

Catalogue
of
“The Great Courses”
Owned by
Lutheran Church of the Cross
Victoria, B.C.

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RELIGION IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN WORLD (#6340)

Professor Glenn S. Holland (2005)

How did people of ancient times cope with the overwhelming mysteries of the universe? In the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, they responded with a rich variety of religious beliefs. In these 48 lectures, Professor Glenn S. Holland uses textual and archaeological evidence to explore the religious cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world. He covers times from the earliest prehistoric indications of human religious practices to the conversion of the Roman Empire to Christianity in the 4th century A.D. You will be introduced to religious traditions of a range of civilizations, including the ancient kingdom of Egypt; Mesopotamia; Syria-Palestine, including Israel and Judah; Minoan civilization on the island of Crete and the successive civilizations of the Greek mainland; and the city of Rome, whose empire dominated the Mediterranean world.

48 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Talking About Ancient Religious Cultures
2. What is Religion?
3. Early Prehistoric Religion
4. Prehistoric Religion—The Neolithic Era
5. Egypt—A Unique Religious Culture
6. Egyptian Creation Stories and Their Meaning
7. The Egyptian Pantheon
8. Egyptian Myths of Kingship
9. Egyptian Myths of the Underworld
10. Egypt—The Power of Goddesses
11. Egypt—Religion in Everyday Life
12. Egypt—The Beginning of Wisdom
13. Mesopotamia—The Land Between the Rivers
14. Mesopotamia—Stories of Creation
15. Mesopotamia—Inanna the Goddess
16. Mesopotamia—Gilgamesh the King
17. Mesopotamia—The Search for Eternal Life
18. Mesopotamia—The Great Flood
19. Ancient Concepts of the Divine
20. The Gods of Syria-Palestine
21. Israel's Ancestral History
22. Israel's National History
23. Prophecy in the Ancient Near East
24. Early Prophecy in Israel
25. Classical Israelite Prophecy
26. Israel's Great Crisis
27. Syria-Palestine—The Problem of Evil
28. Early Aegean Civilizations
29. Religious Culture in the Iliad and the Odyssey
30. Religious Culture in Archaic Greece
31. Greece—How Things Came to Be
32. Greece—The Goddess
33. The Classical Era in Greece
34. Greece—Philosophy as Religion
35. Religious Culture in the Hellenistic World
36. Mystery Religions in the Hellenistic World
37. Mystery Religions from the East
38. Roman Religious Culture Before the Empire
39. Rome—Saviors and Divine Men
40. Rome—Divination, Astrology, and Magic
41. Rome—Critics and Charlatans
42. Jesus of Nazareth as a Figure in History
43. Creating Jesus Communities
44. Living and Dying for the God(s)
45. Women's Religious Roles in the Early Empire
46. The Jesus Movement in the Greco-Roman World
47. The Death and Rebirth of the Old Gods
48. Conclusion—Persisting Ideas and Yearnings

READING BIBLICAL LITERATURE: GENESIS TO REVELATION

(#6650)

Professor Craig R. Koester (2016)

Enjoy an intellectual adventure like no other in this book-by-book look at the Bible from a literary perspective. From the stories of Moses to the gospel accounts of Jesus and the formation of the earliest Christian communities, these lectures empower you to engage with the Bible as a collection of richly meaningful texts filled with complex characters, dramatic conflicts, and inspirational wisdom.

36 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. The Bible as Dialogue
2. Creation and Chaos in Genesis
3. Abraham, Sarah, and the Promise
4. Jacob, Joseph, and Reconciliation
5. Moses and the Drama of the Exodus
6. Freedom and Law at Mount Sinai
7. Israel's Wandering in the Wilderness
8. Violence and Kindness in the Promised Land
9. Saul, the Tragic King
10. David and Nation Building
11. Solomon, a Study in Contradictions
12. Psalms: The Bible's Songbook
13. Biblical Wisdom Literature
14. Elijah, the Troubler of Israel
15. Justice and Love in Amos and Hosea
16. Isaiah on Defiant Hope
17. Jeremiah on Anguish and Compassion
18. Babylonian Conquest and Exile
19. Ezekiel on Abandonment and Homecoming
20. Jewish Identity and Rebuilding after Exile
21. Esther, Daniel, and Life under Empire
22. Resistance, Adaptation, and the Maccabees
23. Jesus as Messiah in Mark
24. Mark on the Crucifixion and Resurrection
25. The Dynamics of Forgiveness in Matthew
26. Luke on a World Upside Down
27. John on the Word Made Flesh
28. Self-Giving Love According to John
29. The Early Church in Acts
30. Paul's Calling
31. Paul and the Roman Empire
32. Paul's Letters to a Community in Conflict
33. Freedom and the Law in Paul's Letters
34. Paul on Gender Roles and Slavery
35. Letters for Sojourners
36. Revelation's Vision of New Creation

HOLY LAND REVEALED (#6220)

Professor Jodi Magness (2010)

Comb through the rubble of an ancient citadel in the City of David, the contents of rock-cut tombs in the Kidron Valley, correspondence from caves in the Judaeian desert, and other remains from one of the most important regions in the history of civilization. Delivered by archaeologist and award-winning Professor Jodi Magness, *The Holy Land Revealed* helps you relive and encounter life in the ancient Holy Land through the lens of archaeology. These 36 lectures are your chance to get up close and personal with ruins, artifacts, murals, documents, and other long-buried objects that will take you deep beneath the pages of the Bible.

36 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. The Land of Canaan
2. The Arrival of the Israelites
3. Jerusalem—An Introduction to the City
4. The Jerusalem of David and Solomon
5. Biblical Jerusalem's Ancient Water Systems
6. Samaria and the Northern Kingdom of Israel
7. Fortifications and Cult Practices
8. Babylonian Exile and the Persian Restoration
9. Alexander the Great and His Successors
10. The Hellenization of Palestine
11. The Maccabean Revolt
12. The Hasmonean Kingdom
13. Pharisees and Sadducees
14. Discovery and Site of the Dead Sea Scrolls
15. The Sectarian Settlement at Qumran
16. The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Essenes
17. The Life of the Essenes
18. From Roman Annexation to Herod the Great
19. Herod as Builder—Jerusalem's Temple Mount
20. Caesarea Maritima—Harbor and Showcase City
21. From Herod's Last Years to Pontius Pilate
22. Galilee—Setting of Jesus's Life and Ministry
23. Synagogues in the Time of Jesus
24. Sites of the Trial and Final Hours of Jesus
25. Early Jewish Tombs in Jerusalem
26. Monumental Tombs in the Time of Jesus
27. The Burials of Jesus and James
28. The First Jewish Revolt; Jerusalem Destroyed
29. Masada—Herod's Desert Palace and the Siege
30. Flavius Josephus and the Mass Suicide
31. The Second Jewish Revolt against the Romans
32. Roman Jerusalem—Hadrian's Aelia Capitolina
33. Christian Emperors and Pilgrimage Sites
34. Judaism and Synagogues under Christian Rule
35. Islam's Transformation of Jerusalem
36. What and How Archaeology Reveals

