

PREPARATORY LEVEL 4 BA READING LIST

INTRODUCTION

Before coming to College, you may wish to do some preparatory reading. This is not obligatory. There is no requirement to purchase any books during your studies, you will have access to a large section of material from the College Library. If you wish to purchase something to read before you come, we have offered some suggestions below.

However, we do **strongly recommend** that you try to read as much of **the Bible** as you can. Read it, as if you were reading a novel, in large sections, in order to gain a panoramic view of God's revelation. Students frequently ask **which version of the Bible** we use at College: the version that students will generally be using for their assignments is the New International Version (updated edition, 2011; not the 1984 edition) [available online on Bible Gateway <https://www.biblegateway.com>, select the New International Version – UK (NIVUK)].

You may find this book a helpful aid:

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. 2014. *How to Read the Bible for all it's Worth*. 4th edn (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan).

COMING BACK TO STUDY AFTER A BREAK?

These two books may be of interest if you would like to prepare yourself for study generally. The second book will be particularly helpful for those who are returning to study after many years:

Northedge, Andy. 2005. *The Good Study Guide* (Milton Keynes: Open University Press).

Becker, Lucinda. 2009. *Mature Students' Handbook*. Palgrave Study Skills. (Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan).

Any of the following books will be either required or strongly recommended during the Level 4 course, and any reading you can do before coming to college will be helpful. Where copyright permits we have included a link to an extract for some of these books.

[Corbett, Steve, and Fikkert, Brian. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor and Yourself* \(Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2012\). Read Chapter 2.](#)

[Elmer, Duane. 2006. *Cross-cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility*. \(Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press\). Read the Introduction and Chapter 1.](#)

[Gardner, Laura Mae. 2015. *Healthy, Resilient and Effective in Cross-Cultural Ministry: A Comprehensive Member Care Plan*. \(Yogyakarta, Indonesia: Komunitas Katalis\). Read chapters 2 & 3.](#)

[Grenz, Stanley, and Roger Olsen. 1996. *Who Needs Theology? An Invitation to the Study of God*. \(Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press\). Read Chapter 1.](#)

Lanier, Sarah. 2000. *Foreign to Familiar: A Guide to Understanding Hot and Cold Climate Cultures*. (Hagerstown: McDougal Publishing Company). This is an easy and enjoyable read, please read the whole book if you can!

[Maggay, Melba. 2007. *Integral Mission: Biblical Foundations*. \(im:press\). Read the Introduction and Chapter 1.](#)

[Teague, David. 2012. *Godly Servants: Discipleship and Spiritual Formation for Missionaries*. \(Mission Imprints\). Read the Introduction and Chapter 1.](#)

Wardell, Margaret, and Robin Thompson. 1994. *Entering Another's World: How to Live for God in Another Culture*. (Nottingham: St John's Extension Studies).

[Wright, Chris. 2015. *Five Marks of Mission: Making God's Mission Ours.* \(im:press\). Read the Introduction and Chapter 1.](#)

[Wright, Christopher J.H. 2010. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission.* \(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan\). Read the Introduction and Chapter 1.](#)

Below are two self-evaluations on the Old Testament and New Testament, which you may find helpful to answer briefly as you read sections of the Bible. You will be covering an overview of both the Old and New Testament in the coming year, so you are not expected to be able to answer all of these questions in detail before you come!

OLD TESTAMENT — SELF-EVALUATION

- What are the main types of literature found in the Hebrew Bible?
- What are their distinguishing features?
- What are the main periods of Israelite history, with approximate dates?
- Can you place the following in their chronological order: David, Abraham, Nehemiah, Moses, Noah, Solomon, Isaiah, Elijah, Samuel, Malachi, Joshua, Josiah etc.
- What were the major covenants recorded in the Old Testament?
- When and why did Israel divide into two kingdoms?
- What was the Exile; when did it happen; and what explanation does the Hebrew Bible give?
- Who were the prophets and what was the nature of their ministry?
- Can you summarise the message of a prophet – e.g. Amos, or Hosea?
- Arrange the external international powers in chronological order according to their period of dominance: Assyria, Persia, Egypt, Babylon.
- What is Wisdom literature? Can you name the Old Testament books that represent it?
- What are the main types of Psalms?
- How does the Old Testament prepare for the coming of the Messiah?

NEW TESTAMENT — SELF-EVALUATION

For each gospel:

- Can I state its major ideas?
- Can I explain what makes it different from the other gospels?
- Do I have some idea of when it was written? Or why it was written?
- Do I know whether it focuses more on parables, miracles or teaching (or all of these)?

About the gospels in general:

- Do I know what a Pharisee or Sadducee was?
- Could I say what language Jesus taught in?
- Do I know how many of the twelve disciples were Jews?
- Do I know what we mean by the 'the Great Commission' and could I find it in all four gospels?

For the book of Acts:

- Do I know who wrote Acts and how he knew the story?
- Do I know what the 'Council of Jerusalem' was?
- Could I say which chapters focus most on Peter and which on Paul?
- Can I draw an approximate map of where Paul travelled to on his main journeys?

Other general NT questions:

- Can I state what Paul thought the gospel was?
- Do I know whether the gospels were written before or after Paul's letters?
- Do I know how many other people wrote NT letters?
- Can I give a good estimate of when the latest NT books were written, and which ones they were?