

# Kingdom and Covenant in the New Testament

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## 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](http://www.thirdmill.org).



## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Have you ever wondered why the New Testament gives so much attention to the kingdom of God or how this central theme relates to the new covenant in Christ? This course explores these two fundamental features of the New Testament by examining where they originated and what they mean for us today. This course is based on the lecture series, [Kingdom and Covenant in the New Testament](#), produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Simon Vibert 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 will become enthusiastic about studying the New Testament.
2. We hope you will make use of all the resources of the course to learn key things about the overarching message and the key theological themes of the New Testament
3. We hope you make some changes in your life as a response to the teachings of the course, especially in developing a strategy for applying the New Testament teachings to modern life.

## OBJECTIVES

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

1. Obtain satisfactory grades on the tests, demonstrating that you can identify key information about the message and theological themes of the New Testament.
2. Answer the application questions in the study guides, expressing your own responses and opinions, demonstrating how this course has helped you apply the teachings of the New Testament to your own life.

## 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

1. Why Study New Testament Theology?
2. The Kingdom of God
3. The New Covenant

## 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, and answering the application questions.
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 provided for this course, and take the test on it. 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 33.33%.

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

Each test is 25% (total: 75%).  
The additional reading is 25%.

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

Each test is 25% (total: 75%).  
The written project is 25%.

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

Each test is 20% (total: 60%).  
The additional reading is 20%.  
The written project is 20%.

## **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.

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### **INITIAL PLANNING MEETING**

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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.

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### **LESSON 1**

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Watch the first lesson in the video series from *Third Millennium*, "Kingdom and Covenant in the New Testament." The first lesson is called "Why Study New Testament Theology?" We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video.

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#### **SECTION 1**

1. Watch section 1 of the first video lesson, called "Inspiration and Authority." (The video time is from the beginning to 35 minutes and 59 seconds, 00-35:59.)

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.

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#### **SECTION 2**

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Continuities and Discontinuities" (Video time: 36:00-1:05:21), using Study Guide 1.2.

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

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**LESSON 2**

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Watch the second lesson of the video series, called "The Kingdom of God." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

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**SECTION 1**

1. Watch section 1 of this second video lesson, called "Good News" (00-28:16).
  2. Use Study Guide 2.1 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.
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**SECTION 2**

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Coming" (28:17-1:06:20), using Study Guide 2.2.
2. Review all sections of the lesson, in preparation for the test.

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**LESSON 3**

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Study the third lesson of the video series, called "The New Covenant."

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

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**SECTION 1**

1. Watch section 1 of the third video lesson, called "Kingdom Administration" (00-29:54).
  2. Use Study Guide 3.1 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, "Dynamics of Interaction" (29:55-1:11:47), using Study Guide 3.2.
2. Review all sections of the lesson, in preparation for the test.



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## ADDITIONAL READING

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Option 1:

1. Read the following:

John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book II, Chapters 10-17

John Calvin, Commentary on Galatians, Chapters 3 and 4

David Brown, Commentary on Matthew 13

2. Take the test in the next class on this 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*.

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## OPTIONAL WRITTEN PROJECT

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

Write an 8-10 page essay on a topic related to the contents of this course. Follow the specific steps given below, as well as the general "Guidelines for Writing an Essay" that your facilitator should give you.

1. Choose your topic. We recommend the possible topics below, but you may choose another topic, as long as it is related to the contents of this course. Your topic should be related to some question or doubt that you have. As you do the research, you will be trying to answer your question. Do not use the same topic that you used for another course.

Suggested topics for the essay:

- 1) What is the view of \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament? (John Calvin, Martin Luther, Lewis Sperry Chafer, Geerhardus Vos, Herman Ridderbos, or other theologian)
- 2) How does the use of the Old Testament law change in the time of the New Testament?
- 3) What is the difference between dispensationalism and covenant theology?
- 4) Why is it helpful to study New Testament theology?
- 5) What is the practical importance of studying the topic of the kingdom of God?
- 6) Why is it important to understand the concept of the covenant?
- 7) What are the important differences between the Old Testament covenants and the new covenant?

2. Do the research for the essay. Use the list of "Recommended Optional Reading for the Course" that your facilitator should give you. Write notes on your research, being careful to note the bibliographical information and the page numbers of any source that you will use in the essay. This applies even if you do not quote directly, but only use an idea from the source.

3. Read the "Guidelines for Writing an Essay."

4. Write the title of your essay and begin organizing your essay. Write the outline and write some notes for each section. Choose your preferred numbering system and be consistent with it. Remember that an essay should have at least three main sections: the introduction, the body, and the conclusion. The introduction stirs interest in the essay and briefly explains the topic. The body is the main development of the theme, and normally has several subdivisions. The conclusion summarizes the argument of the essay and shows what the author considers to be most important. You may wish to read the "Guidelines for Writing an Essay" again to find some examples of possible ways of organizing your essay.

5. Write a rough draft of the essay. Review your paragraphs to make sure they are unified, complete and coherent. Make sure to follow the rules for the footnotes and the bibliography, as explained in "Guidelines for Writing an Essay."

6. Write the final version of the essay. Read and re-read the essay 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 a title page, a table of contents, an introduction and a conclusion.

## **LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO *KINGDOM AND COVENANT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT***

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