

**40T512 POETS  
SUMMER 2005  
DR. JOHN CURRID**

**ATLANTA  
JULY 26-29**

### **POETRY OF THE BIBLE**

**GOAL:** This course is an introduction to the poetical sections of the Old Testament. As such, it will introduce the student to the major poetical books of the Bible. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. Included in the study will be such varied themes as Figures of Speech, Parallelism, Authority and Inspiration, and the Use of the Poetical Books in the New Testament. In this respect, the student should become aware of the many issues in biblical poetry, and how these have been understood and interpreted. Ultimately, this study should provide a good foundation for the student to apply Scripture to all of life.

**TEXTBOOKS:** The following books are required for the course, and they may be purchased in the bookstore:

1. J. Currid, Why Do I Suffer? Suffering and the Sovereignty of God (Christian Focus, 2004).
2. C. Glickman, Solomon's Song of Love (Howard Pub., 2004).
3. T. Longman, How To Read the Psalms (Inter-Varsity Press, 1988).

**REQUIREMENTS:** The grade for the course will be computed on the basis of the following variables:

1. There will be a "take home" final examination. It will be presented to the student on the last afternoon of class (Friday, July 29). You have one week to finish the exam. It must be sent to me by Friday, August 5 by e-mail or snail-mail (w/postmark). This examination is worth 90% of the final grade.
2. The student is expected to read the five wisdom books in their entirety, in addition to the three textbooks. To insure the completion of this assignment, the student must submit to me a reading report by Friday, August 12 either by e-mail or snail-mail. The report will include the number of pages you have read of the assigned readings, the approximate percentage of all the reading, and your signature. It will account for 10% of the final grade.
3. My e-mail address is [jcurrid@rts.edu](mailto:jcurrid@rts.edu) and my mailing address is Prof. John Currid, Reformed Theological Seminary, 5422 Clinton Blvd., Jackson, MS 39209.

## **OUTLINE OF THE COURSE**

### 1. Tuesday, July 26

Syllabus  
Authority and Inspiration  
What is Poetry?  
Form and Structure of Hebrew Poetry  
Figures of Speech  
Typology  
The Book of Job

### 2. Wednesday, July 27

Introduction to the Psalms  
Are the Psalm Titles Authentic?  
Psalm 1  
Psalm 2, A Royal Messiah Psalm  
Psalm 8, A Son of Man Psalm  
Psalm 22, A Suffering Messiah Psalm  
Psalm 23, The Shepherd Hymn  
Psalm 110, A Royal Messiah Psalm  
The Imprecatory Psalms

### 4. Thursday, July 28

What is a Proverb?  
How to Interpret a Proverb  
Wisdom in the Book of Proverbs  
Proverbs 31, A Woman of Worth  
Vanity of Vanities  
Ecclesiastes 1:1-2:26

### 5. Friday, July 29

Ecclesiastes 3:1-5:20  
Is the Plan of God Fair?  
Song of Solomon