OLD TESTAMENT (#0653)

Professor Amy-Jill Levine (2001)

The Old Testament, or Tanakh, was written in ancient Israel over 1,000 years by many authors. What can this book teach us about the ancient Israelites? What does our faith find in new scholarly understanding? These lectures by scripture expert Professor Amy-Jill Levine introduce you to the history, religion, and literature of ancient Israel as preserved in the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible. Professor Levine brings biblical characters and passages to life and vividly reveals the magnificent artistry suffusing the Old Testament.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. In the Beginning
2. Adam and Eve
3. Murder, Flood, Dispersion
4. Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar
5. Isaac
6. The Jacob Saga
7. Folklore Analysis and Type Scenes
8. Moses and Exodus
9. The God of Israel
10. Covenant and Law, Part I
11. Covenant and Law, Part II
12. The "Conquest"
13. The Book of Judges, Part I
14. The Book of Judges, Part II
15. Samuel and Saul
16. King David
17. From King Solomon to Preclassical Prophecy
18. The Prophets and the Fall of the North
19. The Southern Kingdom
20. Babylonian Exile
21. Restoration and Theocracy
22. Wisdom Literature
23. Life in the Diaspora
24. Apocalyptic Literature

THE WORLD OF BIBLICAL ISRAEL (#6325)

Professor Cynthia R. Chapman (2013)

We all have associations with the word “Israel.” But how did ancient Israel emerge? Who were the Israelites and where did they come from? What was it like to live in biblical Israel? In *The World of Biblical Israel*, journey through ancient Israel and be introduced to the world, the people, the challenges, and the triumphs of ancient Israel. In 24 captivating lectures, Professor Cynthia R. Chapman of Oberlin College introduces you to the stories of the Judeans in exile and grounds them in their historical context. By comparing the history in the Bible to the archaeological record, Professor Chapman gives you a complete picture of life in biblical Israel.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Biblical Israel—The Story of a People
2. By the Rivers of Babylon—Exile
3. Ancestor Narratives in Genesis
4. Moses—The Torah’s Central Hero
5. Becoming the Nation of Israel
6. Kinship and Economics in Highland Villages
7. Three Weddings and a Funeral
8. Political Power Bases in Early Israel
9. Kingdoms and King Making
10. Politics and Economy of a Centralized Cult
11. Worshipping Locally
12. Lives of the Rich, Lives of the Poor
13. Assyrian Incursion into Israel and Judah
14. Life under Siege
15. Religious Debates and Preserved Text
16. Ezekiel—Exilic Informant
17. Life in Exile, Life in Judah
18. Literacy and Education
19. Religious Developments of the Exile
20. The New Israel—Resettling the Land
21. Food and the Family Meal—Boundaries
22. National Identity—Intermarriage
23. National Identity—Twins and Enemies
24. Loss and Restoration—Two Biblical Stories

THE BOOK OF GENESIS (#6234)

Professor Gary A. Rendsburg (2006)

The Book of Genesis is familiar, clear, powerful, elegantly written. It is the book with which both Jews and Christians alike begin their Bible. But is it possible that our understanding of the Book of Genesis we've all grown up with isn't as complete as we'd like to believe? Its deceptively simple message hides an intricate structure and treasures of detail behind sophisticated literary devices. Professor Gary A. Rendsburg shows you how to fully appreciate what he calls "one of the most remarkable literary compositions from the ancient world."

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. On Reading the Book of Genesis
2. Genesis 1, The First Creation Story
3. Genesis 2–3, The Second Creation Story
4. An Overview of Ancient Israelite History
5. The Ancient Near East
6. The JEDP Theory and Alternative Approaches
7. Genesis 6–8, The Flood Story
8. Genesis 9, Covenant
9. Genesis 12–22, The Abraham Story
10. When and Where Did Abraham Live?
11. Genesis 21–22, Abraham Put to the Test
12. Women in the Bible—Sarah and Hagar
13. Genesis 24, A Bride for Isaac
14. The Barren Woman and the Younger Son
15. The Literary Structure of Genesis
16. Different Bible Translations
17. Genesis 27, Jacob and Esau
18. Genesis 29, Jacob and Rachel
19. The Date of the Book of Genesis
20. Genesis 37, Joseph and His Brothers
21. Genesis 38, The Story of Judah and Tamar
22. Genesis 39, The Story of Potiphar's Wife
23. The Egyptian Background of the Joseph Story
24. One Last Text—and the Text as a Whole

BEGINNINGS OF JUDAISM (#6457)

Professor Isaiah M. Gafni (2008)

The roots of Judaism reach back to the Hebrew Bible, also known as the Old Testament by Christians. For thousands of years, Jews have looked to these scriptures for their origins, and have located in them the tenets of their faith. However, much of what is recognized today as Judaism does not appear in the Bible. How did Judaism develop from its biblical roots to the highly developed system we know today? What has changed—and what has remained constant?

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. The Beginnings of Judaism—Biblical Roots
2. New Challenges in the Late Biblical Period
3. Jews under Persian Rule—The Return to Zion
4. The Challenge of Hellenism
5. The Maccabees—From Rebels to Kings
6. The Canonization of the Hebrew Bible
7. Translating the Bible—The Septuagint
8. Adding to the Bible—The Apocrypha
9. Tobit—A New Path of Righteousness
10. Retelling the Bible—The Book of Jubilees
11. Revealing the Unknown
12. "Judaism" or "Judaisms"?
13. Sectarianism—Pharisees and Sadducees
14. Out of the Caves—Discovery at Qumran
15. The End of Days—Messianic Eschatology
16. Other Lands, Other Jews—The Diaspora
17. Judaism in the Hellenistic World
18. Changing God's Address—Temple to Synagogue
19. Rome Arrives in Jerusalem
20. Parting with the Temple
21. From Jerusalem to Yavne—Rabbinic Judaism
22. The Shaping of Rabbinic Judaism
23. A Violent Epilogue—Bar Kokhba
24. From "Roots" to "Tree"

DEAD SEA SCROLLS (#6362)

Professor Gary A. Rendsburg (2010)

