

**TRINITY SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY
SPRING TERM 2006
COURSE SYLLABUS
Department: Biblical Studies
Course Title: Foundations in the Old Testament
Course Number: OT 100 (On-line course)
Credit Hours: 3**

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide the student with an introduction to the history of salvation as expressed in the OT. It explores the major themes and events recorded in the OT with special attention to the relationship of the OT to Jesus Christ.

Our interaction with the OT is intended not only to increase your knowledge, but also encourage spiritual growth and skill in using the OT in ministry.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goals of this course are to help the student do the following:

1. Gain a working knowledge of the history, major themes, and content of the OT. This includes a basic understanding of each book's historical background, content, and message.
2. Gain a familiarity with the historical and cultural ancient Near Eastern context of the OT.
3. Describe Israel's geography and the location of historical sites in the ancient Near East that are important for our understanding of the OT.
4. Understand how the OT is a book about Christ.
5. Appreciate the relevance of the OT for Christian living.

III. TEXTBOOKS

Our main textbook will be the Old Testament. Use a reliable English translation (not a paraphrase) of the OT such as ESV, RSV, NASB, NIV, NKJV. We have a tremendous amount of reading to do. Familiarizing ourselves with the text of the OT is necessary if we are to develop our appreciation for the big redemptive picture that unfolds in the Bible. This in turn will help us appreciate how the OT gives Christians the bearings to

understand where we come from and where we are going.

OTHER TEXTS:

LaSor, William, David Allan Hubbard, and Frederic William Bush. Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament, second edition. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1996.

Walton, John H. Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING SYSTEM

People read and learn at different rates. I suspect that an individual with a moderate grasp of OT content will spend 6-8 hours per week reading and 2-3 hours per week in on-line discussions. There will be several weeks during the term when a quiz (or midterm) will add to your regular assignment. Posted weekly assignments will include readings in the OT and LaSor, occasional supplemental readings, and occasional discussion questions on the assigned readings. There will be 3 quizzes: geography, general time line, and prophets' chart. In addition there will be a mid-term and a final exam.

Class grade will be based on:

- Informed participation in on-line discussions – 20%
- Quizzes – 25%
- Midterm Exam – 25%
- Final Exam – 30%

V. COURSE DESIGN

CLASS PREPARATION:

As you begin each session PRAY for the Lord to give you understanding of what you are about to read, and ask Him to give you a compelling conviction that an understanding of this particular part of the Bible is a gift from Him to deepen your relationship with Him.

READ:

- (1) the assigned biblical material, trying to grasp the general outline and flow of thought. Use your charts, (both Walton's and mine) to situate the material geographically and chronologically.
- (2) my lecture notes. I will post my notes for a particular week no later than Thursday midnight of the week before we discuss a given topic.
- (3) the assignment from the LaSor (again, referring to the charts as necessary).

REFLECT on the material. Take some time to coordinate the information. This should help bring it all together. Use index cards to record places, persons, and events that

appear important to the text. (Hint: Usually what is repeated is important. If a particular name/event pops up more than 2-3 times, make a note of it.) Note any questions or insights that you may want to include in the on-line discussions.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Getting to know one another

If this is your first on-line course, let me assure you that a sense of community does indeed develop during the semester. To aid in this development, please post a description of yourself and upload a picture. If you do not have any pictures that are digitalized, then please snail mail a photograph to Travis Hines, the on-line support person at Trinity, so it can be scanned in and added to your brief biography.

Messages posted to the course discussion board should be limited to discussion of the course material. If you want to share personal information or chat with one another on subjects outside the course material, use the Water Cooler. These discussions are optional. There is no requirement that you read the Water Cooler messages.

Your part in the course:

- (1)POST: At the beginning of each week post to the discussion board a message which includes one item that you found valuable, exciting, or puzzling. It may be something you either agreed or disagreed with. Your message should be approximately 50-100 words, a bit longer only if absolutely necessary. These initial posts should be posted by Tuesday night, midnight.
- (2)READ: Read all of the initial postings submitted by your classmates to the discussion board.
- (3)RESPOND: Continue to read the discussion that comes out of the original post. You are to make at least 2 contributions per week to the discussion. The discussion for the week need not be limited to the initial items posted. You may add new topics, provided they stay within the general topic for the week. Please try to limit messages to around 100 words each if possible so as to not overwhelm one another with excessive reading. Discussion for the week is cut off at noon, Eastern time, on Saturdays. You may continue discussion after that, but other members of the class are not required to read any student messages posted after the noon deadline.
- (4)QUIZZES AND TESTS: The dates for these items are listed in the syllabus. I will post each item at the beginning of the week (by midnight, Sunday) and you will have until the following Saturday, midnight, to complete and return to me.

