

Syllabus for Old Testament Survey II (OTE 502)

Poetry Books and Post-Exile History

Front Range Bible Institute

Professor Aaron Otten (Winter 2015)

Course Description

The second of three courses which together survey the entire Old Testament, devoting special attention to the major lessons of each book. This second course covers the 1 Chronicles through Song of Solomon, along with Lamentations.

This course examines the historical, cultural, and geographical setting in a broad sense for the Old Testament. We will also examine the major themes, purpose, and structure of each OT book, while evaluating the major criticisms associated with each book. We will also emphasize both the understanding of the text and the applications to Christian living, along with the correlation with the New Testament.

Course Objectives

- I. To survey 1 Chronicles through Song of Solomon and including Lamentations in a broad, expositional manner, though not in this order. The class is organized to cover the poetry material of Job through Song of Solomon first, and then cover the history material of 1 Chronicles through Esther. Also included is Lamentations at the end.
- II. To gain a working understanding of the Old Testament and to facilitate a better grasp of the big picture of the Bible. To grasp the basic geography and general chronology of the Old Testament era, and get a survey of the different cultures and people groups included in the OT.
- III. To gain an overview of the poetry material in the Old Testament; particularly to understand the different aspects of parallelism.
- IV. To state the theme and major emphasis of each Bible book and show its relationship to other parts of the Scripture.
- V. To fit the unfolding drama of God's revealed plan and purpose into its historical human setting.
- VI. To offer solutions to certain selected key problems in passages.
- VII. To promote a worldview that is derived from godly wisdom and Biblical insight. To apply that worldview in matters of practical living, piety, and one's spiritual growth.
- VIII. To grow in love with God and Christ-likeness by applying the magnificent spiritual lessons about God and His covenantal purposes to our own personal, practical walk with Him. To be encouraged in your existence, purpose, and future as a Christian.

- IX. To develop life long learners, leading the students to apprehend Biblical truth for themselves.

Course Material.

- A. A NASB or ESV Bible. Preferably a Study Bible.
- B. Bachelor and Certificate Level only: *Talk Through The Bible: A Quick Guide to Help You Get More Out of the Bible*. By Bruce Wilkinson and Ken Boa. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005.
- C. Master Level only. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*, by Hassell Bullock: Moody Publishers, Revised edition September, 2007.
- D. Copy of professor's notes, supplied on the first day of class.

Course Requirements

- A. Attendance:

Each student should be faithful in attendance. The student is completely responsible for making up any work missed and for securing any material missed in absence. If the student misses more than 2 classes, then their final grade will be lowered a full letter grade. You can not miss more than 3 classes without teacher consent.

The class may be recorded and the video posted on the Front Range Bible Institute Youtube site. It is the student's responsibility to get the proper codes for access to these videos. These access codes are obtained from the school director. The course video is not a way to circumvent the class attendance requirements, but a way to keep up with the material when class is missed.

- B. Final Grade Percentage.

The grading system for this class, implemented with the final grade average, is as follows:

- Grade A: 100% - 92.0%
- Grade B: 91.9% - 84.0%
- Grade C: 83.9% - 76.0%
- Grade D: 75.9% - 68.0%
- Grade F: 67.9% - 0%

- C. Assignments:

1. **Bible Reading:** This class covers the books of 1 Chronicles through Song of Solomon, including Lamentations. These books shall be read once for the Bachelor and Certificate Level; while the Master Students are required to scan once and read once. Your reading will be reported on the bi-weekly quizzes.

Scanning. Scanning is reading quickly, with the aim of only spending 10-30 seconds per chapter. Getting familiar with order of the story, the

chapter location for the big and hot topics, and noticing the amount of scripture is spent on a single subject or story.

Readings. Reading for comprehension. Being able to recount the story, know the big facts associated with the subject matter, and being able to think about the story. You should be developing questions from this level of reading. If you are not developing a list of questions from this stage of reading, then you are not reading deeply enough. Questions are great indicators of comprehension and examination of the story.

