

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a hand holding a glowing, golden-yellow orb. The orb has a bright red center and a white, flame-like or smoke-like aura around it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white and light grey. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

**The Kingdom,
The Power,
and The
Glory**

The Kingdom, The Power, and The Glory

A SURVEY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

by Jean-Baptiste Sawadogo
and Marcia A. Munger

AN INDEPENDENT-STUDY TEXTBOOK

Developed in Cooperation with
the ICI Staff

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THE ICI CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the ICI Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for order of study in the series, which is divided into three units of six courses each. *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: A Survey of the New Testament* is Course 2 in Unit I. You will benefit by studying the courses in the proper order.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program have been prepared in a self-teaching format especially for Christian workers. These courses provide a student with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. You may study this course in order to receive credit toward a certificate, or for personal enrichment.

ATTENTION

Please read the course introduction very carefully. It is important that you follow these instructions so you can achieve the goals of the course, and be prepared for the student reports.

Address all correspondence concerning the course to your ICI instructor at the address stamped on the copyright page near the front of the study guide.

Course Introduction

Learn About God's New Covenant With Man

In this course you will study the New Testament, the new agreement God made with man through Jesus Christ. The New Testament tells how God saved us from eternal destruction. It tells how we can be brought into His kingdom through Christ and experience His power in our daily lives. And it describes the glorious return of our Savior and the wonderful destiny that is ours in Him.

The first unit gives an overview of all the books of the New Testament and the time during which they were written. It then presents the books which tell about the earthly life and ministry of Jesus. You will study each of the four Gospel accounts of His unique message and His mighty miracles. You will learn, too, about the land where He lived and the men who wrote about Him.

The second unit examines the books which describe the beginning of the church and its expansion throughout the Roman Empire. In this unit you will follow the apostles and the believers as they proclaimed the good news of salvation to Jews and Greeks, slaves and masters, honest seekers and skeptics. You will study the letters which were written to the various congregations which sprang up and learn about their joys and problems. You will see how the church was formed and sustained by the power of God.

The third unit presents the books which were written as the church continued to expand. In this unit you will learn how it faced persecution by those who hated it and false teaching by those who denied its Lord. You will consider the guidelines that were set down for its leaders. You will study the glorious vision it has of the future. In this unit you will also discover how the New Testament has been passed on to us. You will learn the reasons why we can rely on it completely as we seek to know God and serve Him today.

As you study all these things you will realize that the New Testament is God's message to you. The facts you learn will help

you understand its truths and teach them to others. God bless you as you study!

The Time Between the Testaments

Perhaps you have already studied the Old Testament. If so, you will remember that its historical account closes with the Jews rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem. But when the New Testament opens, we find that Jerusalem is under the control of the Romans. What had happened in the land of Palestine during the time between the Old and the New Testaments, the “intertestamental” period?

In 586 B.C. the last group of Jews was taken away from Jerusalem into captivity under the Babylonians. While these Jews were in captivity, the Persians conquered the Babylonians. The Persians allowed the Jews to go back to Jerusalem, and a small number of them returned. This ended their seventy-year period of exile. The Jews who returned to Jerusalem rebuilt the temple and settled in the land. However, many Jews did not return to Palestine. Some remained in Babylon. The rest were eventually scattered among the nations. In history, this has been called the *diaspora*, a term related to the word *dispersion* which means “a spreading or scattering.”

Next, the Persians were defeated by young Alexander the Great, whose armies conquered vast territories including Syria, Palestine, and Egypt. Alexander’s political empire did not long survive his early death at the age of 33. The Greek culture he introduced, though, had a lasting influence on Palestine and the entire ancient world.

After Alexander died in 323 B.C., Palestine was controlled by a series of other foreign powers. Antiochus IV (175–164 B.C.), a ruler of the Seleucid Empire, tried to force the Jews to accept the Greek culture. He forbade their traditional worship and desecrated their temple. In 167 B.C. the Jews revolted against his evil decrees. A few years later they regained control of Jerusalem and cleansed the temple. Their war for independence continued until 142 B.C. This time is known as the Maccabean period,

named after Judas Maccabeas (the “hammerer”), the hard-hitting military leader of the Jewish forces.

