

# **ABUNDANT LIVING IN THE LAND!**



# **GENESIS TO JOSHUA**

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Reformed Theological Seminary  
OT 508  
Fall 2006

**GENESIS TO JOSHUA  
OT 508  
FALL 2008**

**PURPOSE AND GOALS**

**PURPOSE:**

- To encourage you in living an abundant life to the glorify God.

**GOALS:**

- Comprehension
  - To increase your knowledge of English Bible in *Genesis to Joshua*.
  - To increase your knowledge of introductory issues in each book from *Genesis to Joshua*.
  - To increase your knowledge of the historical origins of Israel and Israel's history from the exodus through the conquest of the Promised Land.
- Competence
  - To sharpen your ability to interpret *Genesis to Joshua* in their geographical, historical, theological, and literary contexts.
  - To sharpen your ability to apply the teaching of *Genesis to Joshua* in your own life and in the life of the local church.
- Character
  - To be a person of faith in the God of abundance.
  - To be a person of hope in living an abundant life.
  - To be a person of abundant love.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**READING ASSIGNMENTS**

- You are required to read more than 40% of the following books:
  - Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999).
    - You are assigned 159 pages.
  - Collins, C. John. Genesis 1-4: A Linguistic, Literary, and Theological Commentary (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2006).
    - You are assigned 149 pages.

- Hagopian, David, ed. The Genesis Debate: Three Views on the Days of Creation (Mission Viejo, CA: Crux, 2001).
  - You are assigned all of this (319 pages).
- Poythress, Vern S. The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1995).
  - You are assigned 138 pages.
- Provan, Iain W., V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III. A Biblical History of Israel (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 2003).
  - You are assigned 190 pages.
- Wenham, Gordon. Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003).
  - You are assigned all of this (197 pages).
- You are required to read less than 40% of the following books:
  - Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. Readings From the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Studies (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002).
    - You are assigned 100 pages.
  - Waltke, Bruce K. Genesis: A Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001).
    - You are assigned 80 pages.

## LECTURES

- See Class Schedule
- The lecture outlines for the course are available in electronic form at <http://www.rts.edu>.
  - Click on the Faculty and Staff navigation button on the left. Click on the Dr. Mark D. Futato link in the window. Click on the Visit Homepage button at the bottom of the page. Click on the Genesis-Joshua link at the bottom of the page. Click on the Outlines Click Here link. Click on each outline link to download the files.
  - The files are in MSWord outline format, so you can easily take notes on the outlines, if you use a laptop in class.

## DISCUSSION POSTS

- Traditionally, this class has met for four weeks. We will meet for three. In place of the fourth weekend and class time covering the interpretation of Genesis 1 and 2, you will do extra reading and have online discussions of interpretation of this text. The extra reading and online discussion will reduce class time by 10 hours, so these assignments may take up to 30 hours to complete.
- First, you will read the whole of Hagopian, David, ed. The Genesis Debate: Three Views on the Days of Creation (Mission Viejo, CA: Crux, 2001) and

chapters 1- 5 of Collins, C. John. Genesis 1-4: A Linguistic, Literary, and Theological Commentary (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2006).

- I recommend reading these books before class begins, especially The Genesis Debate.
- Note: The The Genesis Debate is at times hard to find, so start looking early. Currently, there are about 10 copies in the RTS Orlando Bookstore.
- Second, you will post a defense of one of the interpretations of Genesis 1 on Blackboard (see below), giving evidence that you have read The Genesis Debate. The interpretation you defend must be one that you do not hold to yourself.
  - Your defense is due on Saturday, September 30 at 4pm.
  - Your defense may be up to 500 words.
- Third, you will post a reply to a classmate's defense of an interpretation, pointing out its strengths and weakness. You must reply to a student that defended the interpretation that you hold to personally. If you have no firm view, reply to the view that is most likely in your estimation.
  - Your reply is due on Saturday, October 7 at 4pm.
  - Your reply may be up to 500 words.
- Fourth, you will post a response to Collins, Genesis 1-4, summarizing evaluating his view.
  - Your response is due on Saturday, October 14 at 4pm.
  - Your response may be up to 500 words.
- Fifth, you will post a reflection on how your thinking has been impacted by this entire exercise.
  - Your reflection is due on Saturday, October 21 at 4pm.
  - Your reflection may be up to 500 words.

## EXAM

- There is a final that covers the entire course.
- The exam is objective and covers the following:
  - The lectures.
  - The Summary and Study Questions at the end of the chapters in Arnold and Beyer.
  - The questions from the study guide for Provan (see below).
- The final will be available on Blackboard from Saturday, November 4 at 4pm to Saturday, November 11 at 4pm.