Get a comprehensive, 24-lecture introduction to the unique series of archaeological documents that have irrevocably altered how we look at and understand the foundations of faith and religious practice. In *The Dead Sea Scrolls*, Professor Gary A. Rendsburg—a dedicated Dead Sea Scrolls scholar who has spent decades immersed in the study of this amazing find—tells you what the scrolls are and what they contain, and describes the intriguing story of how their unparalleled insights into religious and ancient history came into focus.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. The Discoveries and Their Significance
2. The First Seven Scrolls
3. Opening and Reading the First Scroll
4. The Historical Backdrop of Ancient Judaism
5. The Rise of the Jewish Sects
6. The Dead Sea Site of the Qumran Sect
7. The Emergence of the Rabbinic System
8. A Dead Sea Scroll from Medieval Cairo
9. Peshet Interpretation—Prophecy Read Anew
10. The War Scroll and Other Apocalyptic Texts
11. Biblical Manuscripts at Qumran
12. Alternative Views of Qumran and the Scrolls
13. Stops and Starts En Route to Publication
14. The Qumran Vision for a New Temple
15. Daily Life at Qumran
16. The Halakhic Letter—Rituals Define the Sect
17. The Qumran Biblical Canon
18. The Qumran Calendar
19. Jewish Scholars and Qumran Ritual Practices
20. Prayers, Hymns, and the Synagogue
21. Qumran Hebrew as an Anti-Language
22. The Enigma of the Copper Scroll
23. Connections to Christianity
24. Scroll Fragments and a New View of Judaism

NEW TESTAMENT (#0656)

Professor Bart D. Ehrman (2000)

Whether you consider it a book of faith or a cultural artifact, the New Testament is among the most significant writings that the world has ever known. This course sheds the light of purely historical research on the New Testament—its form, the methods of its composition, its authors and their original audiences, and the larger historical context. Mindful of the limitations imposed by the available historical evidence and methods, Professor Bart D. Ehrman brings impressive expertise to the task of reconstructing the life of Jesus and the early Christian community.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. The Early Christians and Their Literature
2. The Greco-Roman Context
3. Ancient Judaism
4. The Earliest Traditions About Jesus
5. Mark—Jesus the Suffering Son of God
6. Matthew—Jesus the Jewish Messiah
7. Luke—Jesus the Savior of the World
8. John—Jesus the Man from Heaven
9. Noncanonical Gospels
10. The Historical Jesus—Sources and Problems
11. The Historical Jesus—Solutions and Methods
12. Jesus the Apocalyptic Prophet
13. The Acts of the Apostles
14. Paul—The Man, the Mission, and the Modus Operandi
15. Paul and the Crises of His Churches—First Corinthians
16. Pauline Ethics
17. Paul's Letter to the Romans
18. Paul, Jesus, and James
19. The Deutero-Pauline Epistles
20. The Pastoral Epistles
21. The Book of Hebrews and the Rise of Christian Anti-Semitism
22. First Peter and the Persecution of the Early Christians
23. The Book of Revelation
24. Do We Have the Original New Testament?

JESUS AND HIS JEWISH INFLUENCES (#6281)

Professor Jodi Magness (2015)

For anyone interested in understanding the profound effect Jesus had on the world, it's important to realize that his actions and teachings didn't emerge from a vacuum. Rather, they were the product of a fascinating dialogue with—and reaction to—the traditions, cultures, and historical developments of ancient Jewish beliefs. In fact, early Judaism and Jesus are two subjects so inextricably linked that one cannot arrive at a true understanding of Jesus without understanding the time in which he lived and taught.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Jesus and Judaism
2. Sacred Mountains and Law Giving in Judaism
3. The United and Divided Israelite Kingdoms
4. The Destruction of Solomon's Temple
5. The Jewish and Samaritan Schism
6. The Jewish Diaspora and the Golden Rule
7. Alexander the Great's Impact on the Jews
8. Jews and Greek Rule: The Heliodorus Affair
9. Desolating Sacrilege and the Maccabean Revolt
10. Apocalyptic Works and the "Son of Man"
11. Jesus's Jewish Lineage
12. Was Jesus a Pharisee?
13. Jewish Ritual Purity: The Sons of Light
14. The Dead Sea Scrolls: Earliest Hebrew Bible
15. Was Jesus an Essene?
16. The Hebrew Scriptures and the Septuagint
17. The Reign of Herod the Great
18. Pontius Pilate: A Roman Prefect
19. Anarchy in Judea
20. Jesus's Prophecy: Jerusalem's Destruction
21. Flavius Josephus: Witness to 1st Century A.D.
22. Rabbinic Judaism's Traditions about Jesus
23. Jesus's Apocalyptic Outlook
24. Jesus's Teachings and Sayings in Context

HISTORICAL JESUS (#0643)

Professor Bart D. Ehrman (2000)

Worshiped around the globe by more than a billion people today, Jesus is undoubtedly the single most important figure in the story of Western civilization and one of the most significant in world history altogether. Yet, Jesus of Nazareth presents unique challenges to the historian, as Professor Bart D. Ehrman explains in this 24-lecture course on the search for the Jesus of history. Join him for an erudite survey of sources, methods, contexts, and problems, and then weigh his carefully thought-out historical interpretation of the words and deeds of the man from Galilee.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. The Many Faces of Jesus
2. One Remarkable Life
3. Scholars Look at the Gospels
4. Fact and Fiction in the Gospels
5. The Birth of the Gospels
6. Some of the Other Gospels
7. The Coptic Gospel of Thomas
8. Other Sources
9. Historical Criteria—Getting Back to Jesus
10. More Historical Criteria
11. The Early Life of Jesus
12. Jesus in His Context
13. Jesus and Roman Rule
14. Jesus the Apocalyptic Prophet
15. The Apocalyptic Teachings of Jesus
16. Other Teachings of Jesus in their Apocalyptic Context
17. The Deeds of Jesus in their Apocalyptic Context
18. Still Other Words and Deeds of Jesus
19. The Controversies of Jesus
20. The Last Days of Jesus
21. The Last Hours of Jesus
22. The Death and Resurrection of Jesus
23. The Afterlife of Jesus
24. The Prophet of the New Millennium

JESUS AND THE GOSPELS (#6240)

Professor Luke Timothy Johnson (2004)

Who was Jesus? Is it possible to shape a single picture from the various accounts of his life? *Jesus and the Gospels* examines the canonical Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John familiar to us from the New Testament, as well as the many other, apocryphal narratives and literary works that have contributed to our perceptions of Jesus, Mary, and Christianity. Award-winning Professor Luke Timothy Johnson designed his course to examine the Gospels as literary productions. The lectures seek to encounter not the Jesus behind those compositions, but the Jesus found within them.

