

He Gave Us Scripture

Student Syllabus

ACADEMIC
PACKET

RESOURCES FOR GROUPS
USING THE ACADEMIC PACKETS



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ABOUT THIRD MILLENNIUM MINISTRIES

Founded in 1997, Third Millennium Ministries is a non-profit Evangelical Christian ministry dedicated to providing:

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

Our goal is to offer free Christian education to hundreds of thousands of pastors and Christian leaders around the world who lack sufficient training for ministry. We are meeting this goal by producing and globally distributing an unparalleled multimedia seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Our curriculum is also being translated into more than a dozen other languages through our partner ministries. The curriculum consists of graphic-driven videos, printed instruction, and internet resources. It is designed to be used by schools, groups, and individuals, both online and in learning communities.

Over the years, we have developed a highly cost-effective method of producing award-winning multimedia lessons of the finest content and quality. Our writers and editors are theologically-trained educators, our translators are theologically-astute native speakers of their target languages, and our lessons contain the insights of hundreds of respected seminary professors and pastors from around the world. In addition, our graphic designers, illustrators, and producers adhere to the highest production standards using state-of-the-art equipment and techniques.

In order to accomplish our distribution goals, Third Millennium has forged strategic partnerships with churches, seminaries, Bible schools, missionaries, Christian broadcasters and satellite television providers, and other organizations. These relationships have already resulted in the distribution of countless video lessons to indigenous leaders, pastors, and seminary students. Our websites also serve as avenues of distribution and provide additional materials to supplement our lessons, including materials on how to start your own learning community.

Third Millennium Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) corporation. We depend on the generous, tax-deductible contributions of churches, foundations, businesses, and individuals. For more information about our ministry, and to learn how you can get involved, please visit www.thirdmill.org.



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Evangelical Christians affirm the Scriptures as God's inerrant word, but we still disagree sometimes over the meaning of particular verses or passages, and these differences can influence our Christian doctrine and practice. One reason for these disagreements is that there are many different approaches to interpreting the Bible. But how do we know which approach to interpretation is the most responsible? This course will help answer that question. It is based on the lecture series, [*He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation*](#), produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr. with contributions from a variety of professors.

PROFESSORS

In this course a wide variety of professors from different backgrounds and different denominations participate in the making of the videos. That list has been given at the bottom of this syllabus.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS

In this course, we would like to accomplish the following:

1. We hope you grow in your desire to study the Scriptures carefully and to discover the best approach to interpret them.
2. We hope you will understand the fundamental principles of biblical interpretation, including the terminology and history of hermeneutics, the biblical approach to meaning, the unique nature of the Scriptures, and the proper way to discover the original meaning of a passage and apply it to our modern context.
3. We hope that you will apply the guidelines of this course to develop appropriate habits of biblical interpretation.

OBJECTIVES

When you have done the following, it will show that the goals are met:

1. Obtain satisfactory grades on the tests of the course, demonstrating that you can identify the fundamental principles of biblical interpretation, including the terminology and key information about the history of hermeneutics, the key aspects of a biblical approach to meaning, the unique characteristics of the Scriptures, and the main principles of discovering the original meaning of a passage and applying it to our modern context.
2. Answer the application questions in the study guides, in which you express your own responses and opinions regarding biblical hermeneutics and in which you practice applying the teachings of the lessons by interpreting a Bible passage.
3. Complete the exercise with Psalm 42 as indicated in the study guide, applying what you are studying in the course to the interpretation of this passage.

THE FACILITATOR

This course is designed to be studied in a group with a facilitator, supervisor, or mentor. If you do not have a facilitator, you may wish to speak with your pastor or some spiritual leader in your church. The facilitator should read the "General Guidelines for Facilitators."

OTHER MATERIALS

Besides this syllabus, there are other resources you will need for this course. They should be available in the same place, or same folder, where you found this file. If not, talk to your facilitator.

CREDIT

Third Millennium does not offer credit for their courses. However, the materials are offered freely to any institution that would like to use them. If the student would like to seek credit for the course, he needs to find an institution that will supervise his studies and give him credit. He should consult with them to see about their requirements and expectations.

THEMATIC OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

NOTE: This course is longer than most Third Millennium courses, with a total of eleven video lessons. Therefore, you may prefer to study the course in two parts. Or you may prefer to give the students twice the credit of a typical course.

1. Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics
2. Preparation for Interpretation
3. Investigating Scripture
4. Approaches to Meaning
5. The Complexity of Meaning
6. Discovering Meaning
7. Applying Scripture
8. Modern Application and Old Testament Epochs
9. Modern Application and the New Covenant

10. Biblical Culture and Modern Application
11. Modern Application for Individuals

GENERAL EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

The guidelines for assignments below are meant to be suggestions. Each group or academic institution may customize the course according to the needs of their students. For example, some may prefer to require the additional reading, while others may not. The same applies to the optional written project. Furthermore, some may prefer to meet once a week, while others prefer to meet more often or less often. Some groups may prefer to restructure the assignments to fit a regular pattern of classes, possibly a period of eight weeks, for example.

Don't worry about the details now, since they will be given to you as you go through the assignments of each session, but in order for you to know what to plan for, the suggested assignments can be summarized as follows:

The Lectures

1. Watch the video lectures (or listen to the audio, or read the text version).
2. Complete the study guides for each section of each lesson. This includes writing notes on the lesson while using the outline provided, answering the review questions, answering the application questions, and completing the exercise, interpreting Psalm 42.
3. Take the tests on each lesson. These will be administered in the classes. (For credit, they must be graded by the authorities of the academic institution where the student is seeking credit.)

Optional Additional Reading

Read the additional reading. This may be done in two different ways, according to the agreement you have with the facilitator or academic institution. Option 1: Read the selected additional reading recommended for this course, and take the test on it. (In this case, the student will need to purchase the book.) Option 2: Read at least 300 pages of additional reading that you select from the list of "Recommended Extra Reading." In this case, you should turn in a written report on each book or article, using the "Form for reading reports." (For credit, these reports must be turned in for evaluation.)

Optional Written Project

Write an 8-10 page project, following the instructions found below. (For credit, this must be turned in for evaluation.)

GRADES

We recommend calculating the final grade as follows, depending on the option selected:

- a) Without the additional reading or written project:

Each test is 9.09%.

b) Including the additional reading, but without the written project:

Each test is 8% (total: 88%).
The additional reading is 12%.

c) Including the written project, but without the additional reading:

Each test is 8% (total: 88%).
The written project is 12%.

d) Including both the additional reading and the written project:

Each test is 6% (total: 66%).
The additional reading is 10%.
The written project is 24%.

SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS FOR EACH SESSION

These plans are only suggestions. Your facilitator may decide to modify them, as he talks things over with the group.

INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

The first meeting is a brief orientation for the course. There is no homework before the first meeting. The student will receive the materials he needs and talk over plans for the course.

NOTE: If the group is studying a series of courses, we recommend that you take advantage of the last session of each course to make arrangements for the following course, thus avoiding unnecessary extra meetings.

LESSON 1

Watch the first lesson in the video series from *Third Millennium*, "He Gave Us Scripture." The first lesson of this series is called "Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the first video lesson, called "Terminology." (The video time is from the beginning to 11 minutes and 24 seconds, 00-11:24.)

Remember: You may also download the audio files for listening to the lecture, or you may also read the text version.

2. Use Study Guide 1.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the video lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.

SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Scientific Hermeneutics" (Video time: 11:25-33:22), using Study Guide 1.2.

SECTION 3

1. Follow the same procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Devotional Hermeneutics" (Video time: 33:23-1:00:34), using Study Guide 1.3.

2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

NOTE: If you are going to do the additional reading, we recommend that you begin to do part of it now, to avoid reading a lot at the end of the course. See the assignments below.

LESSON 2

Watch the second video lesson of the series, called "Preparation for Interpretation." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of this second video lesson, called "Dependence on the Holy Spirit" (00-28:19).
 2. Use Study Guide 2.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the video lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.
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SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Need for Human Effort" (28:20-45:57), using Study Guide 2.2.
2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

LESSON 3

Study the third video lesson of the series, called "Investigating Scripture."

We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the third video lesson, called "Original Meaning" (00-6:41).
 2. Use Study Guide 3.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Theological Basis" (6:42-33:57), using Study Guide 3.2.

SECTION 3

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Importance" (33:58-48:48), using Study Guide 3.3.
2. Do the "Exercise with Psalm 42 (Part 1)."
3. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

LESSON 4

Study the fourth video lesson of the series, called "Approaches to Meaning."

We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the fourth video lesson, called "Objective" (00-17:01).
 2. Use Study Guide 4.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Subjective" (17:02-27:22), using Study Guide 4.2.

SECTION 3

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Dialogical" (27:23-49:57), using Study Guide 4.3.
2. Do the "Exercise with Psalm 42 (Part 2)."
3. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

LESSON 5

Study the fifth video lesson of the series, called "The Complexity of Meaning." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the fifth video lesson, called "Literal Sense" (00-26:14).
 2. Use Study Guide 5.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Full Value" (26:15-56:12), using Study Guide 5.2.
2. Review all the sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

LESSON 6

Watch lesson six in the video series from *Third Millennium*, "He Gave Us Scripture." The sixth lesson of this series is called "Discovering Meaning." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Guides" (00-34:54).

