

Introduction to the New Testament (TMM1011)

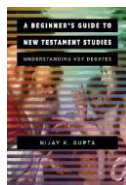
Common Awards

Level 4 Module

Diversifying the Curriculum



Books



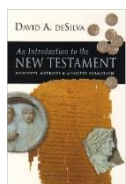
Gupta, Nijay K. (2020) *A Beginner's Guide to New Testament Studies: Understanding Key Debates*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Content:

This book is specifically written with entry level students beginning theological education in mind and provides an accessible introduction for Level 4 students beginning to study the New Testament. Chapter 1: 'The Synoptic Problem' especially provides a simple overview of key debates surrounding the authorship of the New Testament gospels. This book is an all-round great read for students beginning New Testament study.

Author:

Nijay K. Gupta is an Asian/American Associate Professor of New Testament at Portland Seminary in the US.



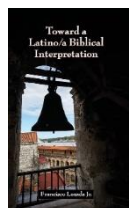
Desilva, David A. (2018) *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Content:

This book is specifically written for students going into ministry and provides a simple introduction to the New Testament. It begins by outlining the historical context, themes and structure of the New Testament as a whole, before exploring each book within the New Testament individually. Chapter 1: 'The New Testament as Pastoral Response' will be a great read for all Level 4 Common Awards students pursuing future ministry.

Author:

David A. DeSilva is an Asian-American (Sinhalese) scholar based in the US.



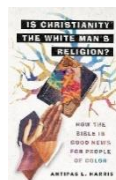
Lozada, Francisco (2017) *Toward a Latino/a Biblical Interpretation*. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press.

Content:

This book explores what it means to read the Bible from a Latino/a perspective. Chapter 5: 'Galatians 2:11–14: An Ideological Strategy' provides an example of reading the New Testament from this perspective through the lenses of 'recognition and hospitality'.

Author:

Francisco Lozada, Jr. is a Latin-American New Testament scholar based in the US.



Harris, Antipas L. (2020) *Is Christianity the White Man's Religion?: How the Bible is Good News for People of Color*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Content:

This book explores and unpacks the challenges of modern Christians of GMH (Global Majority Heritage) today who feel that the Bible is not for them. By highlighting how scripture has often been 'misread', Harris demonstrates how people of colour can begin to engage with the Bible through their own cultural lenses and experiences. In Chapter 8: 'Reading the New Testament through Dark Lenses' specifically, Harris explores what it might look like for GMH scholars to read the New Testament through their own cultural lenses.

Author:

Revd Dr Antipas L. Harris is an African-American theologian, leader, scholar, author, and public speaker.

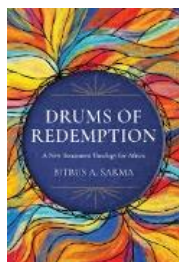
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Sarma, Bitrus A. (2023) *Drums of Redemption: A New Testament Theology for Africa*. Carlisle: HippoBooks.

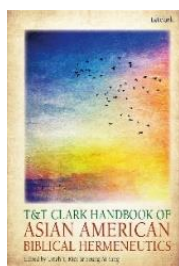
Content:

This book explores the New Testament from an African context and addresses head-on the specific socio-political issues facing the continent. This book is great for Level 4 students training for ministry as it highlights the main themes of the New Testament and concludes each chapter with questions for reflection and application.

Author:

Bitrus A. Sarma is a Nigerian scholar and Professor of New Testament Biblical Studies (NT) in Kagoro, Nigeria.

Book Chapters



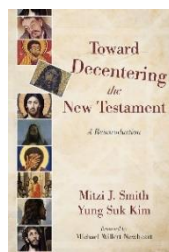
Nelavala, Surekha (2019) 'Chapter 33: "My Story" in Intersection with Gal. 3: 26-28: An Indian/Dalit Feminist Interpretation.' In: Kim, Uriah Y. and Yang, Seung Ai (eds.) *T&T Clark Handbook of Asian American Biblical Hermeneutics*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Content:

This eye-opening and personal chapter written by Nelavala transports readers into the caste system in India to offer a new Indian/Dalit feminist interpretation of Galatians 3:26-28.

Author:

Surekha Nelavala is an Indian biblical scholar and ordained Lutheran minister.



Smith, Mitzi J. (2018) 'Chapter 6: Intersectionality and Reading Complexity in the New Testament.' In: Smith, Mitzi J. and Kim, Yung Suk (eds.) *Toward Decentering the New Testament: A Reintroduction*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers.

Content:

This very short 3-page chapter encourages students to move beyond a one-dimensional Western exploration of the New Testament and towards an intersectional approach that considers the accumulative impact of racism, classism and gender discrimination in the lives of GMH Christians. This chapter explores the question: 'How can this intersectional lens help us to read the New Testament in a new way?'