36 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Why Not "The Historical Jesus"?
2. The Starting Point—The Resurrection Experience
3. The Matrix—Symbolic World of Greek and Jew
4. Parallels—Stories of Greek and Jewish Heroes
5. The Context—Jesus in the Memory of the Church
6. Earliest Stages—Paul and the Oral Tradition
7. Why Compose Gospels?
8. The Synoptic Problem and Its Solutions
9. Gospel of Mark—Apocalyptic and Irony
10. Gospel of Mark—Good News in Mystery
11. Gospel of Mark—Teacher and Disciples
12. Gospel of Mark—Passion and Death
13. Gospel of Matthew—Synagogue Down the Street
14. Gospel of Matthew—The Messiah of Israel
15. Gospel of Matthew—Jesus and Torah
16. Gospel of Matthew—Teacher and Lord
17. Luke-Acts—The Prophetic Gospel
18. Gospel of Luke—God's Prophet
19. Gospel of Luke—The Prophet and the People
20. Acts of the Apostles—The Prophet's Movement
21. Gospel of John—Context of Conflict
22. Gospel of John—Jesus as the Man from Heaven
23. Gospel of John—Jesus as Obedient Son
24. Gospel of John—Witness to the Truth
25. In and Out—Canonical and Apocryphal Gospels
26. Young Jesus—The Infancy Gospel of James
27. Young Jesus—The Infancy Gospel of Thomas
28. Jewish Christian Narrative Gospels
29. Fragments of Narrative Gospels—Gospel of Peter
30. New Revelations—Gnostic Witnesses
31. Jesus in Word—The Coptic Gospel of Thomas
32. Jesus in Word—Two Gnostic Gospels
33. The Gnostic Good News—The Gospel of Truth
34. The Gnostic Good News—The Gospel of Philip
35. Jesus in and Through the Gospels
36. Learning Jesus in Past and Present

HOW JESUS BECAME GOD (#6522)

Professor Bart D. Ehrman (2014)

The early Christian claim that Jesus of Nazareth was God completely changed the course of Western civilization. In fact, without the Christian declaration of Jesus as God, Western history as we know it would have never happened. If Jesus had not been declared God, his followers would have remained a sect within Judaism, and the massive conversion of Gentiles, the Roman adoption of Christianity, and the subsequent unfolding of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, and modernity would never have taken place. For that reason, the question of how Jesus became God is one of the most significant historical questions of Western civilization.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Jesus - The Man Who Became God
2. Greco-Roman Gods Who Became Human
3. Humans as Gods in the Greco-Roman World
4. Gods Who Were Human in Ancient Judaism
5. Ancient Jews Who Were Gods
6. The Life and Teachings of Jesus
7. Did Jesus Think He Was God?
8. The Death of Jesus - Historical Certainties
9. Jesus's Death - What Historians Can't Know
10. The Resurrection - What Historians Can't Know
11. What History Reveals about the Resurrection
12. The Disciples' Visions of Jesus
13. Jesus's Exaltation - Earliest Christian Views
14. The Backward Movement of Christology
15. Paul's View - Christ's Elevated Divinity
16. John's View - The Word Made Human
17. Was Christ Human? The Docetic View
18. The Divided Christ of the Separationists
19. Christ's Dual Nature - Proto-Orthodoxy
20. The Birth of the Trinity
21. The Arian Controversy
22. The Conversion of Constantine
23. The Council of Nicea
24. Once Jesus Became God

APOCALYPSE: CONTROVERSIES AND MEANING IN WESTERN HISTORY (#6433)

Professor Craig R. Koester (2011)

What are we to make of the book of Revelation? *The Apocalypse: Controversies and Meaning in Western History*, by scholar and Professor Craig R. Koester, is your guide to this extraordinary work and its impact on our civilization. These 24 thought-provoking and enlightening lectures are divided into three parts: the historical and intellectual background of the Apocalypse; a close reading of the book of Revelation, focusing on the meaning of its captivating and haunting images; and the wide-ranging legacy of its content on both Christian and Western history.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Revelation and the Apocalyptic Tradition
2. Apocalyptic Worldview in Judaism
3. Apocalyptic Dimension of Early Christianity
4. Origins of the Book of Revelation
5. Issues Facing Revelation's First Readers
6. God, the Lamb, and the Seven Seals
7. Seven Trumpets, Temple, and Celebration
8. The Dragon and the Problem of Evil
9. The Beasts and Evil in the Political Sphere
10. The Harlot and the Imperial Economy
11. The Battle, the Kingdom, and Last Judgment
12. New Creation and New Jerusalem
13. Antichrist and the Millennium
14. Revelation's Place in the Christian Bible
15. The Apocalypse and Spiritual Life
16. The Key to the Meaning of History
17. Apocalyptic Fervor in the Late Middle Ages
18. Luther, Radicals, and Roman Catholics
19. Revelation Takes Musical Form
20. Revelation in African American Culture
21. The Apocalypse and Social Progress
22. Awaiting the End in 1844 and Beyond
23. Rapture, Tribulation, and Armageddon
24. The Modern Apocalyptic Renaissance

EARLY CHRISTIANITY: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE DIVINE

(#0647)

Professor Luke Timothy Johnson (2002)

What accounts for Christianity's continuing success in what some would characterize as a "post-Christian" world? By looking at Christianity's early history, Professor Luke Timothy Johnson sheds light on the religion's enduring source of inspiration.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Christianity as a Religion
2. What Is a Religion?
3. The Role of Religious Experience
4. Sourcing Christianity
5. The Imperial Context
6. Greco-Roman Polytheism
7. Greco-Roman Religious Experience
8. The Symbolic World of Torah
9. Palestinian Judaism in the Greco-Roman World
10. Judaism in the Hellenistic Diaspora
11. Jesus and the Gospels
12. The Resurrection Experience
13. Movement Meets World—Five Key Transitions
14. Ritual Imprinting and Politics of Perfection
15. Glossolalia and the Embarrassments of Experience
16. Meals Are Where the Magic Is
17. Healing and Salvation
18. Access to Power—Visions and Prayer
19. The Holy Community
20. The Community's Worship
21. The Transforming Word of Scripture
22. Teachers and Creeds
23. The Power of the Saints
24. Christianities Popular and Real

GREAT FIGURES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (#6206)

Professor Amy-Jill Levine (2002)

Improve your biblical literacy and re-encounter the New Testament as a great repository of literary genius. This is the promise of Professor Amy-Jill Levine's vivid portraits of the cast of characters in the New Testament. Perhaps the best part of this compelling lecture series on the New Testament's most colorful characters is that you will gain a feeling for why these individuals remain dynamic, summoning presences. Join Professor Levine to discuss what is known about John the Baptist, Joseph, James, Mary Magdalene, Stephen, Philip, and many more important figures.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. The New Testament
2. John the Baptist
3. The Virgin Mary
4. Joseph, Magi, and Shepherds
5. Peter
6. John and James, the Sons of Zebedee
7. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
8. "Doubting" Thomas
9. The Gentile Mother
10. The Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son
11. The Samaritan Woman
12. Mary Magdalene
13. Pharisees and Sadducees
14. The Herodians
15. Judas Iscariot
16. Pontius Pilate
17. James
18. Stephen
19. Philip
20. The Centurions
21. Paul, the Hero of Acts
22. Paul, the Epistolary Evangelist
23. Jesus of Nazareth
24. The Christ of Faith

STORY OF THE BIBLE (#6252)

Professor Luke Timothy Johnson (2006)

