choose and answer at least ONE (1) question from each section.
- b. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
- c. All questions carry equal marks.

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TRS 100/ IDE TRS 100 Exam (M) December 2012

Section A

1. With relevant examples, illustrate the impact and influence of the Bible on Swazi life and culture.
2. Write explanatory notes on any TWO of the following:
 - (a) J- Source.
 - (b) E – Source.
 - (c) P – Source.
3. In what ways does the flood story in Genesis 6 – 9 compare with the Epic of Gilgamesh? Critically discuss.
4. Discuss the nature of the Israelite occupation of Canaan. Support your answer with relevant examples.

Section B

5. Define the synoptic problem. In your view, why are the first three gospels similar and at the same time different?
6. Illustrate the characteristics of the gospel of Matthew? Do you think this gospel was written by Matthew the tax-collector?
7. Discuss the reasons behind the writing of any ONE of the contested letters of Paul.
8. From the parallel passages below, show how Matthew and Luke edit Mark. In your view, why did Matthew and Luke alter the reading in Mark?

Matthew 13: 53-58	Mark 6: 1-6	Luke 4: 16- 30
<p>53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, 54 and coming to his own country he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?" 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." 58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.</p>	<p>1 He went away from there and came to his own country; and his disciples followed him. 2 And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue; and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get all this? What is the wisdom given to him? What mighty works are wrought by his hands! 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. 4 And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house." 5 And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands upon a few sick people and healed them. 6 And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.</p>	<p>16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the Sabbath day. And he stood up to read; 17 and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." 20 And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22 And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth; and they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself; what we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here also in your own country.'" 24 And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his own country. 25 But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there came a great famine over all the land; 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Eli'sha; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up and put him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw him down headlong. 30 But passing through the midst of them he went away.</p>