Author:

Mitzi J. Smith is an African American biblical scholar based in the US.



Byron, L. Gay (2021) 'Ancient Ethiopia and the New Testament: Ethnic (Con)texts and Racialized (Sub)texts.' In: Bailey, Randall C., Liew, Tat-siong B. and Segovia, Fernando F. (eds.) *They Were All Together in One Place? Toward Minority Biblical Criticism*. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press.

Content:

Content:

This insightful chapter written by Bryon offers a new insight into the New Testament through the specific cultural lens of Ancient Ethiopia.

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Author:

The late Gay L. Byron was an African-American woman and a Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at Howard University School of Divinity in Washington.



Nofoaiga, Vaitusi (2018) 'Jesus the *Fiola* (Opportunity Seeker): A Postcolonial Samoan Reading of Matthew 7:24 – 8:22.' In: Havea, Jione (ed.) *Sea of Readings: The Bible in the South Pacific*. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press.

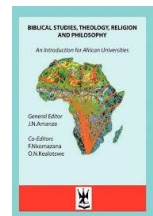
Content:

In this book chapter Nofoaiga offers a postcolonial reading of Matthew 7:24-8:22 informed by his own experience of life in Samoan society. Using the Samoan lens of *fiola* (meaning “wanting life”/ “seeking life” or “vying for survival” (166)), Nofoaiga highlights how biblical characters such as the leper, the centurion, Peter’s mother-in-law and even Jesus are portrayed as a *fiola*. In seeing Jesus as a *fiola*, this Samoan postcolonial reading highlights the humanity of Jesus and argues that whilst he was not always “*faaola* (savior or disciple)” (166), his humanity does not make him weak.

Author:

Vaitusi Nofoaiga is an Indigenous New Testament scholar and Head of New Testament Studies at Malua Theological College Samoa, Oceania.

Edited Volumes



Amanze, James (2010) *Biblical Studies, Theology, Religion And Philosophy. An Introduction For African Students*. Eldoret, Kenya: Zapf Chancery.

Content:

This book introduces the study of the Bible specifically through African concerns and questions. Of relevance to this module is Chapter 4: ‘A Survey of the New

Testament’, written by Lovemore Togarasei which provides an accessible introduction to New Testament study from an African perspective. Chapter 5: ‘Major Themes in the New Testament’ written by Tlali Lerotholi also provides a general understanding of the main themes within the New Testament.

Editor:

James N. Amanze, is a Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Botswana.

Podcasts

[Olabisi Obamakin \(Black British woman\) – Utilizing Nigerian/British Novels as Autoethnography in New Testament Studies \(37:54\)](#)



Content:

In this 40-minute podcast recorded from the Decolonising Research Festival in 2022 at the University of Exeter, Obamakin outlines her new Nigerian/British feminist method for reading the New Testament. Contrary to dominant western methods rooted in the historicity of the biblical text, at the core of this method is the interpretive interests of Black British women. This new approach offers enables students to encounter the New Testament from a female Black British perspective.

Speaker:

Olabisi Obamakin is a Black British New Testament scholar based in Durham, UK.

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Videos

'Introduction to the New Testament with Margaret Aymer - A series of 5x short videos (Approx 20 mins each)



Content:

[Video 1 – What is the New Testament \(18:12\)](#)

[Video 2: The Five Narratives \(28:49\)](#)

[Video 3: The Apostle Paul & his followers \(23:44\)](#)

[Video 4: Letters & Sermons \(18:11\)](#)

[Video 5: The Revelation of John \(15:56\)](#)

In this 5-part free video series recorded as part of the online Presbyterian [Theoacademy](#) course, Margaret Aymer teaches an accessible overview of the New Testament. Journeying from the Gospel of Matthew all the way through to the book of Revelation, Aymer provides a great resource for students to listen to 'on the go'. It is a resource that will provide students with a great foundation for beginning to study the New Testament.

Speaker:

[Margaret Aymer](#) is an African-American biblical scholar and a lecturer at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in the US.

Articles

Te Kaawa, Wayne (2024) 'Decolonizing New Testament Studies: A Māori Perspective.' *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 47(1): 31-48.



Content:

In this new article Te Kaawa explores what it might practically look like to decolonize New Testament studies

from a Māori perspective. As such it is resource that is geared more towards faculty than students. Focusing specifically on the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:21–28; cf. Mark 7:24–30, Te Kaawa offers a reading of the text through a Māori lens that has a particular focus on community and the land. Drawing on his own experience of studying the New Testament during his own theological education, Te Kaawa's article ends with practical ideas for how theological educators can incorporate Māori epistemologies into their teaching practices.

Author:

Wayne Te Kaawa is a Māori scholar and lecturer in Māori Theology at Otago University, New Zealand. He is also an ordained minister of the Presbyterian church of Aotearoa, New Zealand.