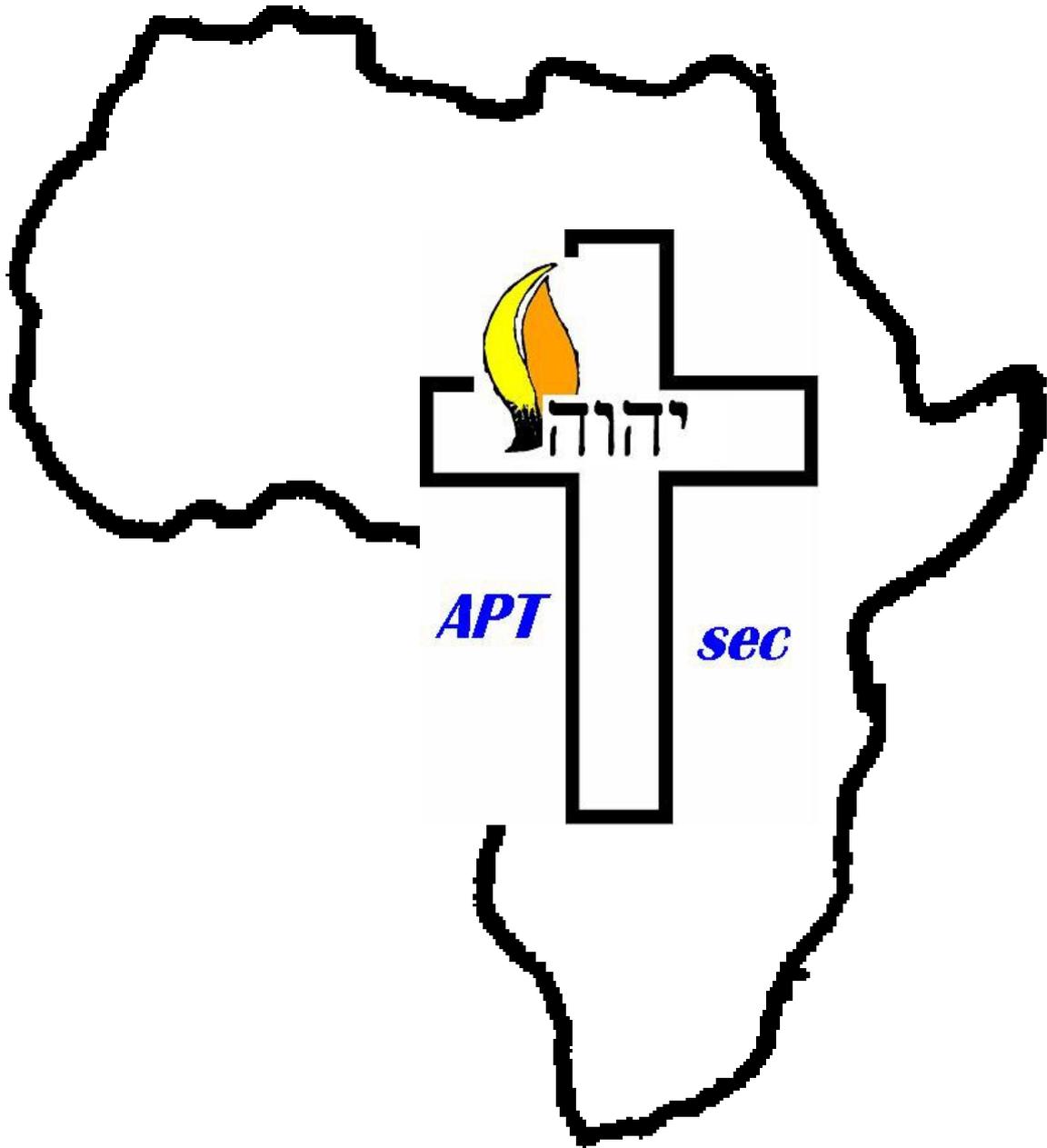


An APTsec



NEW TESTAMENT Study Series



APTsec – Apostolic Protestant Theology Sector

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
Acts 2.42*

APTsec, the Apostolic Protestant Theology Sector, applies critical rigour equally to apostolic or sceptical secular claims of New Testament authorship, and retains apostolic authorship as critical academic balance.