2. **Scripture Memory** - All students must memorize the assigned Scripture verses. Each student is to write out the verses with no helps. You must memorize the verse in either the NASB or ESV translations (no exceptions). The memory verse will be tested on the quizzes.
 - Quiz 1 memory verse: Psalm 2:4-6
 - Quiz 2 memory verse: Psalm 51:16-17
 - Quiz 3 memory verse: Proverbs 4:22-23
 - Quiz 4 memory verse: 2 Chronicles 16:9
 - Quiz 5 memory verse: Esther 4:14
3. **Supplemental Reading:**
 - a. Bachelor and Certificate level only:
 - 1) *Talk Through The Bible: A Quick Guide to Help You Get More Out of the Bible.* By Bruce Wilkinson and Ken Boa. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005. Reading will be reported on the quizzes.
 - b. Masters level includes *Talk Through the Bible* and the following:
 - 1) *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*, by Hassell Bullock: Moody Publishers, Revised edition September, 2007. This book must be finished by Class 8, and the reading amount will be reported on Quiz #3.
4. **Synopsis Papers.**
 - a. Synopsis papers are due after the book is presented in class, as specified by the syllabus. The books that the student will summarize are as follows: **Psalm 40, Psalm 73, and Lamentations.** The grade will reflect a quantity of material in filling the page (for there should be minimal white space on the paper). Make the synopsis useful and concise, and fills the whole page. Don't worry about complete sentences. Be particular in following the provided format (font size and type, spacing, underlines) as discussed in class.
 - b. For each assigned book of the Old Testament turn in a one-page paper that addresses the following:
 - Thesis Statement. A short and meaningful summary of the entire book. It is suggested that you complete this after doing the rest of the assignment. Please make a statement in your own words (don't simply copy a smarter theologian)
 - Section titles and summary statements. See example and reference first class presentation.

- Themes, purposes, and application of the theologies addressed. Include any themes of interest that were not highlighted in the main thesis statement. More freedom is allowed in this section. Don't simply reiterate the main thesis already stated.
- Key verse(s)/passage(s). Location and quick summary. Don't write the verse out, but simply summarize.

5. Research and Presentation Project.

- a. The student shall choose one of the following subjects to research for the purpose of writing a 3 page paper and present the material in a 15 minute segment in class. The due date for the class presentations are defined by the syllabus. The due date for the 3 page paper is the same day as the presentation.
- b. The student must research this subject using 3 credible book sources, usually a respected commentary will do (don't even think about using the internet or Wikipedia). These sources must be identified in a bibliography in the final paper.

Note: Master Level Students must write a 5 page paper, provide at least 4 credible sources, and make a 20 minute presentation. The Master Level Student are assigned their project, and not able to choose as the other students.

- c. For the 15 minute class presentation, the student must provide a single page handout, to be distributed for your presentation. Please bring enough handouts for all other students and the teacher.
- d. Format of the paper. This is a research paper and should be formatted as such. Write the 3 page document in paragraph form with complete sentences, single-spaced, typed, regular sized paper, simply stapled in corner, and 12 point font. The margins should not exceed 1 inch on any edge. Remove the extra spacing between paragraphs that Word automatically creates. Do not provide a cover page, and place the bibliographical material on its own separate page at the end. Format of the class presentation handout is at the student's discretion.
- e. Research Topics:

- Book report and synopsis of "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23", by Phillip Keller, published 2008. Read and summarized this book in a report. Present a book report to the class. This project does not require a bibliography, for only one book will be used.
- Define and examine the Messianic Psalms. (Various Psalms.) Define, examine, and outline the particulars found in the Messianic Psalms. Choose 3 of the Messianic Psalms to examine closely and detail some of the major connections to Jesus.
- A topic of wisdom in Proverbs. Pick a subject covered repeatedly in the Proverbs, and explore at least 5 different proverbs on this subject. Examples are materialism, family life, rich and poor, sluggards, etc. The subject must be approved by teacher. 2 students may choose this scenario, but must be different subjects.