## **SUMMARY OF DUE DATES**

- Post 01     Saturday, September 30 at 4pm
- Post 02     Saturday, October 7 at 4pm
- Post 03     Saturday, October 14 at 4pm
- Post 04     Saturday, October 21 at 4pm
- Final        Saturday, November 11 at 4pm

## **ASSESSMENTS**

### **GRADING**

- The final is worth 100 points or 50% of your final grade.
- The readings you are not examined on are worth 40 points or 20% of your final grade.
  - At the end of the course you will email me and indicate the percentage of the assigned reading you did and that percentage will be your reading score, e.g., 100% = 40 points.
- Your online posts are worth 60 points or 30% of your final grade.
  - You will earn up to 20 points for your defense of a view (Post 01).
  - You will earn up to 15 points for your reply to a classmate (Post 02).
  - You will earn up to 15 points for your response to Collins (Post 03).
  - You will earn up to 10 points for your reflection on the process (Post 04).
- I use the Seminary's published grading scale.
- There is an automatic penalty of one letter grade for late work.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

### **➤ WEEKEND ONE: SEPTEMBER 22-23**

#### **LECTURE #1 A VIEW FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP: A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE LAND**

- Reading Assignments
  - Recommended
    - Robertson (1996) 1-13
    - DBI 487-88
    - Wenham (1994)
    - Brueggemann (1977)

**LECTURE # 2 EXPLORING THE LAND: AN INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY (PART 1)**

- Reading Assignments
  - Required
    - Arnold and Beyer (1999) 21-59
    - Provan (2003) 1-35
  - Recommended
    - Robertson (1996)
    - Rasmussen (1989) 12-68

**LECTURE #3 EXPLORING THE LAND: AN INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY (PART 2)**

- Reading Assignments
  - Required
    - Provan (2003) 36-50
  - Recommended
    - Baly (1957)
    - Aharoni (1979)

**LECTURE #4 VISITING THE OT WORLD: ARCHAEOLOGY AND THEOLOGY**

- Reading Assignments
  - Required
    - Arnold and Beyer (2002) #59, #60, #62
    - Provan (2003) 51-74
  - Recommended
    - Currid (1999)
    - Hoerth (1998) 13-30

➤ **WEEKEND TWO: OCTOBER 20-21**

**LECTURE #5 BACK TO THE BEGINNING: GENESIS 1-2 & RELATING THEOLOGY AND SCIENCE**

- Reading Assignments
  - Required
    - Arnold and Beyer (2002) #5, #6, #7, #12
    - Hagopian (2000)
    - Provan (2003) 75-104
  - Recommended

- Hummel (1986)

### **LECTURE #6 THE PRIMARY HISTORY: THE UNITY OF GENESIS TO KINGS**

- Reading Assignments
  - Required
    - Arnold and Beyer (1999) 63-75
    - Arnold and Beyer (2002) #13, #14, #15, #16
    - Wenham (2003) 1-8, 145-196
  - Recommended
    - Cassuto (1941)
    - Freedman (1993)
    - Kikawada and Quinn (1985)
    - Wenham (1999)

### **LECTURE #7 GENESIS: BLESSING FOR THE NATIONS**

- Reading Assignments
  - Required
    - Arnold and Beyer (1999) 77-101
    - Poythress (1991) 3-8
    - Provan (2003) 107-124
    - Waltke (2002) 17-97
    - Wenham (2003) 9-56
  - Recommended
    - Dever (2000)
    - Kitchen (1995)
    - Kline (1991)

### **LECTURE #8 EXODUS: RESCUE AND RELATIONSHIP**

- Reading Assignments
  - Required
    - Arnold and Beyer (1999) 103-115
    - Arnold and Beyer (2002) #30
    - Poythress (1991) 9-50
    - Provan (2003) 125-131
    - Wenham (2003) 57-80
  - Recommended
    - Currid (2000)
    - Enns (2000)

➤ **WEEKEND THREE: NOVEMBER 3-4**

**LECTURE #9 LEVITICUS: GOD'S CALL TO ABUNDANT HOLINESS**

- Reading Assignments
  - Required
    - Arnold and Beyer (1999) 117-126
    - Arnold and Beyer (2002) #36
    - Poythress (1991) 51-94
    - Wenham (2003) 81-102
  - Recommended
    - Sprinkle (2000)

**LECTURE #10 NUMBERS: DIVINE FAITHFULNESS AND FRESH STARTS**

- Reading Assignments
  - Required
    - Arnold and Beyer (1999) 127-139
    - Provan (2003) 132-137
    - Wenham (2003) 103-122
  - Recommended
    - Ashley (1993)
    - Budd (1984)
    - Wenham (1981)