Remember: You may also download the audio files for listening to the lecture, or you may also read the text version.

2. Use Study Guide 6.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.

SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Summaries" (34:55-1:00:16), using Study Guide 6.2.

2. Do the "Exercise with Psalm 42 (Part 3)."

3. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

LESSON 7

Watch lesson seven of the video series, called "Applying Scripture." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of this video lesson, called "Necessity" (00-11:28).
 2. Use Study Guide 7.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the video lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.
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SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Connections" (11:29-31:38), using Study Guide 7.2.

SECTION 3

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Developments" (31:39-46:41), using Study Guide 7.3.
2. Complete the "Exercise with Psalm 42 (Part 4)."
3. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

LESSON 8

Study the lesson eight of the video series, called "Modern Application and Old Testament Epochs."
We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Epochal Divisions" (00-22:49).
 2. Use Study Guide 8.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Epochal Developments" (22:50-1:01:04), using Study Guide 8.2.
2. Do the "Exercise with Psalm 42 (Part 5)."
3. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

LESSON 9

Study the ninth lesson of the video series, called "Modern Application and the New Covenant."
We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Fulfillment" (00-24:48).
 2. Use Study Guide 9.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Application" (24:49-56:20), using Study Guide 9.2.
2. Do the "Exercise with Psalm 42 (Part 6)."
3. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

LESSON 10

Study lesson ten of the video series, called "Biblical Culture and Modern Application." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Foundations" (00-23:32).
 2. Use Study Guide 10.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Developments" (23:33-38:59), using Study Guide 10.2.

SECTION 3

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Application" (39:00-1:01:12), using Study Guide 10.3.
2. Do the "Exercise with Psalm 42 (Part 7)."
3. Review all the sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

LESSON 11

Study lesson eleven of the video series, called "Modern Application for Individuals." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Variety" (00-33:49).
 2. Use Study Guide 11.1 to help learn the contents of the section.
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SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Wisdom" (33:50-1:03:08), using Study Guide 11.2.
2. Review all the sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

ADDITIONAL READING

Option 1

1. Read *Him We Proclaim* by Dennis Johnson. You can purchase it at P&R Publishing Company. See: <http://www.prpbooks.com/book/him-we-proclaim>.
2. Answer the questions in the study guide provided.
3. Take the test on the reading.

Option 2

1. Read at least 300 pages of additional reading, selecting from the list of "Recommended Extra Reading."
2. Fill out a separate written report on each book or article, using the "Form for Reading Reports."
3. Prepare to share what you are learning from your reading and *turn in your written reports*.

OPTIONAL WRITTEN PROJECT

Some groups may require a written project. If so, we recommend a project of 8-10 pages, using the following guidelines:

1. Choose a short passage (from two to eight verses), preferably from the Old Testament, in order to write an analysis (exegesis) of the passage. Find a passage that you have a hard time understanding, or that raises questions. This way you will learn more from your study. Write down the questions you have about the passage.
2. Follow the steps of the "Exercise with Psalm 42" (found in the section study guides for this course), using the passage you have selected. As you do, keep in mind the questions you are trying to answer.
3. Make sure you keep good notes on your research. If you are quoting from some source, or even taking ideas without quoting exactly, you must write down the author, name of book, place of publishing, publishing company, year of publishing, and the page or pages where you got your ideas or your quotes.
4. Write a rough draft of the project.
 - a. Be very careful to follow the "Guidelines for Writing an Essay."
 - b. Make an outline and begin writing. Make sure you include an introduction that stirs interest in the study.
 - c. Explain the questions that you are especially researching. In the main body, you should include possible answers to your questions that others offer, then give your own conclusions. Back up your opinions with biblical evidence and linguistic resources.
 - d. Try to discover the message of the passage for the believers who would read it at the time it was written, and try to apply the same message to people today. What practical importance does it have?
 - e. Take into account how the passage relates to Christ and the plan of salvation.
 - d. Include a conclusion, summarizing your answers.
5. Make sure to add footnotes where you have used ideas or if you have quoted from another source, and a bibliography at the end.
6. Edit the final version of your project. Read and re-read it until it flows clearly and is easy to understand. Correct any spelling errors or grammatical errors. Make sure you have documented the sources properly with footnotes and a bibliography. Make sure you have an introduction and a conclusion. Again, make sure you follow the "Guidelines for Writing and Essay."
7. Be prepared to turn in your project, and be prepared to share what you have been learning about the passage.

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