

Judges to Esther
Fall 2005, Atlanta
Dick Belcher

Course Description

An analysis of each book in this section of the canon from a literary, historical, and theological perspective. Each book is placed in the context of redemptive history to show its relationship to what has gone before and how it furthers the progress of redemption, which ultimately leads to Christ. There is an emphasis on how to interpret narrative and characters in a story.

Course Goals

- 1) To understand the structure and message of each book covered in this course.
- 2) To understand how each book fits into the progress of the unfolding history of God's people.
- 3) To understand how these books lay a foundation for the coming of Christ.
- 4) To become comfortable teaching and preaching from narrative, with special attention given to how to deal with characters in a story.

Textbooks

- 1) *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, Ray Dillard and Tremper Longman (IOT)
- 2) *A History of Israel*, Walter Kaiser
- 3) *The Lord's Anointed*, ed. by Philip Satterthwaite (available through the RTS online bookstore)
- 4) Recommended: *He Gave Us Stories*, Richard Pratt

Assignments

- 1) The biblical books Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther must all be read.
- 2) The assigned reading must be read:
 - a) IOT on the biblical books that are covered in this course
 - b) All of Kaiser's *History of Israel* must be read
 - c) Three chapters from the book *The Lord's Anointed* must be read (Satterthwaite, Shultz, and Kelly)
- 3) There will be quizzes covering outlines of the books, and when the chapters from *The Lord's Anointed* are read, a brief, concise summary of how the

chapter argues for messianic expectation must be handed in. These should be about one page (if typed they could be a little shorter).

- 4) There will be a final based on the lectures. You will be given the questions ahead of time.
- 5) A research paper is required that will focus on a character of a narrative.

Everything is due Monday, December 5. You can mail your materials to RTS Charlotte, 2101 Carmel Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226 but they have to be completed on or by December 5.

Grades

Exam	30%
Paper	30%
Quizzes	20%
Mess Articles	10%
Reading	10%

Tentative Schedule

September 9	Introduction to the Course Interpreting Narrative: Literary, Historical, and Theological Perspectives
September 10	Kingship: The Restoration of Human Dominion Introduction to Judges: Israel's Failed Mission The Downward Spiral of the Canaanization of Israel Ruth: Covenant Loyalty Brings Covenant Blessing
September 23	Samuel and the Crisis of Leadership Saul: A King Like the Other Nations
September 24	David: God's Choice for a King David: The King After God's Own Heart Solomon: the World-Wide Glory of God's Kingdom Elijah: the Prophetic Fight Against Idolatry

October 7

Elisha: Yahweh's Power to Deliver
Covenant Curse: the Exile of the Kingdoms

October 8

Ezra: Laying the Foundation for Restoration
Nehemiah: the Need for Continuing Reform

Esther: the Hidden Providence of God
Chronicles: Looking to the Past with Hope for
the Future