Is the Bible a divinely inspired message, the work of human authors, or both? Translated and distributed all over the world, it bears the mark of the many cultures that have debated its meaning and prized its wisdom. In this course, Luke Timothy Johnson can illuminate for you the remarkable and complicated process by which this important book came into being.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Telling the Story of a Book
2. Making TaNaK
3. Forms of Jewish Scripture
4. Birth of the Christian Bible
5. Formation of Jewish and Christian Canons
6. Writing and Copying Manuscripts
7. Imperial Sponsorship and the Bible
8. Texts and Translations—The Ancient East
9. Old Latin and the Vulgate
10. Other Ancient Versions
11. Monasteries and Manuscripts
12. Interpretation within Judaism
13. Interpretation in Medieval Christianity
14. The Renaissance, Printing, and the Bible
15. The Protestant Reformation and the Bible
16. Translating the Bible into Modern Languages
17. The First Efforts at Englishing the Bible
18. The King James Version
19. The Romance of Manuscripts
20. Searching for the Critical Text
21. The Historical-Critical Approach
22. The Bible in Contemporary Judaism
23. Contemporary Christians and Their Bibles
24. The Bible's Story Continues

HISTORY OF THE BIBLE: THE MAKING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON (#6299)

Professor Bart D. Ehrman (2005)

The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon offers you a fast-moving yet thorough introduction to key issues in the development of the New Testament. These include: its different kinds of books, the conditions in which they were composed, what they teach, who actually wrote them, and—perhaps most important of all—why and how some books and not others became part of the canon of scripture that would define Christianity for all time. With their scholarly approach, these insightful lectures provide a deeper understanding of the New Testament for both Christians and non-Christians alike.

12 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. The New Testament—An Overview
2. Paul—Our Earliest Christian Author
3. The Pauline Epistles
4. The Problem of Pseudonymity
5. The Beginnings of the Gospel Traditions
6. The Earliest Gospels
7. The Other Gospels
8. Apocalypticism and the Apocalypse of John
9. The Copyists Who Gave Us Scripture
10. Authority in the Early Church
11. The Importance of Interpretation
12. When Did the Canon Get Finalized?

LOST CHRISTIANITIES: CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES AND THE BATTLES OVER AUTHENTICATION (#6593)

Professor Bart D. Ehrman (2002)

In the first centuries after Christ, there was no "official" New Testament. In fact, many Christians held beliefs that today would be considered bizarre, including the belief that Christ's death and resurrection had nothing to do with salvation. What did these "other" Scriptures say? Do they exist today? If such beliefs were once common, why do they no longer exist? These are just a few of the many provocative questions you explore in *Lost Christianities: Christian Scriptures and the Battles over Authentication*.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. The Diversity of Early Christianity
2. Christians Who Would Be Jews
3. Christians Who Refuse To Be Jews
4. Early Gnostic Christianity—Our Sources
5. Early Christian Gnosticism—An Overview
6. The Gnostic Gospel of Truth
7. Gnostics Explain Themselves
8. The Coptic Gospel of Thomas
9. Thomas' Gnostic Teachings
10. Infancy Gospels
11. The Gospel of Peter
12. The Secret Gospel of Mark
13. The Acts of John
14. The Acts of Thomas
15. The Acts of Paul and Thecla
16. Forgeries in the Name of Paul
17. The Epistle of Barnabas
18. The Apocalypse of Peter
19. The Rise of Early Christian Orthodoxy
20. Beginnings of the Canon
21. Formation of the New Testament Canon
22. Interpretation of Scripture
23. Orthodox Corruption of Scripture
24. Early Christian Creeds

GNOSTICISM: FROM NAG HAMMADI TO THE GOSPEL OF JUDAS (#6271)

Professor David Brakke (2015)

The three centuries following the death of Jesus were a momentous and turbulent era in Western religious thought. During this time, as Christianity began its massive ascent, distancing itself from paganism and Judaism, other important currents of religious belief appeared, in what became an epoch of intense theological conflict and debate. In this age of burgeoning faith, few if any influences on the theological landscape were as significant or far-reaching as the religious movements known to us as Gnosticism. Gnosticism, one of the most fascinating and perplexing phenomena in Western religious history, intersected deeply with early Christian thought, sparking religious ideologies that competed with the theological thinking that came to define Christianity. And, though Gnosticism was eventually branded as heretical by the emerging orthodox church, the church formed many of its most central doctrines in response to Gnostic ideas.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Rediscovering Gnosis
2. Who Were the Gnostics?
3. God in Gnostic Myth
4. Gnosticism on Creation, Sin, and Salvation
5. Judas as a Gnostic Tragic Hero
6. Gnostic Bible Stories
7. Gnosticism's Ritual Pathway to God
8. The Feminine in Gnostic Myth
9. The Gospel of Thomas's Cryptic Sayings
10. The Gospel of Thomas on Reunifying the Self
11. Valentinus, Great Preacher of Gnosis
12. God and Creation in Valentinian Myth
13. Becoming Male through Valentinian Ritual
14. Valentinian Views on Christian Theology
15. Mary Magdalene as an Apostle of Gnosis
16. Competing Revelations from Christ
17. The Invention of Heresy
18. Making Gnosis Orthodox
19. Gnosticism and Judaism
20. Gnosis without Christ
21. The Mythology of Manichaeism
22. Augustine on Manichaeism and Original Sin
23. Gnostic Traces in Western Religions
24. Gnosticism in the Modern Imagination

FROM JESUS TO CONSTANTINE: A HISTORY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY (#6577)

Professor Bart D. Ehrman (2004)

The traditional form of Christianity we know today includes beliefs, practices, a canon of sacred scripture, and even its own stated history, but it emerged only after many years of transition and conflict—with Judaism and with what can now only be called the "lost Christianities." Professor Bart D. Ehrman takes you through Christianity's first centuries to examine its transition from the religion of Jesus to a religion about Jesus. This 24-lecture series offers you a fresh outlook on the subject's most intriguing questions.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. The Birth of Christianity
2. The Religious World of Early Christianity
3. The Historical Jesus
4. Oral and Written Traditions about Jesus
5. The Apostle Paul
6. The Beginning of Jewish-Christian Relations
7. The Anti-Jewish Use of the Old Testament
8. The Rise of Christian Anti-Judaism
9. The Early Christian Mission
10. The Christianization of the Roman Empire
11. The Early Persecutions of the State
12. The Causes of Christian Persecution
13. Christian Reactions to Persecution
14. The Early Christian Apologists
15. The Diversity of Early Christian Communities
16. Christianities of the Second Century
17. The Role of Pseudepigrapha
18. The Victory of the Proto-Orthodox
19. The New Testament Canon
20. The Development of Church Offices
21. The Rise of Christian Liturgy
22. The Beginnings of Normative Theology
23. The Doctrine of the Trinity
24. Christianity and the Conquest of Empire

AFTER THE NEW TESTAMENT: THE WRITINGS OF THE APOSTOLIC FATHERS (#6537)

Professor Bart D. Ehrman (2005)

