

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
&  
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**TRS 301 MAIN EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2013**

**TITLE OF PAPER : Studies in the New Testament I**  
**COURSE CODE : TRS 301**  
**DURATION : 2 Hours**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
3. The paper consists of four (4) printed pages cover page included.
4. All questions carry equal marks.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.**

**Question 1**

Why are the Gospels not taken as eyewitness accounts? Support your answer with relevant examples. [20]

**Question 2**

What is the Synoptic Problem and in what ways have scholars sought to explain the Synoptic puzzle? [20]

**Question 3**

Is the Gospel of Matthew anti-Jewish in tone? What is the evidence in the Gospel that substantiates or refutes this claim? [20]

**Question 4**

In what ways does the author of the Four Gospel demonstrates profound knowledge of first-century Palestinian customs, geography and ideology? In your opinion, what could be inferred about the identity of the writer? [20]

### Question 5

From the passage below, what conclusions could be drawn on Luke as a writer? [20]

Ananias and Sapphira Acts 4: 32 – 5:11

**32** Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. **33** And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. **34** There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of what was sold **35** and laid it at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made to each as any had need. **36** Thus Joseph who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas (which means, Son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, **37** sold a field which belonged to him, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. **1** But a man named Anani'as with his wife Sapphi'ra sold a piece of property, **2** and with his wife's knowledge he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, "Anani'as, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? **4** While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." **5** When Anani'as heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. **6** The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. **7** After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." **9** But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Hark, the feet of those that have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." **10** Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. **11** And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard of these things.

## Question 6

Attempt a critical reading on the chronology of the Jesus' appearances and Ascension stories in Luke-Acts. [20]

<p><b>Preface and the Ascension</b></p> <p>1 In the first book, O The-oph'ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, 5 for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Sama'ria and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1:1-11, Revised Standard Version)</p>	<p><b>Jesus Appears to his disciples</b></p> <p>As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them.<sup>[a]</sup> 37 But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. 38 And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have."<sup>[b]</sup> 41 And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate before them. 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations,<sup>[c]</sup> beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."</p> <p><b>The Ascension of Jesus</b></p> <p>50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven.<sup>[d]</sup> 52 And they<sup>[e]</sup> returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple blessing God. ( Luke 24: 36 - 53, Revised Standard Version)</p>
---	--