Exam #1 – NT Background and the Gospels
BCM103 – NT History, Lit, and Theology

1. Which of the following was a reason why a book might be accepted into the NT canon
   a. It was written in Greek  
   b. It had to be written by an apostle  
   c. It was universally accepted  
   d. It was read in the synagogue

2. Which Jewish group would have tried to maintain peace with Rome
   a. Pharisees  
   b. Sadducees  
   c. Zealots  
   d. Essenes

3. The religious movement that taught that we should accept our circumstances calmly was
   a. Stoicism  
   b. Platonism  
   c. Cynicism  
   d. Magic

4. The Gospel of Mark portrays the disciples in what way
   a. Gradually understanding who Jesus is  
   b. Rejecting Jesus  
   c. Failing to allow Gentiles to become God’s people  
   d. Failing to understand who Jesus is

5. Which Gospel portrays Jesus as a new Moses
   a. Matthew  
   b. Mark  
   c. Luke  
   d. John

6. Which explains why the Gospel of Matthew comes first in the NT
   a. It was the first book of the NT written  
   b. It was the first Gospel written  
   c. It presents Jesus as fulfilling the OT  
   d. It was the first book accepted into the canon by the church

7. When we refer to the “New Testament” what is meant by the word “Testament?”
   a. Last will  
   b. A legal document  
   c. List of commands  
   d. Covenant

8. Which Jewish group responded to the political and religious environment by withdrawing from society
   a. Pharisees  
   b. Sadducees  
   c. Scribes  
   d. Essenes

9. What Greek general was responsible for the spread of Greek language over the inhabited world
   a. Judas Maccabees  
   b. Alexander  
   c. Nero  
   d. Herod

10. Which religious movement thought that through incantations and spells demons could be repelled
    a. Stoicism  
    b. Platonism  
    c. Cynicism  
    d. Magic
11. Who was responsible for liberating the temple after it was defiled by a foreign ruler

12. Which religious group pursued living a simple lifestyle and was critical of society

13. A favorite word or title to describe Jesus in Luke is
   a. God  b. Son  c. Saviour  d. Word

14. Which Gospel is structured according to five main discourses of Jesus

15. Why are the first three Gospels called “the Synoptics”
   a. They were the first to be accepted into the canon  
   b. They were written by disciples of Jesus  
   c. They have some relationship to one another  
   d. They present identical views of Jesus

16. Platonism was known for its distinction between
   a. The God of the OT and the God of the NT  
   b. Knowledge and wisdom  
   c. Spirit and matter  
   d. Intellectual and moral truth

17. Which Gospel was most likely written first

18. Which of the following accounts for the difference between John and the first three Gospels
   a. John was not an eyewitness of Jesus  
   b. John relied on different written sources than the other three  
   c. John writes in his own style and for his own theological emphases  
   d. John never read the other three Gospels before writing his own

19. Which kingdom that lay to the south of Jerusalem was responsible for capturing and defiling the temple
   a. Romans  b. Seleucids  c. Ptolemies  d. Persians

20. What might be one reason why Mark’s Gospel would be recognized as Scripture by the early church
   a. Mark was an apostle  
   b. Mark relied on Peter’s teaching  
   c. Mark claims in his Gospel to be inspired  
   d. Mark’s name actually appears in the Gospel
21. Which Gospel presents Jesus as the Son of Abraham for Gentiles and not just Jews  

22. In which Gospel is the author most likely addressing Christians suffering for their faith in Rome  

23. Which of the following incidents does Luke have that is not found in any of the others Gospels  
a. The Sermon on the Mount  b. Jesus teaching in parables  c. the parable of the Samaritan  
d. the birth of Jesus

24. Which Gospel presents Jesus as the Word  

25. Which Gospel demonstrates that Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise made to David, but for Gentiles as well as Jews  

26. Why does Luke have shepherds rather than Magi come and visit Jesus at his birth  
a. Luke did not know of the Magi’s visit to Jesus  b. the shepherds fit Luke’s emphasis on social outcasts  
c. Luke wanted to change people’s perspective on shepherds  d. The visit of the Messiah by shepherds was prophesied in the OT

27. Which Gospel has Jesus speaking a lengthy farewell discourse to his disciples on their last night  

28. Which Gospel concludes with Jesus’ followers afraid to tell anyone about his resurrection  

29. Which Jewish movement would have been willing to fight against Rome to be free from its oppressive rule  

30. Which of the following was a problem faced by early Christians in the first century  
a. Lack of morals  b. Roman rule  c. Christianity almost becoming extinct  
d. There was no one “true” Christianity
31. The word that refer to the process of spreading Greek culture and language is

32. Which Gospel was explicitly written to encourage and strengthen faith in Jesus as Messiah

33. The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew’s Gospel is to be understood *primarily* as
   a. a new Law just like Moses taught  b. teaching for those who belonged to the kingdom
   c. a list of laws that show that we can’t measure up  d. teaching only for Jews in the 1st Century

34. Instead of offering the Kingdom of God as the other three Gospels do John often has Jesus
   offering his followers

35. Which gospel has a strong emphasis on the inclusion of Gentiles

36. Which Gospel devotes almost half of its narrative to the suffering of Christ

37. In which Gospel does Jesus reach out to social outcasts and the undesireables

38. The dominant way that Mark portrays Christ is as
   a. Son of God  b. the Word  c. King of the Jews  d. Suffering servant