The period of Jewish independence lasted from 142 B.C. until 63 B.C., when Jerusalem was taken over by the Roman general Pompey. During this time, the Hasmonean rulers continued to struggle against foreign domination. They also fought among themselves. The Hasmonean rulers were descendants of Simon Maccabeas, one of the brothers of Judas (Judas was killed in 161 B.C.). In the meantime, the power of Rome, which was a major force in the area from about 200 B.C. onwards, continued to grow stronger. The last Hasmonean ruler was killed in 37 B.C. by Herod the Great, who was appointed by Rome as the ruler of the Jews. Herod was in power at the time Christ was born.

As you begin your study of the New Testament, it will be helpful for you to keep these facts about the intertestamental period in mind. The events that happened during this period influenced the Jewish religion and shaped the world into which Jesus was born.

Course Description

The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: A Survey of the New Testament is a course of study that will help the Christian worker gain an overall knowledge of the content of the New Testament. It emphasizes the historical setting, characteristics, and teachings of the books of the New Testament. It will help the Christian worker understand the New Testament, gain confidence in its reliability, and become better equipped to share its truths with others.

Course Objectives

When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Describe the historical background, author, and message of each book of the New Testament.
2. Identify important places associated with the background of the New Testament, the life of Jesus, and the expansion of the early church.

3. Explain why we can rely on the New Testament as the trustworthy and accurate record of the life of Jesus and the teachings of the apostles.
4. Accept the New Testament as God's message to you and share its truths more fully with others.

Textbooks

You will use *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: A Survey of the New Testament* as both the textbook and study guide for the course. Most of the Scriptures quoted in this course are from the New International Version, 1978 edition. In a few instances we have quoted from the New American Standard Version where indicated.

Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: 1) lesson title, 2) opening statement, 3) lesson outline, 4) lesson objectives, 5) learning activities, 6) key words, 7) lesson development including study questions, 8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), 9) answers to the study questions. Answers to each self-test are at the back of your textbook before the unit student reports.

The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your

notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student report.

Do not look ahead at the answers until you have given your answer. If you give your own answers, you will remember what you study much better. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are very important. They will help you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

How to Answer Questions

There are different kinds of study questions and self-test questions in this study guide. Below are samples of several types and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1 The Bible has a total of a
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

2 Which statements below are TRUE?

- a The Bible has a total of 120 books.
- b The Bible is a message for believers today.
- c All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
- d The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements b and d are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors

Example

3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| ..1. a | Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| ..2. b | Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| ..2. c | Marched around Jericho | |
| ..1. d | Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases a and d refer to Moses, and phrases b and c refer to Joshua. You would write 1 beside a and d, and 2 beside b and c, as you see above.

Ways to Study This Course

If you study this ICI course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although ICI has designed this course for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his instructions.

Possibly you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes

Unit Student Reports

In the back of your study guide are located the unit student reports and answer sheets. These are to be completed according to the instructions included in the course and in the unit student reports. You should complete and send each unit answer sheet to your instructor for his grading and suggestions regarding your work. Send one when you complete each unit.

Certificate

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the unit answer sheets by your ICI instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award.

About the Authors

This course was written by Jean-Baptiste Sawadogo and Marcia A. Munger. Jean-Baptiste Sawadogo was a graduate of the College Protestant of the Assemblies of God in Burkina Faso. He studied at the International Bible Training Institute in England and pursued graduate work at the University of Ougadougou. He was an instructor at the Assembly of God Bible School in Nagabagré, Burkina Faso. Marcia A. Munger served for fourteen years as a missionary on the development faculty of ICI University in Brussels, Belgium, and Irving, Texas. She earned her bachelor of arts degree from Biola College in La Mirada, California, and her master of Christian Studies degree from Regent College in Vancouver, Canada.

Your ICI Instructor

Your ICI instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit student reports, please feel free to ask him. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you begin to study *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: A Survey of the New Testament*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.