Who exactly were the Apostolic Fathers? Why were they given that name? Most important, what windows into the shaping of Christianity's canon, church hierarchy, and creed are opened for us with an understanding of works that include the letters of 1 Clement or Ignatius, the Didache of the Apostles, or the Letter to Diognetus? Professor Bart D. Ehrman answers these and many other questions as he introduces us to what is considered the most important collection of post-New Testament writings.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Introduction to the Apostolic Fathers
2. The Letter of 1 Clement
3. Church Structures in Early Christianity
4. The Letters of Ignatius
5. Doctrinal Problems in the Early Church
6. Still Other Doctrinal Disputes
7. The Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians
8. The Use of Authorities in the Early Church
9. The First Martyrology—Polycarp
10. The Persecution of the Christians
11. A Church Manual—The Didache of the Apostles
12. Ritual in the Early Church
13. Barnabas and the Opposition to the Jews
14. The Rise of Christian Anti-Semitism
15. 2 Clement—An Early Sermon
16. The Use of Scripture in the Early Church
17. Papias—An Early Christian Interpreter
18. Oral Tradition in Early Christianity
19. The Shepherd of Hermas—An Apocalypse
20. Apocalypses in Early Christianity
21. The Letter to Diognetus—An Apology
22. Apologetics in Early Christianity
23. The Apostolic Fathers as a Collection
24. The Apostolic Fathers and Proto-orthodoxy

THE FALL OF THE PAGANS AND THE ORIGINS OF MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY (#3466)

Professor Kenneth W. Harl (2011)

Why did pagan Rome clash with early Christians? How did Christianity ultimately achieve dominance in the Roman Empire and eclipse paganism in one of the most influential turning points in the history of the West? Find out the startling answers to these and other questions with *The Fall of the Pagans and the Origins of Medieval Christianity*. This historically focused discussion of the dramatic interaction between Judaism, Christianity, and paganism from the 1st to the 6th centuries—delivered by classical scholar and award-winning Professor Kenneth W. Harl—allows you to explore in great depth the reasons that Christianity emerged and sparked a major transition for religion, culture, and politics..

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Religious Conflict in the Roman World
2. Gods and Their Cities in the Roman Empire
3. The Roman Imperial Cult
4. The Mystery Cults
5. Platonism and Stoicism
6. Jews in the Roman Empire
7. Christian Challenge—First Conversions
8. Pagan Response—First Persecutions
9. Christian Bishops and Apostolic Churches
10. Pagan Critics and Christian Apologists
11. First Christian Theologians
12. Imperial Crisis and Spiritual Crisis
13. The Great Persecutions
14. The Spirit of Late Paganism
15. Imperial Recovery under the Tetrarchs
16. The Conversion of Constantine
17. Constantine and the Bishops
18. Christianizing the Roman World
19. The Birth of Christian Aesthetics and Letters
20. The Emperor Julian and the Pagan Reaction
21. Struggle over Faith and Culture
22. New Christian Warriors—Ascetics and Monks
23. Turning Point—Theodosius I
24. Justinian and the Demise of Paganism

LATE ANTIQUITY: CRISIS AND TRANSFORMATION (#3480)

Professor Thomas F. X. Noble (2008)

Explore the five momentous centuries that link the Classical and Modern worlds in *Late Antiquity*. This 36-lecture course, taught by distinguished medieval historian Professor Thomas F. X. Noble, shows you how the fall of the Roman Empire gave rise to three great civilizations: Medieval Europe, the Byzantine Empire, and the Islamic Caliphate. You explore many features of the period between A.D. 253 and A.D. 750, including the development of these unique civilizations, their memorable political and religious leaders, and the fascinating experience of daily life in the late antique world. With its rich historical insights, *Late Antiquity* will reshape your thoughts about this underappreciated—yet vital—part of human history.

36 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Imperial Crisis and Reform
2. The Crisis of the 3rd Century
3. The New Empire of Diocletian
4. Constantine's Roman Revolution
5. The House of Constantine, 337–363
6. The End of a Unified Empire
7. Ruling the Roman Empire—The Imperial Center
8. Ruling the Roman Empire—The Provinces
9. The Barbarians—Ethnicity and Identity
10. Rome and the Barbarians
11. Barbarian Kingdoms—Gaul
12. Barbarian Kingdoms—Spain and North Africa
13. Barbarian Kingdoms—Italy
14. The Eastern Empire in the 5th Century
15. The End of the Western Empire
16. The Age of Justinian, 527–565
17. The Christianization of the Roman World
18. Christianity and the Roman State
19. The Rise of the Roman Church
20. The Call of the Desert—Monasticism
21. Monasticism—Solitaries and Communities
22. The Church Fathers—Talking About God
23. Patristic Portraits
24. "What Has Athens to Do with Jerusalem?"
25. Graven Images—Christianity's Visual Arts
26. The Universal in the Local—Cities
27. Rome and Constantinople
28. Visigothic Spain and Merovingian Gaul
29. Celt and Saxon in the British Isles
30. The Birth of Byzantium
31. Byzantium—Crisis and Recovery
32. Muhammad and the Rise of Islam
33. The Rise of the Caliphate
34. Material Life in Late Antiquity
35. The Social World of Late Antiquity
36. What Happened, and Why Does It Matter?

WORLD OF BYZANTIUM (#0367)

Professor Kenneth W. Harl (2001)

Open new vistas of historical insight as you join award-winning scholar and lecturer Kenneth W. Harl in this study of the crucial yet overlooked civilization of Byzantium. These lectures fill a gap in history and give you a much wider and more accurate perspective on everything from the decline of imperial Rome to the rise of the Renaissance.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Imperial Crisis and Reform
2. Constantine
3. State and Society Under the Dominate
4. Imperial Rome and the Barbarians
5. The Rise of Christianity
6. Imperial Church and Christian Dogma
7. The Friends of God—Ascetics and Monks
8. The Fall of the Western Empire
9. The Age of Justinian
10. The Reconquest of the West
11. The Search for Religious Unity
12. The Birth of Christian Aesthetics and Letters
13. The Emperor Heraclius
14. The Christian Citadel
15. Life in the Byzantine Dark Age
16. The Iconoclastic Controversy
17. Recovery Under the Macedonian Emperors
18. Imperial Zenith—Basil II
19. Imperial Collapse
20. Alexius I and the First Crusade
21. Comnenian Emperors and Crusaders
22. Imperial Exile and Restoration
23. Byzantine Letters and Aesthetics
24. The Fall of Constantinople

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY: FROM THE DISCIPLES TO THE DAWN OF THE REFORMATION (#6610)

Professor Luke Timothy Johnson (2012)

Christianity is the largest and most global religious tradition in history. For nearly 2,000 years, the Christian faith has remained at or near the center of Western moral debate and conceptions of human identity, just action, and ultimate meaning. It has both shaped history and responded to history, showing an extraordinary adaptability within greatly differing cultures. Its practice and influence appears in every land and every language, and one-third of humanity now affiliates in some way with Christianity. Now, in 36 enthralling lectures, this course tells the phenomenal story of Christianity's first 1,500 years, in all its remarkable diversity and complex dimension.