39. The Gospel which contains a story of a Pharisee named Nicodemus going to see Jesus at night is

40. Which Jewish group responded to foreign rule by pursuing personal purity by strict
    observance of the OT law

41. One issue that both Christians and Jews struggled with in the 1st century was
   a. How much of the law must we keep to be saved  b. How far can we accommodate with the Roman Empire
   c. Is Jesus really the son of God  d. Should we add another group of writings to the OT canon
42. Which Gospel presents Jesus as the Passover Lamb  

43. Which Gospel ends with a command to spread the news about Jesus to all nations  

44. When Jesus offers the kingdom of God he is offering  
a. a future kingdom on earth  b. the reign of God in the lives of people in the present  
c. membership in the city of Jerusalem  d. the opportunity to overthrow Rome

45. Which Gospel refers to itself as “good news”  

46. Which of the following is feature only found in John’s Gospel  
a. He presents Jesus as Messiah  b. Dualism between light and darkness  c. the Gospel does not name its author  d. Jesus is presented as a human being

47. Which Gospel has Jesus visiting a Samaritan woman at a well  

48. Which of the following is true about the actual writing of the Gospels  
a. They are largely fictitious literature  b. They follow the conventions of 1st Century biographies  c. They tell us everything the author knew about Jesus  d. They are concerned with theology but not with history

49. If asked “what is the identity marker of the true people of God,” the Jews of Jesus’ day would have answered  

50. Which Gospel may be addressing some Christians who are wealthy  

51. The dominant way that Jesus parables were treated until recently was  
a. to see them as detailed allegories  b. to see them as teaching only one main point  
c. to see them as creations of the early church  d. to see them as real life events

52. Which Gospel contains the parable of the so-called “Prodigal Son”
53. Which of the following statements about the authorship of the Gospels is true
a. The names given the Gospels were attributed to them by the early church
b. We have no idea who wrote the Gospels; we can only guess
c. The gospels were not written by individual authors but by communities of Christians
d. God does not want us to try to determine who wrote the Gospels

54. Which Gospel contains several “I Am” sayings of Jesus

55. Which religious movement said that salvation was only an elite few who possessed a secret knowledge

56. In the first century culture, a Patron was
a. a poor individual who depended on the help of a wealthier member of society
b. a wealthy member of society who provided benefits for a poorer member
c. a god who was worshipped by the wealthy in a pagan temple
d. a priest who served in a pagan temple

57. Which Gospel presents Jesus as the light for Gentiles

58. Which Gospel includes the response of praise and worship for God’s salvation as one of its themes

59. One of the themes of Mark’s Gospel is the “secret Messiah.” Why did Jesus command silence when someone confessed he was the Messiah
a. Jesus’ messiahship might be misunderstood by the people  b. Jesus did not think he was the Messiah; only the later church did after his resurrection  c. Jesus recognized that only the Roman Caesar was King at that time  d. Mark was mistaken about who Jesus was

60. In which Gospel does the author balance Jesus triumph/deity and his suffering

61. Which of the following is one of the ways that Matthew portrays Jesus
a. Suffering Servant  b. Lamb of God  c. Word  d. Teacher
62. Which of the following is distinct about Luke
   a. It was written by one of Jesus close disciples   b. It is the shortest of the Gospels
   c. It was part of a two-volume work with Acts   d. It was rejected at Scripture at first by many Christians

63. Which Gospel shows that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament

64. The “New Exodus” is a dominant theme in which Gospel

65. In which Gospel does the author depict Jesus as reinstating Peter after Peter has denied him

66. The prologue of John’s Gospel functions to
   a. show that Jesus reveals God   b. Jesus is the suffering servant for mankind
   c. Jesus is the Passover Lamb of the OT   d. Jesus was God; but it says nothing about his humanity

67. Which Gospel makes no reference to Jesus birth or becoming a human being

68. The Gospel which clearly tells us that the author relied on other written sources and on eyewitnesses is

69. The fact that the kingdom of God in Matthew is described as both present and future at the same time can be explained
   a. as a contradiction   b. Jesus changed his mind after his message was rejected by his Jewish listeners
   c. the kingdom is present in part, but will come in full in the future   d. The church invented the sayings about the future kingdom to explain why Jesus promise of a kingdom did not happen

70. Which Gospel was probably included in the canon because its author was a close associate of the apostle Paul
71. The title “Son of Man” refers primarily to Jesus’
a. Humanity   b. Deity   c. Kingship   d. Relation to David

72. In Luke’s teaching on wealth he emphasizes that
a. Wealth should be shared with the poor   b. It is sinful to be wealthy   c. Jesus will bless his disciples with wealth   d. Wealth is a sign of favor with the Roman Empire

73. Which Jewish group was concerned with study of the Torah (the Law)

74. In which Gospel is Jesus depicted as associating with tax collectors and other sinners

75. What is the name of the community that went off into the desert and produced a number of well-known scrolls

76. Which of the following is distinctive to Matthew’s Gospel
a. Jesus is the Messiah   b. Jesus comes to save the outcasts of society   c. Jesus is the Lamb of God   d. Herod attempts to kill the infant Jesus

77. Of the first three Gospels, which Gospel probably formed the basis for the other two.

78. Which Gospel has Jesus teaching that the Holy Spirit would be his replacement

79. Which Gospel was written to explain why the church was becoming more and more Gentile

80. One distinctive theme in all 4 Gospels is that they present Jesus as
a. a miracle worker   b. as a conquering king   c. as teaching mysteries   d. as fully human