BIB2000 New Testament Survey (ONAA20A). TWO: WK1 CONTEXT DISCUSSION Objective: Discuss the contextual background of the Gospels. Instructions Understanding the content of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John is greatly enhanced after research is done on context, including background, setting, and origin. The context becomes a story behind the story. Identifying with life as it was in the first century is difficult when there are few present-day visual aids to assist you in developing a mental picture. As you learn customs and religious practices you can see a mental picture that helps you understand a given situation. You know context when you can smell the smells, feel the heat or cold, understand the little nuances of certain words and phrases, feel the pain, understand the joy, hear the crowd, and sense the emotions of those in the account. Context can be learned. When you do, you will find yourself right in the setting as if you were present.  Read Luke 1: 1-4 and the Book of John in your Bible.  Read all the introductions to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John from the following links: o https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-matthew/ o https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-mark/ o https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-luke/ o https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-john/  View the Bible Project videos covering the same books. o Matthew: https://thebibleproject.com/explore/matthew/ o Mark: https://thebibleproject.com/explore/mark/ o Luke: https://thebibleproject.com/explore/luke/ o John: https://thebibleproject.com/explore/john/  In your initial post, give the context, culture, topographical setting, and political environment of the region where Jesus’ ministry took place in the Gospels. Ensure the following points are addressed. o In this environment, what were some of the obvious issues Jesus faced with his ministry? o What political controversies did he navigate? o What was the setting like where he preached the Sermon on the Mount? o Who were his followers? o Who were his opponents? o Why did Jesus come and what does this mean to you today?  Provide your initial post by Day 4 and replies to fellow students by Day 7 in the forum titled WK1 Context Discussion. Consult the discussion forum rubric in your syllabus for further details. THREE: COURSE PROJECT PART I Objective: Present the purpose, key themes, and context of Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John. Instructions To understand the New Testament, you need basic information about the books that make up this compendium of 27 books. Who wrote them? When were they written and to whom? Each book had a purpose for being written. As you complete each part of the course project, you will answer all of these questions and more by the end of the course. The course project focuses on a process to understand the context, themes, and lessons from each book of the New Testament. Each part of the project will help you develop an end product that will flow together as a unit rather than five separate parts. Each week will involve following the same outline for different books. You have a certain number of books for each part of the project. Each biblical book contains a key verse or verses that serve as the foundation for the book. Think of them as a thesis statement for a paper you would write. Key verses serve as a cornerstone for understanding the intent of the author.  Create a PowerPoint that identifies key information about each of the assigned books. You should have 1 slide per book that includes the following information: o Purpose of each book (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) o Key verse(s) and themes. o Context (author, date, sources, audience, setting, etc.) o Issues addressed in each book.  Submit your PowerPoint as an attachment in the drop box titled Course Project Part I. FOUR: GOSPELS CHART Objective: Explain the similarities and differences between each of the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John. Instructions a. The first three Gospels are called the Synoptic Gospels. This is a term meaning “seeing together.” This term refers to the high degree of similarity found in the way Jesus’ life and ministry are presented. The similarities between these three Gospels also marks the differences between them and the Gospel of John. While they have many similarities, there are some distinct differences that may not be noticed unless carefully observed. Each of these Gospels makes contributions to the historical record concerning the life and ministry of Christ. 2. Skim Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John, and review the chart found at gospelparallels.com: http://www.gospelparallels.com/gospelparallels.html 3. Consult the Bible Project videos, Bible Dictionaries, or other Bible resources to help you with this chart. Also consult the associated topics from the contents index in the front of your Life Application Study Bible. 4. Make a list of events in the life of Christ that occur in all four Gospels and a lis of those events that occur in only on Gospel. Write a one-page paper that examines the similarities and differences between the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John. 5. Submit the paper to your instructor as an attachment in the drop box titled Gospel Chart. 6. FIVE: PERSON OF CHRIST PAPER 7. Objective: Explain the biblical claims concerning the birth of Christ and his identity. a. Instructions b. There has always been controversy and debate surrounding the conception, birth, and claims concerning Jesus. Countless books have been written on this subject. Extra-biblical sources confirm the historicity of Jesus of Nazareth but offer few details of his life. The unique claims made surrounding his conception and birth have always been tenets of faith that every Christian should be able to explain. Your Bible readings from Week 1 and 2 provide and explanation of the biblical truths that are core beliefs of the Christian faith. Questions must be answered about where Jesus came from and his purpose in coming. Every person confronted with His claims must decide what to believe about one who has so dramatically influenced the history of civilization.