36 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. The Historical Study of Christianity
2. The First Cultural Context—Greece and Rome
3. The First Cultural Context—Judaism
4. The Jesus Movement and the Birth of Christianity
5. Paul and Christianity's First Expansion
6. The Diversity of Early Christianity
7. The Unpopular Cult—Persecution
8. Forms of Witness—Martyrdom and Apologetic
9. Extreme Christianity in the 2nd and 3rd Centuries
10. The Shaping of Orthodoxy
11. Institutional Development before Constantine
12. The Beginnings of Christian Philosophy
13. Imperial Politics and Religion
14. Constantine and the Established Church
15. The Extension of Christian Culture
16. Monasticism as Radical Christianity
17. The Emergence of Patriarchal Centers
18. Theological Crisis and Council—The Trinity
19. Theological Crisis and Council—Christology
20. The Distinctive Issues of the Latin West
21. Expansion beyond the Boundaries of Empire
22. The Court of Justinian and Byzantine Christianity
23. The Rise of Islam and the Threat of Iconoclasm
24. Eastern Orthodoxy—Holy Tradition
25. From Roman Empire to Holy Roman Empire
26. Benedictine Monasticism and Its Influence
27. Evangelization of Western Europe
28. The Great Divorce between East and West
29. Monastic Reform
30. Cathedrals and Chapters
31. The Crusades
32. Papal Revolution
33. Universities and Theology
34. The Great Plague
35. Corruption and the Beginnings of Reform
36. The Ever-Adapting Religion

LUTHER: GOSPEL, LAW, AND REFORMATION (#6633)

Professor Phillip Cary (2004)

This 24-lecture course explores Luther's theology and the Reformation after he posted his famous 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. How did this late-medieval man launch the Protestant Reformation and help create the modern world? Is he hero or heretic, rebel or tormented soul? This course by Professor Phillip Cary of Eastern University will help you reach your own conclusions.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Luther's Gospel
2. The Medieval Church—Abuses and Reform
3. The Augustinian Paradigm of Spirituality
4. Young Luther Against Himself
5. Hearing the Gospel
6. Faith and Works
7. The Meaning of the Sacraments
8. The Indulgence Controversy
9. The Reformation Goes Public
10. The Captivity of the Sacraments
11. Reformation in Wittenberg
12. The Work of the Reformer
13. Against the Spirit of Rebellion
14. Controversy Over the Lord's Supper
15. Controversy Over Infant Baptism
16. Grace and Justification
17. Luther and the Bible
18. Luther and Erasmus
19. Luther and Predestination
20. Luther and Protestantism
21. Luther and Politics
22. Luther and His Enemies
23. Luther and the Jews
24. Luther and Modernity

HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE REFORMATION ERA

(#0690)

Professor Brad S. Gregory (2001)

Explore a watershed period in history as you examine the people, ideas, and events that transformed Western Christianity at the dawn of the modern age. This course is designed to give you a balanced, historical overview of the complex and dramatic events of the Reformation era during the epoch-making years between Luther's 95 Theses in 1517 and the end of the Thirty Years' War in 1648.

36 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. Early Modern Christianity—A Larger View
2. The Landscape of Late Medieval Life
3. Late Medieval Christendom—Beliefs, Practices, Institutions I
4. Late Medieval Christendom—Beliefs, Practices, Institutions II
5. Vigorous or Corrupt? Christianity on the Eve of the Reformation
6. Christian Humanism—Erudition, Education, Reform
7. Martin Luther's Road to Reformation
8. The Theology of Martin Luther
9. Huldrych Zwingli—The Early Reformation in Switzerland
10. Profile of a Protest Movement—The Early Reformation in Germany
11. The Peasants' War of 1524-1525
12. The Emergence of Early Anabaptism
13. The Spread of Early Protestantism—France, the Low Countries, and England
14. The Henrician Reformation in England
15. Defending the Traditional Order—Early Catholic Response
16. The Rise and Fall of the Kingdom of Münster
17. John Calvin and the Reformation in Geneva
18. Catholic Renewal and Reform in Italy
19. The Growth and Embattlement of Protestantism
20. Calvinism in France and the Low Countries
21. John Knox and the Scottish Reformation
22. Menno Simons and the Dutch Mennonites
23. The Council of Trent
24. Roman Catholicism after Trent
25. Going Global—Catholic Missions
26. The French Wars of Religion
27. Religion and Politics in the Dutch Revolt
28. Elizabethan England—Protestants, Puritans, and Catholics
29. Confessionalization in Germany
30. France and the Low Countries in the 1600s
31. The Thirty Years' War—Religion and Politics
32. Revolution and Restoration in England
33. The Impact of the Reformations—Changes in Society and Culture
34. Were the Reformations a Success?
35. Reflections on Religious Change and Conflict
36. Expectations and Ironies

HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY (#6450)

Professor Phillip Cary (2008)

Who was Jesus? Did his promise of salvation apply to everyone or only a few? How could one participate in that promise? Questions like these have long been at the heart of Christianity and have led to debate and division. In *The History of Christian Theology*, investigate the many responses that Christian believers, scholars, and theologians have developed over more than 2,000 years. Throughout these 36 illuminating lectures, award-winning Professor Phillip Cary reveals the power of Christianity as both an intellectual discipline and a spiritual path. Enrich your understanding of this powerful religious tradition and gain thought-provoking insights into teachings that forever changed the world.

36 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. What Is Theology?
2. Early Christian Proclamation
3. Pauline Eschatology
4. The Synoptic Gospels
5. The Gospel of John
6. Varieties of Early Christianity
7. The Emergence of Christian Doctrine
8. Christian Reading
9. The Uses of Philosophy
10. The Doctrine of the Trinity
11. The Doctrine of the Incarnation
12. The Doctrine of Grace
13. The Incomprehensible and the Supernatural
14. Eastern Orthodox Theology
15. Atonement and the Procession of the Spirit
16. Scholastic Theology
17. The Sacraments
18. Souls after Death
19. Luther and Protestant Theology
20. Calvin and Reformed Theology
21. Protestants on Predestination
22. Protestant Disagreements
23. Anabaptists and the Radical Reformation
24. Anglicans and Puritans
25. Baptists and Quakers
26. Pietists and the Turn to Experience
27. From Puritans to Revivalists
28. Perfection, Holiness, and Pentecostalism
29. Deism and Liberal Protestantism
30. Neo-Orthodoxy—From Kierkegaard to Barth
31. Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism
32. Protestantism after Modernity
33. Catholic Theologies of Grace
34. Catholic Mystical Theology
35. From Vatican I to Vatican II
36. Vatican II and Ecumenical Prospects

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: A HISTORY (#6640)

Professor William R. Cook (2009)

Explore the vast and fascinating history of one of the most influential institutions in the world with *The Catholic Church: A History*. In 36 informative and engaging lectures, follow the development of this powerful religious force throughout the centuries and witness its ability to move armies, inspire saints, and shape the lives and spirits of its more than 1 billion members. With noted historian and Professor William R. Cook, you'll quickly realize why no understanding of Western civilization is complete without an understanding of the Catholic Church.