My part in the course:

1. POST: I will post my lectures for each session by Thursday midnight of the week before we discuss the given subject.
2. QUESTIONS: I will post one or more questions related to the readings each week when I post my lecture notes. These questions are meant to stimulate your critical thinking as you interact with each week's reading assignments. They are meant to target and stimulate, but not monopolize our weekly discussions.

3. READ: I, like you, will read all of the messages posted to the board.
4. RESPOND: I, like you, will not respond to all of the messages. I will add my comments when something is addressed to me specifically, or when I feel I need to add something to the discussion. It has been the experience of other professors here at Trinity that most of the time in on-line courses, the students carry on valuable conversations and are able to correct one another's mistakes by themselves without the instructor's intervention. Therefore, I will restrain myself unless I think it is a significant error that other class members have missed. Sometime between Saturday noon and Sunday night midnight I will post any final comments I may have. Be sure to check the bulletin board one more time after Sunday midnight to read my comments.
5. EVALUATE: I will attempt to return quizzes and exams within one week of receiving them.

N.B. If you have questions or comments that you don't want to necessarily post for the entire class, feel free to email me. If you have computer questions that relate to the class, please contact Travis Hines at thines@tesm.edu or 800-874-8754.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<i>Week of</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Jan 23	Why Study The Old Testament? Revelation, Inspiration, and Canon Read LaSor, 585-631
Jan 30	Introduction to the Pentateuch: Primeval History and the Patriarchal Period (Genesis) Read LaSor, 3-51
Feb 06	The Exodus and Wilderness Wanderings (Exodus-Deuteronomy) Read LaSor, 52-127 QUIZ #1: TIMELINE
Feb 13	Introduction to the Historical Books: The Conquest and Period of the Judges (Joshua, Judges, Ruth) Read LaSor, 131-164; 520-525
Feb 20	Historical Books Continued: The Birth of the Monarchy/Israel's Golden Years (Samuel-Kings, Chronicles) Read LaSor, 165-196; 542-549 QUIZ #2: GEOGRAPHY
Feb 27	Historical Books Continued: The Divided Monarchy and Their Prophetic Counterparts (Introduction to 8th century prophets: Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, Micah) Read LaSor, 197-211; 221-230; 243-312
Mar 06	6. The Collapse of the NK/ The Continuation of the SK (Introduction to the 7th century prophets: Nahum, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk) Read LaSor, 212-220; 313-355 QUIZ #3: PROPHETS CHART
Mar 13	READING WEEK
Mar 20	MIDTERM EXAM (Will cover material studied up to and including week of Mar 6) The Exilic Period: Daniel Read LaSor, 566-582
Mar 27	The Exilic Period: Introduction to the 6 th century prophet Ezekiel; The Post-Exilic Period and Restoration: Lamentations; Introduction to the Postexilic prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi Read LaSor, 390-422; 356-369; 526-531

<i>Week of</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Apr 03	The Post-Exilic Period, continued: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther Read LaSor, 532-541; 550-565
Apr 10	No Class: Easter Break
Apr 17	Introduction to Hebrew Poetry and Wisdom Literature (Psalms) Read LaSor, 231-242; 425-459
Apr 24	Wisdom Literature Continued (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs) Read LaSor, 460-519
May 01	Minor Prophets With Disputed Dates (Joel, Obadiah, Jonah) Read LaSor, 370-389

For Further Reading:

- P.S. Alexander, "Rabbinic Judaism and the New Testament," ZNW 74 (1983) 237-46.
- Bernhard Anderson. *Understanding the Old Testament*. (N.J. Prentice Hall, 1997.)
- Carol Bakhos (ed.), *Ancient Judaism in its Hellenistic Context*. (Leiden: Brill, 2004).
[ISBN 90 04 13871 4]
- G.K. Beale, *The Temple and the Church's Mission: A Biblical Theology of the Dwelling Place of God*. (Downers Grove: IVP, 2004).
- G.K.Beale (ed), *The Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts? Essays on the Use of the Old Testament in the New*.(Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.)
- Roger Beckwith. *The Old Testament Canon of the New Testament Church and Its Background in Early Judaism*. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985).
- Ellis Brotzman. *OT Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.)
- R.E. Brown, "Hermeneutics," *Jerome Biblical Commentary* .(ed. R.E. Brown et al.; Englewood Cliffs, NJ; Prentice-Hall, 1968) 605-23, esp. 615-19.
[Ref./BS/491.2/.B7]
- F.F. Bruce. *The Time Is Fulfilled*. (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1995.)
- W. Brueggemann, *Cadences of Home: Preaching Among Exiles* (Louisville: John Knox, 1992).
- D.A. Carson and H.G. Williamson (eds.), *It Is Written: Scripture Citing Scripture. Essays in Honour of Barnabas Lindars*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988). [BS/1171.2/.I85/1988]
- H. Charlesworth. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*. (New York: Doubleday, 1983 [vol 1], 1985 [vol 2]).
- E.P. Clowney, "The Final Temple," WTJ 35 (1972)156-89.
- D.R. Davis, *Judges: Such a Great Salvation*. (Ross-shire, Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 2000). First published by Baker, Grand Rapids, 1990, 1991.
- Raymond Dillard and Tremper Longmann III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.)
- Raymond Dillard. *II Chronicles*. (Word Biblical Commentary, 1987.)