- David’s Mighty Men. Examine the men of David that were mighty in battle. Read the commentaries and help the class know more about these men than simply what is found in the Bible.
- Report on Manasseh the king of Judah. Present the person, deeds, and conversion of Manasseh. One of the sources referenced must be Spurgeon’s sermon. (<http://www.spurgeon.org/sermons/0105.htm>).
- A report on the person of Ezra. Define the man, his actions, and his role in reforming Israel.
- A report on the person of Nehemiah. Define the man, his actions, and his role in reforming Israel.
- A synopsis paper on Job and his friends. (Master Level Student) Organize and summarize the arguments, logic, and theology of Job and his friends. Don’t worry about the start and end of the book, but focus exclusively on the arguments about sin, suffering, God, and man. The rules for the research paper apply, instead of the synopsis paper rules.
- The Post-Exilic History of Israel between 535 BC and 400 BC. (Masters Level Student) Explore the history of Israel and the Israelites between this time frame, particularly examining their return to the land. What was the process for their return? When and how many of the exiles returned? Class handout must contain a clear timeline for any major events. This report is primarily from extra-Biblical sources in the form of a historical research project.

Course Grading

Bachelor and Certificate Level:

A. Bible Reading	25%
B. Supplemental Reading	20%
C. Bible Memorization	10%
D. Quiz Material	15%
E. Synopsis Papers	15%
F. Research Project	15%

Masters Level:

A. Bible Reading	15%
B. Supplemental Reading	15%
C. Other Book Reading (Bullock)	10%
D. Bible Memorization	10%
E. Quiz Material	15%
F. Synopsis Papers	15%
G. Research Project	20%

Course Schedule

	Material Covered in Class	Due at Beginning of Class
Class 1	Introduction to class: Discuss syllabus and class notes Discuss course requirements. Introduction to Bible. Overview of Bible, Dispensations Overview of OT (How does it end? Where are we going?).	n/a
Class 2	Introduction to the Poetry books Psalms	Read, and keep reading.
Class 3	Psalms	Read, and keep reading.
Class 4	QUIZ #1 Introduction to Wisdom Books Class Presentation on Messianic Psalms	READ: Psalms READ: TTTB
Class 5	Job Class Presentation on Shepherd's look at Psalm 23.	READ: Job READ: TTTB DUE: Psalm 40 Synopsis Page
Class 6	QUIZ #2 Proverbs Class Presentation on Wisdom of Proverbs	READ: Proverbs READ: TTTB
Class 7	Ecclesiastes Class Presentation on Wisdom of Proverbs	READ: Ecclesiastes READ: TTTB DUE: Psalm 73 Synopsis Page
Class 8	QUIZ #3 1 and 2 Chronicles Class Presentation on David's Mighty Men Class Presentation on king Manasseh.	READ: 1 and 2 Chronicles READ: TTTB *READ: Bullock book

Class 9	Ezra and Nehemiah Class Presentation on Ezra. Class Presentation on Nehemiah.	READ: Ezra and Nehemiah READ: TTTB
Class 10	QUIZ #4 Esther * Class Presentation on theology and arguments of Job and his friends.	READ: Esther READ: TTTB
Class 11	QUIZ #5 Song of Solomon Lamentations * Class Presentation on Post-Exilic History of Israel	READ: Song of Solomon and Lamentations READ: TTTB DUE: Lamentations Synopsis Page

“*” = Signifies material due for Masters Level.

“TTTB” = *Talk Through The Bible*. Read corresponding material in book that pertains to the content of that class.

Dates:

Class 1	Tuesday, January 6, 2015	Class 7	Tuesday, February 17, 2015
Class 2	Tuesday, January 13, 2015	Class 8	Tuesday, February 24, 2015
Class 3	Tuesday, January 20, 2015	Class 9	Tuesday, March 3, 2015
Class 4	Tuesday, January 27, 2015	Class 10	Tuesday, March 10, 2015
Class 5	Tuesday, February 3, 2015	Class 11	Tuesday, March 17, 2015
Class 6	Tuesday, February 10, 2015		