

# Classics 375: An Historical Introduction to the New Testament

Fall 2022

MWF 12:00-12:50

Dr. David M. Johnson

[mjohnson@siu.edu](mailto:mjohnson@siu.edu)

Who wrote the books of the New Testament? When? For whom? Why?

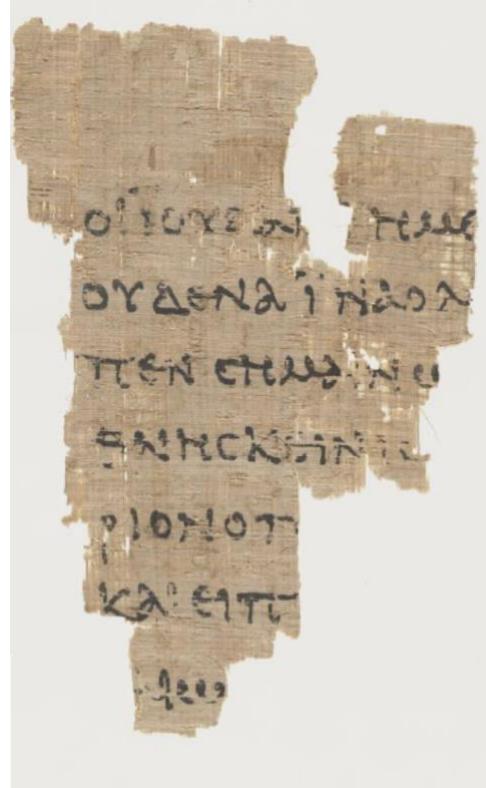
Who was the historical Jesus? What was his message? Who did he think he was?

What was the original meaning of *sin*? *Salvation*? *The Kingdom of God*?

How did the apostle Paul shape early Christianity?

How did Christians distinguish themselves from Jews and pagans?

Did women play a major role in the early years of Christianity?



*P52, generally thought to be the oldest extant fragment of the New Testament (John 18.31-33) c. 150 CE.*

The Bible is the most important book in the western world. But few college courses address it. We will. We'll do so *historically*, applying the same tools historians use for studying other aspects of the ancient world. This course is not designed to convert you to Christianity or turn you away from it, but to help you understand how early Christians fashioned a new religion and produced what we now know as the New Testament.

More info here: <https://david-m-johnson.net/teaching/>