

Syllabus for History of Israel (OTE 504)

Front Range Bible Institute

Instructor Peter Wise (Winter 2017-2018)

I. Course Description

This course provides an overview of the history of Israel, beginning with Abraham and the patriarchs in the book of Genesis to the rebuilding of the Temple and restoration under Ezra and Nehemiah. Our study will involve not only history, but also theology, geography, archaeology, character studies, and the study of key texts of Scripture.

II. Course Objectives

- A. To give students a chronological overview of the people and events of the Old Testament
- B. To see God's hand in the history of His Old Testament people, the Jews
- C. To deepen understanding of the key people, covenants, and events of the Old Testament
- D. To bring in some apologetics and Christology into the study of the Old Testament
- E. To help students to understand more fully the sweep of OT history
- F. To give students an understanding of when and where key OT people lived/events took place
- G. To enable students to get a unifying grasp of the themes of individual OT books
- H. To help students to grow in their faith and in their love for Christ

III. Required Course Materials

- A. Merrill, Eugene M. *Kingdom of Priests*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.
- B. Study questions for *Kingdom of Priests* (provided by instructor).
- C. Supplementary journal articles and readings (provided by instructor).

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. Each week students are assigned a section to read in *Kingdom of Priests*.
 - 2. In conjunction with the reading, students are assigned a set of study questions that correspond to the reading in the textbook.
 - 3. Each week students are given some supplementary readings. Some are required for all students, some are required only for M.Div. students, and others are optional, but recommended.

4. Project (see following)

- Project should be something you are especially interested in, or something you could use in your ministry to others
- The project/study takes the place of an exam, and is intended to be something of special value to you in your ministry and area of passion. You can create some Bible studies that you could use with your family, a church group, or different ministry. You could also do research on books for the library—anything that is on your heart.
- Project should be roughly 4-7 pages in length, or take 10+ hours of time to produce—more is fine
- Project is due two weeks after the last day of class

- **Suggested topics include:**
 - Analysis of the use of the history of Israel in the Gospels, Epistles, and/or Psalms
 - Bible study questions from at one or more lessons from the core course content. These questions can be intended for people’s personal study or for a Bible study
 - Character studies in outline, Bible lesson, or Bible study form—from 3 or more Old Testament characters
 - 4 or more pages of analysis of history of Israel books from the History of Israel Bibliography sheet
 - A project of your own choice—anything that involves the history of Israel and an area of special interest to you

C. Grading

1. Textbook Reading/Worksheets/Prayer (from Merrill)	40%
2. Bible dictionary/encyclopedia assignments	20%
3. Map Quiz	10%
4. Project	30

V. Course Schedule

Session	Date	Topic	Merrill Reading 3rd ed. book	Merrill Reading, 1st ed. book
Week 1	1-9-18	Introduction, books, grading, projects, Introductory Lecture, Manners & Customs of the ancient world.		
Week 2	1-16-18	Pre-Mosaic foundations of Hebrew History.	19-72	"Origins" - pp. 21-55
Week 3	1-23-18	Exodus and the Wilderness Wanderings	73-109	"Birth of a Nation" - pp. 57-91
Week 4	1-30-18	Conquest and Division of the Land	110-159	"Conquest and Division of the Land" - pp. 93-140
Week 5	2-6-18	Period of the Judges	160-206	"Era of the Judges: Covenant Violation, Anarchy, and Human Authority" - pp. 141-188
		Period of the Judges II - Samuel	194-212	
Week 6	2-13-18	United Monarchy: Saul	213-221	"Covenant Misunderstanding" - pp. 189-221
		United Monarchy II: David	239-265	"Covenant Kingship" - pp. 223-248
Week 7	2-20-18	United Monarchy III: David	266-301	"Years of Struggle" - pp. 249-284
Week 8	2-27-18	United Monarchy IV: Solomon	302-330	"Solomon: From Pinnacle to Peril," "Divided Monarchy," "Dynasty of Jehu & Contemporary Judah," pp. 285-389
Week 9	3-6-18	Fall of the Northern Kingdom	372-414	"Rod of YHWH: Assyria & Divine Wrath" - pp. 431-468
Week 10	3-13-18	The Surviving Kingdom to the Fall of Judah	415-480	"Fading Hope: Disintegration of Judah" - pp. 431-468
Week 11	3-20-18	The Exile and Return	481-527	"Exile and the First Return" - pp. 469-496
Week 12	3-27-18	Concluding Discussion		"Restoration and New Hope" - pp. 497- 515

Weaving the History of Israel in Your Personal Prayer Time

- 30 minutes+ per week incorporating God's dealings in the current study of the history of Israel into your personal prayer time