

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2007

TITLE OF PAPER: GOSPEL TRADITION

COURSE CODE: T4P2/IDE-T4P2

TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS

MARKS : 100

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.
2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.
3. CLARITY OF ARGUMENT IS ESSENTIAL.

1. Discuss the main features of the theology of the Gospel of Thomas.
2. "The main characteristic of Q was its prophetic tradition". With examples, show how this feature influenced Q Christians.
3. Discuss the meaning and the messianic character of the baptism of Jesus.
4. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me;
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim
release for the prisoners, and recovery of sight for the blind;
To let the broken victims go free,
To proclaim the year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19).
 - (a) In what ways does the quotation summarise Jesus' public ministry?
 - (b) Who were "the poor" to whom Jesus offered hope?
5. Discuss Jesus' identity with reference to ONE of the following titles:
 - (a) Messiah ,
 - (b) Son of God,
 - (c) Logos.
6. "Parables are true to life and nature" (C.H.Dodd). Comment.
7. Comment on the relationship between Jesus and the Pharisees, according to the gospels, and explain why they saw Jesus as a threat.
8. Discuss the healing of the Centurion's servant (Q7:1-10), with specific reference to its implications for the contemporary Christians.
9. "Pilate acted with astuteness and self-interest, rather than ignorance and weakness, when he decided to order the execution of Jesus". Discuss.
10. What features of the gospel according to John have prompted scholars to describe it as "the spiritual gospel"? How valid a description is it when you compare this gospel with the synoptic gospels?