APTsec is a canonical and creedal theological testimony and not a campaign, crusade or denomination. For diligent Christian belief in the modern proliferation of denominations, cults, schisms and secularisation, a short summary is given:

- **Apostolic Authorship Balance:** Mark records Peter's eyewitness preaching: John, 1,2,3 John, Revelation are John's eyewitness preaching: letters Romans to Philemon are Paul's works: letters 1,2 Peter are Peter's works: Matthew, sourced on Mark, is Matthew's work: Luke-Acts, Luke sourced on Mark and Acts on Paul, is Luke's work: Wider apostolicity - James and Jude are Jesus' brothers, Hebrews unknown (Priscilla/Aquila).
- **The Bible:** The Old Testament (Hebrew canon) and New Testament (Greek non-Apocrypha, non-Pseudepigrapha canon) are prophetic and apostolic of historical source as supreme witness to the revelation of Jesus Christ as God and Saviour in trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God.
- **The Gospel:** According to God's purpose, Jesus Christ was born to minister and be crucified for our forgiveness, resurrected for our eternal victory, and to give baptism in the Holy Spirit, as the Saviour of the Jews and the nations. He is vindicated by resurrection as the only one by whom humans can be fully reconciled to God.
- **The Church Mission:** Jesus commissioned his disciples to preach the gospel of repentance and the kingdom of heaven in all nations, and to win adults and children into personal belief and into discipleship of Jesus in fellowship in his Church and in gospel mission and service.
- **The Church Faithful:** The Bible Canon and the Nicene and Apostles' creeds are the catholic and historic standards of the Church upholding Christian belief, with subsequent derived creeds and confessions and orders measuring variations of faith stance and practice which do not compromise apostolic witness, but which human denominationalism from time to time discerns.
- **The Resurrected Saviour Returns for Resurrection Day:** Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father and will come again to judge the living and the dead, giving resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come.

An APTsec New Testament Study Series for Lay Leaders

Rev Rod Adamson,

The APTsec Lay Leader Training course below uses the Bible as its textbook, working with growth-proven Bible handbooks of integrity as course basis, one of which the course user should obtain as his/her course textbook:

Mears, H. 1953, 1999. What the Bible Is All About. Ventura, California: Regal.

Henrietta Mears was Director of Christian Education for 35 years (1928-1963) at First Hollywood Presbyterian Church (then with the biggest Sunday School in the world). She set a growth legacy of Christian education and ministry founded on prayer, hard work, quality oversight and organisation, and a commitment to Christ-honoring excellence - for generations of children, parents, lay leaders and ministers. She established Gospel Light Publishing for ongoing curriculum and resource needs.

MacArthur, J. 2003. The MacArthur Bible Handbook. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

John MacArthur, pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California, is an evangelical expository preacher and radio/TV speaker, and author/editor of over 150 books, many multi-million best sellers, which have inspired millions into deeper walk with Jesus and many into deeper ministry.

Pawson, D. 1999,2007. Unlocking the Bible. London: Collins.

David Pawson, well-known Bible teacher and video series speaker with a gift for Biblical exposition for Church growth, has provided this globally used Bible book-by-book resource to "take what the academics teach and make it simple enough for the 'common' people to understand".

1961, 2000. Bethel Series: Old Testament and New Testament. Madison, Wisconsin: Adult Christian Education Foundation/Bethel Series of Southern Africa.

The Bethel Series is put out as a two year (OT 1 year/NT 1 year) program using the Bible as textbook with guided oversight by Bethel course material. Christian disciples needing deeper study, Lay Leaders and Pastors, in 47 denominations in many countries, have come to use this as a valuable training resource for ministry.

AN AFRICAN CONTEXT RESOURCE:

2006. Adeyemo, T. (Ed). Africa Bible Commentary. Nairobi: Word Alive

The Africa Bible Commentary is an African Theology initiative providing sound and handy resources for Lay Leaders working for God's harvest in the African context.

THE COURSE

For full benefit the course should be presented by a qualified minister/pastor/priest or trained lay leader as a two year part-time seminar, Bible work and assignment course. One year should be spent on the Old Testament book-by-book, with brief background, introduction to the message of each book, its fulfilment significance in Jesus Christ, and appropriate assignments at the end of each section. One year should be spent on the New Testament book-by-book, with brief apostolic background, introduction to the message of each book, with its special focus on Jesus Christ and the mission of his Church, and appropriate assignments at the end of each section.

COURSE CONTENTS

APTsec NEW TESTAMENT Series (23 Studies, 7 Assignments)

NT MODULE 1: The Gospels and Acts

[6 Studies, 3 Assignments – Synoptics, John, Acts]

Per week 1 x 1, 5 x 2 plus 3 = 14 weeks

The Gospels

- Between the Testaments
- Good News in Matthew
- Good News in Mark
- Good News in Luke
- Good News in John
- Acts – Apostolic History

NT MODULE 2: Paul's Letters

[10 Studies, 2 Assignments]

Per week 12 plus 2 = 14 weeks

- Church Letters:
 - Romans (2 weeks)
 - 1 Corinthians (3 weeks...)
 - 2 Corinthians (... for both)
 - Galatians
 - Ephesians
 - Philippians
 - Colossians
 - 1,2 Thessalonians
- Pastoral Letters
 - 1,2 Timothy
 - Titus and Philemon

NT MODULE 3: General Letters and Revelation

[7 Studies, 2 Assignments]