36 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. From Jesus to the Creation of the Church
2. The First Christian Institutions
3. Christianities in the Early Church
4. Persecution and Saints
5. Peace between Empire and Church
6. Institutional and Doctrinal Developments
7. Latin Theology, Including Augustine
8. Popes and Bishops in the Early Middle Ages
9. Monasticism—Benedict and His Rule
10. Evangelizing Northern and Eastern Europe
11. The Germanization of Christianity
12. Charlemagne and the Church in Feudal Times
13. Monks and Hermits—New Forms of Monasticism
14. Papal Reform and Church-State Controversies
15. Crusade, Heresy, Inquisition
16. The Papacy—Innocent III to Boniface VIII
17. Francis, Dominic, and the Mendicants
18. Flowering of Church Art in the Middle Ages
19. Scholastic Thought
20. Medieval Mysticism
21. The Great Schism and the Conciliar Age
22. The Renaissance Church
23. Luther, Calvin, and the Reformation
24. Catholic Responses—The Council of Trent
25. The Jesuits
26. Catholicism in Asia and the New World
27. American Catholicism
28. The Church in the Age of Reason
29. Pius IX and Papal Infallibility
30. Leo XIII and the Modern World
31. The Eastern Catholic Churches
32. The Second Vatican Council
33. The Catholic Church Looks Outward
34. The Challenges of New Theologies
35. John Paul II and the 21st-Century Church
36. One? Holy? Catholic? Apostolic?

POPES AND THE PAPACY: A HISTORY (#6672)

Professor Thomas F. X. Noble (2006)

This course is designed to illuminate for both Catholics and non-Catholics the remarkable institution known as the "Petrine Office." It is taught by Professor Thomas F. X. Noble, director of the Medieval Institute and professor of history at the University of Notre Dame—who has spent more than 30 years immersed in the subject. The insights and wisdom he has gathered along the way make *Popes and the Papacy: A History* a course that satisfies on every level.

24 lectures

30 minutes / lecture

1. What Is Papal History? When Did It Begin?
2. The Rise of the Petrine Idea
3. Popes, Byzantines, and Barbarians
4. The Popes in the Age of Charlemagne
5. Rome, the Popes, and the Papal Government
6. The "Age of Iron"
7. The Investiture Controversy
8. The Papal Monarchy—Institutions
9. The Papal Monarchy—Politics
10. The Popes at Avignon
11. The Great Schism
12. The Renaissance Papacy—Politics
13. The Renaissance Papacy—Culture
14. The Challenge of Reform—Protestantism
15. Catholic Reform and Counter Reform
16. Absolutism, Enlightenment, and Revolution
17. Pius IX—Prisoner of the Vatican
18. The Challenge of Modernism
19. The Troubled Pontificate of Pius XII
20. The Age of Vatican II
21. The Transitional Pontificate of Paul VI
22. The Vatican and What It Does
23. John Paul II—"The Great"?
24. Benedict XVI, the Future, and the Past

THE GREATEST CONTROVERSIES OF EARLY CHRISTIAN HISTORY (#6410)

Professor Bart D. Ehrman (2013)

Whether we view it in religious, social, political, or economic terms, Christianity has deeply and integrally influenced the Western worldview, our way of life, and our most basic notions of selfhood, morality, and ethics. But compelling controversies surrounding the development of Christianity in its first three centuries bring into question common beliefs about the faith. Now, in *The Greatest Controversies of Early Christian History*, join award-winning Professor Bart D. Ehrman in a penetrating investigation of these provocative issues of Christianity. In this revealing inquiry, you'll tackle 24 pivotal controversies from the most important formative era of the faith, investigating them with the tools of the historian and aiming to resolve them with academic rigor.

24 lectures
30 minutes / lecture

[AUDIO-ONLY! **]**
[on CD (not DVD) **]**

1. Was Jesus Born in Bethlehem?
2. Was Jesus's Mother a Virgin?
3. Did Jesus Have a Twin Brother?
4. Is Jesus in the Dead Sea Scrolls?
5. Did Jesus Expect to See the World's End?
6. How Close Were Jesus and Mary Magdalene?
7. Was Jesus Married?
8. What Secrets Did Judas Betray?
9. Did the Jews Kill Jesus?
10. Was Pontius Pilate a Secret Christian?
11. Was Jesus Raised from the Dead?
12. Did the Jews Expect a Suffering Messiah?
13. Is Paul the Real Founder of Christianity?
14. Did the Disciples Write the Gospels?
15. Does the New Testament Contain Forgeries?
16. Is the Book of Revelation about Our Future?
17. Who Were the Original Christians?
18. Is the True Jesus in the Gnostic Gospels?
19. What Happened to the Apostles?
20. Was Christianity an Illegal Religion?
21. Is the Old Testament a Christian Book?
22. Did Early Christians Accept the Trinity?
23. Do We Have the Original New Testament?
24. Who Chose the Books of the New Testament?

THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF C. S. LEWIS (#0297)

Professor Louis Markos (2000)

The Life and Writings of C. S. Lewis takes you through the unique and diverse legacy of one of Western literature's most beloved authors. These insightful lectures are delivered by award-winning Professor Louis Markos. Under his expert guidance, explore the wealth of moral lessons and spiritual allegories behind virtually the entire Lewis canon, from *Mere Christianity* to *The Screwtape Letters* to *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. You'll also get a complete picture of Lewis as a renowned medieval scholar, a literary critic, a philosopher and theologian, and an inspirational advisor and role model.

12 lectures

[** AUDIO-ONLY! **]

30 minutes / lecture

[** on CD (not DVD) **]

1. The Legacy of C. S. Lewis
2. Argument by Desire—*Surprised by Joy* and *The Pilgrim's Regress*
3. Ethics and the Tao—*Mere Christianity* and *The Abolition of Man*
4. Nature and Supernature—*Miracles* and *The Problem of Pain*
5. Heaven and Hell—*The Screwtape Letters* and *The Great Divorce*
6. Lewis the Scholar—Apologist for the Past
7. Paradise Regained—The Space Trilogy I
8. Temptation, Struggle, and Choice—The Space Trilogy II
9. Smuggled Theology—The Chronicles of Narnia I
10. Journeys of Faith—The Chronicles of Narnia II
11. The Beginning and the End—The Chronicles of Narnia III?
12. Suffering unto Wisdom—*Till We Have Faces* and *A Grief Observed*