

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
BA HUMANITIES IV/ IDE BA HUMANITIES IV
FINAL EXAMINATION MAY 2011

COURSE TITLE : THE GOSPEL TRADITION

COURSE CODE : T 4 P2

DURATION : THREE (3) HRS

INSTRUCTIONS :

- a. Choose and answer four (4) questions.
- b. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.

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T4 P2/ IDE T4 P2 Exam (M) May 2011

1. What do we learn from the Gospels about life in Palestine in first century C.E? Critically discuss. [25]
2. In your opinion, do you think the Q – document provides a satisfactory answer to the synoptic puzzle? Illustrate your answer with good examples. [25]
3. Discuss the emphases, purpose and main themes of the Gospel of Luke. [25]
4. 'A critical reading of the gospels demonstrates that the death of Jesus was inevitable.' To what extent do you agree with this observation? [25]
5. Comment on points of interest and difficulty on the following passage.
⁵¹And behold the curtain of the temple was torn into two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; ⁵²the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe (RSV Matthew 27:51 -55). [25]
6. In what ways do the birth stories in the canonical Gospels compare with those in Thomas' Gospel? Discuss critically. [25]
7. Write detailed explanatory notes on the following literary forms in the Gospels: [25]
 - (a) Paradigms
 - (b) *Novellen*
 - (c) Myths
 - (d) Legends
 - (e) Passion narratives
8. Below are parallel passages from the Synoptics (RSV). (a) How do these passages compare and differ? (b) In what way can the differences be harmonized? [25]

A	B	C
<p>¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; ⁵ and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise." ⁸ And they remembered these words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.</p>	<p>¹ Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag`dalene and the other Mary went to see to sepulchre. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you." ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.</p>	<p>¹ And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Mag`dalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salo`me, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back – it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶ And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you."</p>