

Syllabus for Old Testament Survey I (OTE 501)

Front Range Bible Institute

Instructor Peter Wise (Fall 2018)

I. Course Description

The first of three courses which together survey the entire Old Testament, with a focus on understanding the major contents of each book. Examines literary structure, historical backgrounds, geographical settings, and parallel passages to enhance comprehension and application to contemporary issues and concerns. This first course covers the Torah (Genesis – Deuteronomy), the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings), and Ruth.

II. Course Objectives

- A. To present the outline and flow of each OT book.
- B. To discuss the theme and major emphases of each Bible book.
- C. To see each OT book in relation to other parts of Scripture, especially the New Testament.
- D. To fit the unfolding drama of God's revealed plan into its historical setting.
- E. To provide analysis of key passages.
- F. To understand the Biblical theology of each book individually and in relationship to other books of Scripture.

III. Required Course Materials

- A. *Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*, by Roy Zuck, et al.
- B. *Pocket Bible Handbook*: Nelson's Pocket Reference Series (or you may substitute *Talk Thru' the Bible*)
- C. *Unger's Commentary of the Old Testament*, by Merrill Unger.
- D. *Ordination Practicum*, by Richard Mayhue (The Master's Seminary). Pages from this book will be given out to students in class.

IV. Course Requirements

A. Attendance

Each student should be faithful in attendance. If a student must miss a class, he must watch the lecture. The student is completely responsible for making up any work missed and for securing any material missed in absence.

B. Assignments

1. **Bible Reading (~500 pages):** Each of the books, Genesis to 2 Kings, is to be read through quickly. Scanning: Aim for 10-30 seconds per chapter! **(10%)**
2. **Class Reading (40%)**
 - a. *Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*, by Roy Zuck et al. Read each section that corresponds to the lesson for the next week.
 - b. Read the section from the *Pocket Bible Handbook* (or you may substitute *Talk Thru' the Bible*, for a fuller treatment)
 - c. Masters level only: Journal articles emailed each week.
3. **Reading responses from Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament. (30%)**
 - a. Each OT book (excepting Esther) will have short-answer reading responses from Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament. They are due each week.
4. **Weekly Quizzes. (20%)**

Memorize the theme and outline of each book (from Ordination Practicum).
Tell where you would find the key chapters of each book.

V. Course Schedule

Class	
1	Introduction to OT Survey
2	Genesis
3	Exodus
4	Leviticus, Numbers
5	Deuteronomy
6	Joshua
7	Judges, Ruth
8	1 Samuel
9	2 Samuel
10	1 Kings
11	2 Kings

Recommended Supplementary Books

Outstanding Supplementary Books Include:

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas K. Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002. Excellent survey by respected exegetes.

Geisler, Norman L. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977. This excellent survey is very readable and highly informative. Material is well organized, with outlines, charts, and study questions. Geisler includes relevant material on apologetics and Christ in the Old Testament whenever appropriate—two themes that are often overlooked in survey books. These themes are part of what gives the book its devotional warmth. One of the top surveys of the OT of all time—highly recommended!

Jensen, Irving L. *Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament: Search and Discover*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1978. The visual charts alone are worth the price of this book.

Thomas Nelson Publishers. *Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts: Old and New Testaments*. Rev. and updated ed. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1996. Helpful, interesting material everywhere you look.

Wilkinson, Bruce, and Kenneth Boa. *Talk Thru the Bible*. Nashville: T. Nelson, 1983. Gold standard for a traditional survey book. Easy to read and well organized, but graphically less rich than others such as *Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts*.

Wright, Christopher J.H. *How to Preach & Teach the Old Testament for All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. Recommended for learning how to use the information in preaching/teaching to others. Author gives samples from his own preaching experience, along with helpful dos and don'ts.