Iain Duguid. *Living In The Grip Of Relentless Grace: The Gospel In The Lives Of Isaac & Jacob.* (New Jersey: P&R, 2002.)

W.J. Dumbrell, "'In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.' The Purpose of the Book of Judges Reconsidered." *JSOT* 25 (1983) 23-33.

E.E. Ellis, *Paul's Use of the Old Testament* (Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1957, repr. Baker, 1981) 114-49. [BS/2387/.E5/1981]

R.T. France, *Jesus and the Old Testament: His Application of Old Testament Passages to Himself and His Mission* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1982, orig. 1971) 172-226. [BT/590/.04/F7/1971]

E.D. Freed, *Old Testament Quotations in the Gospel of John.* (NovTSup 11; Leiden: Brill, 1965). [BS/2615.2/.F74/1965]

G. Goldsworthy, *According to Plan* (Leicester: IVP, 1991).

Robert A. Gundry, *The Use of the Old Testament in St. Matthew's Gospel: With Special Reference to the Messianic Hope* (NovTSup 18; Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1967). [BS/2575.2/.G8/1967]

S.J. Hafemann, *Biblical Theology: Retrospect & Prospect.* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2002), 66-82.

A.T. Hanson, *The Living Utterances of God: The New Testament Exegesis of the Old* (London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1983). [Bs/2387/.H33/1983]

_____, *The Prophetic Gospel: A Study of John and the Old Testament.* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1991). [BS/2615.2/.H34/1991]

Andrew Hill & John Walton. *A Survey of the Old Testament.* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.)

Philip Edgcumbe Hughes. *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews.* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.)

Walter Kaiser, Jr. *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable and Relevant?* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.0)

Neil Lightfoot. *How We Got the Bible.* (Grand Rapids; Baker Books, 2003).

V. Philips Long. *The Art of Biblical History.* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.)

Tremper Longman III. *How To Read The Psalms.* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1988.)

- _____ Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.)
- _____ Making Sense of the Old Testament: Three Crucial Questions. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.)
- T. McComiskey, ed. Commentary on the Minor Prophets , 3 vols. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.)
- Eugene Merrill. A Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.)
- _____ "Palestinian Archaeology and the date of the Conquest: Do Tells Tell Tales?" Grace Theological Journal 3 (1982) 107-21.
- Donald W. Parry and Emmanuel Tov (eds.), The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader (Leiden: Brill, 2004). [ISBN 90 04 13578 2]
- D. Patte, Early Jewish Hermeneutic in Palestine (SBLDS 22; MT; Scholars Press, 1975) Part Two. [BS/1186/.p37]
- O. Palmer Robertson. The Israel of God: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. (Phillipsburg: P&R, 2000.)
- M. Silva, "The New Testament Use of the Old Testament: Text Form and Authority," Scripture and Truth (ed. D.A. Carson and J.D. Woodbridge; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983) 147-65. [BS/4380/.S346/1983]
- M. Stone (ed.), Jewish Writings of the Second Temple Period: Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Qumran, Sectarian Writings, Philo, Josephus (Compendia Rerum Iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum 2/2; Assen: Van Gorcum and Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984) chaps. 3,8, 10. [BM/485/.L57]
- John Sailhamer. How We Got the Bible. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998).
- Emmanuel Tov, Scribal Practices and Approaches Reflected in the Texts Found in the Judean Desert (Leiden: Brill, 2004). [ISBN 90 04 14001 8]
- W. Vangemeren, Interpreting the Prophetic Word (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990) 212-244.
- _____, The Progress of Redemption: The Story of Salvation From Creation to the New Jerusalem (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988) 169-279.
- G. Vermes, Scripture and Tradition in Judaism: Haggadic Studies. (Studia Post-Biblica 4; Leiden: Brill, 1973), 67-126. [BS/1186/.V47/1973]

Geerhardus Vos. "Christian Faith and the Truthfulness of Bible History," *The Princeton Theological Review* 4 (1906): 299-330.

Bruce Waltke. "Palestinian Artifactual Evidence Supporting the Early Date of the Exodus," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 129 (1972).

_____ "The Date of the Conquest," *WTJ* 52 (1990) 181-200.

Wurthwein, Ernst. *The Text of the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Biblia Hebraica*. (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1979).