

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND****DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES****SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 2005**

- TITLE OF PAPER** : **A STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**
- COURSE CODE** : **T3P1/IDE-T3P1**
- TIME ALLOWED** : **THREE (3) HOURS**
- INSTRUCTIONS** :
1. **ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
  2. **ANSWER AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
  3. **WRITE IN CLEAR GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT SENTENCES.**

**THIS QUESTION PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

**PART ONE****QUESTION 1**

Why is it possible for academic reading of biblical texts to result in multiple meanings of any single text?

**QUESTION 2**

What is the role of a scriptural canon in a faith community? Discuss the nature of the relationship between the community and its canon of scripture with reference to second century (CE) Christian communities.

**QUESTION 3**

How did the discovery of the thematic focus of Mark on the "messianic secret" count against the view that Mark's account was a good primitive source for information about Jesus?

**QUESTION 4**

Define the community context within which the gospel of Matthew was composed. In your answer include a discussion on the supposed purpose for which the Matthean author wrote his Gospel.

**QUESTION 5**

Conduct a comparative analysis of the following parallel synoptic passages provided for you.

**QUESTION 6**

Taking a cue from the "I AM passages" in John where Jesus refers to himself by a number of metaphors such "bread", "water", "vine", "way, truth and life" etc. Construct your own metaphors which you think Jesus would utilise for the current socio-political context in Swaziland.

**QUESTION 7**

The Lucan author is the only one within the New Testament who mentions his access to written sources for his work. Do you think his Acts narrative is a product of using a wealth of sources to which he perhaps had access? Give reasons for your answer.

**PART TWO**

**QUESTION 8**

Identify and discuss the indications in the apostle Paul's Letters of influences from Judaism and Hellenism.

**QUESTION 9**

How is the Christology of Hebrews distinct from that common to the Gospel traditions?

**QUESTION 10**

"Few writings in all literature have been so obsessively read with such generally disastrous results as the Book of Revelation ... Its history of interpretation is largely a story of tragic misinterpretation, resulting from a fundamental misapprehension of the work's literary form and purpose" (Johnson, 1986:512). Discuss this view with reference to Revelation and its history of interpretation.