Per week 2 x 2, 1 x 5 plus 2 = 11 weeks

General Letters

- Hebrews (2 weeks)
- James
- 1 Peter
- 2 Peter and Jude
- 1 John
- 2, 3 John

Futurology

- Revelation (2 weeks)

For APTsec OLD TESTAMENT Series (22 Studies, 5 Assignments),
see www.resurrectlife.co.za/APTsec.htm

MATTHEW – APTsec Study Questions and Introduction

- 1. Gloss read Matthew's gospel entire to gain an overview feeling of its message. Read Matthew 9.9 with Mark 2.14 and Luke 5.27f: give your explanation why the name of this apostle is Levi in Mark and Luke, but Matthew in this gospel.**
- 2. READ Matthew 5.3 – 7.37 / 10.5 – 42 / 13.3 – 52 / 18.3 – 35 / 24.4 – 25.46 – known as the Five Discourses (Teaching Blocks). The first Discourse is commonly called the “Sermon on the Mount, give your own title for the others. How do you think this indicates a major concern of Matthew that the OT was fulfilled in Jesus Christ?**
- 3. READ Matthew 1.1-7. Note the 3 sections of 14 ancestors each, and suggest why it was written like this. About the unusual insertion of 4 women in the genealogy - name the four women, and give an opinion why they were included.**
- 4. READ Matthew 6.9-13 (note the context). Find other prayers (not-Psalms) in the OT and NT and discuss what is different about Jesus' prayer.**
- 5. READ Matthew 11.25-30. Verses 25-27, often called the 'bolt from the Johannine blue', offer high teaching about Jesus' relationship to the Father. Find the equivalent passage in Luke, then discuss this high teaching of Jesus the 'Son' that is found here outside John's gospel.**
- 6. READ Matthew 13.1-52 – the Parables Discourse. Matthew records that some of the best teaching of Jesus about the Kingdom of Heaven is in the parables. What does each parable teach you about belonging to God's Kingdom?**
- 7. READ Matthew 26.54 – fulfilment of scripture is important to Matthew. How many times in the Passion account (Matt 21.1 – 28.20) does Matthew quote the scriptures, or say that they were fulfilled? Why is this important?**
- 8. Applied question: if you are training as a lay preacher/children's church teacher/bible study leader – choose your favourite character/passage in Matthew's gospel and write a sermon/lesson/bible study on the character or passage you have chosen. Submit/present this as your Study/Course leader prescribes.**

MATTHEW INTRODUCTION

Author - Matthew-Levi

Known from the references in the gospels to Matthew-Levi, he was one of the twelve apostles (*Mark 2.14/3.18 and parallels*). Levi was a literate wealthy house owner in Capernaum and leader of Jewish 'publican outcast' tax collectors for the Roman colonisers/overlords (*Luke 5.29*). He was called from his tax booth to become one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, and seemed to prefer his Matthew 'gift of Yahweh' name usage after his call. He was an eye witness of the ministry, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, and Pentecost. Last mentioned in *Acts 1.13*, Matthew's apostolic role is vague: church history records a preached role among the Jews, including the writing of "'ta logia' sayings or interpretation of the gospel", before taking the gospel among the Gentiles. The best account of his martyrdom notes this took place in north Persia/south of the Caspian Sea,

Historical Approach Academics - Authorship Authenticity for Matthew's Gospel:

No existing manuscript including Matthew's gospel is without the ascription "*'kata Mattiaon' – according to Matthew*". Church historians, from the Roman elder Papias who wrote of Matthew's *'ta logia'* around 125 AD, consistently attribute the writing of the gospel to Matthew, either originally in Hebrew and later in Greek. No Hebrew originals exist. No other alternative author is given by historians.

Liberal Academics: An eventual putting into writing, after the 'long oral tradition' before the gospels and New Testament were written by an anonymous, non-eyewitness, second or even third generation over-enthusiastic disciple wanting to 'pump up' his account with unhistorical miracle myth stories and unhistorical miracle myth theology, perhaps with some never fully identified written sources – is the by now tired 'long oral tradition' academic stream behind Religious Studies academic practices, and taken into Biblical academics by liberal academics. Perhaps the gospel was by some 'Matthean school' – unknown, unhistorical, so really just a critical fail, not a viable alternative authorship claim.

Extreme liberal Bible scholars resist most apostolic authorship claims, and therefore propose that the gospel is 'pseudonymously' authored (falsely claimed apostolic authorship to bolster its popularity). This is unrealistic: none of the NT gospels mention the names of their authors, whereas known pseudonymous gospels among gnostics and others deliberately make a name insertion in an attempt to gain unwarranted popularity. For example, the Gnostic Gospel of Thomas begins like this: "These are the secret sayings which the living Jesus spoke and which Didymos Judas Thomas wrote down."

The APTsec practice: The academic practice is to know the apostolic claim and the analysis thereof, to know the alternative 'critical' claims and to subject them to as rigorous an analysis as that for apostolicity. The alternative claims for Matthew's gospel are too academically inferior to be realistic.