**LECTURE #11 DEUTERONOMY: RENEWING OUR LOVE AND LOYALTY**

- Reading Assignments
  - Required
    - Arnold and Beyer (1999) 141-154
    - Arnold and Beyer (2002) #24, #26
    - Poythress (1991) 95-138
    - Wenham (2003) 123-144
  - Recommended
    - Kline (1962)
    - McConville (1993)
    - McConville and Miller (1994)

**LECTURE #12 JOSHUA: RECEIVING THE PROMISE**

- Reading Assignments
  - Required

- Arnold and Beyer (1999) 157-179
- Arnold and Beyer (2002) #50, #55
- Provan (2003) 138-191
- Recommended
  - Davis (1988)
  - Howard (1995)
  - Howard (1998)

### **STUDY GUIDE FOR PROVAN: A BIBLICAL HISTORY OF ISRAEL**

#### 1) Chapter One

- a) What are the two trends that underlie the "death of biblical history"? (p. 5)
- b) Whose histories of Israel give evidence of the "long-term illness" that has lead to the "death of biblical history"? (p. 9)
- c) Where according to Soggin can we begin a biblical history? (p. 11)
- d) What is the basic critique of Soggin by Provan? (pp. 12-15)
- e) Where according to Miller/Hayes can we begin a biblical history? (p. 16)
- f) What is the basic critique of Miller/Hayes by Provan? (p. 18)
- g) What shift underlies the current skepticism with regard to the biblical text? (p. 19)
- h) How did Albright seek to verify the reliability of the patriarchal traditions? (pp. 25-26)

#### 2) Chapter Two

- a) What are the two key concepts in Provan's epistemology in regard to history? (p. 37)
- b) Who were the three main German thinkers who rejected the concept of "scientific history" at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries? (pp. 39-43)
- c) Which underlies Provan's historiography, science or philosophy? (p. 43)
- d) What are two possible responses to the collapse of "scientific history" that Provan rejects? (pp. 43-44)
- e) How does Provan critique the post-modern response? (p. 44)
- f) What is Provan's alternative to blind faith in testimony on the one hand and to radical suspicion of testimony on the other hand? (p. 48)
- g) What is Provan's definition of historiography? (p. 49)
- h) What is the relation of knowledge and faith in Provan's epistemology? (p. 50)

3) Chapter 3

- a) Which principle is at the heart of the contemporary suspicion in regard to OT history, verification or falsification? (pp. 54-55)
- b) According to Provan, the closer the testimony is to the actual event the more reliable the testimony is. True/False (pp. 56-62)
- c) According to Provan evidence from the ANE corroborates the biblical testimony to the early use of writing as a means of passing on historical traditions. True/False (pp. 56-62)
- d) According to Provan "archaeological remains offer us the prospect of grounding historical statements in something more solid than testimony." True/False (p. 63)
- e) According to Provan all ANE historical facts are selective and ideologically focused True/False (p. 68)
- f) According to Provan ideological literature can be historically accurate. True/False (p. 69)
- g) What is the "principle of analogy"? (p. 70)
- h) How does Provan evaluate the usefulness of the principle of analogy? (pp. 70-74)

4) Chapter 4

- a) According to Provan what is the relationship between reading the Bible as literature and as history? (pp. 79-81)
- b) How is biblical historiography like portrait painting? (pp. 82-83)
- c) How would Provan define narrative? (pp. 83-84)
- d) According to Provan, what is the difference between fiction and fictionality? (pp. 84-86)
- e) Explain what is meant by "History is one, but historiographies may be many." (pp. 86-88)
- f) Define scenic, subtle, and succinct, as they pertain to the poetics of biblical narrative. (pp. 91-93)

5) Chapter 5

- a) What are the seven characteristics of Provan's Biblical History of Israel? (pp. 98-104)
- b) How do the authors describe themselves? (pp. 101-104)

## USING BLACKBOARD

### TO ACCESS THE COURSE

- Go to <http://coursesites.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>
  - Set this page as a "Favorite" on your Browser, because you will need to login each time you want to access Blackboard
- Login in
  - User name = first initial and last name and gj ([G](#)enesis to [J](#)oshua), e.g., mfutatogj
  - Password = last four digits of your social security number
- Click on the [RTS OT 02](#) link under "My Courses" at the bottom of the page

### TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THE COURSE

- Click on "Announcements"
  - Course announcements will be posted here
  - Announcements will also come up on the first page after logging in
- Click on "Course Information"
  - Assessments (quizzes and exams) will be posted here
  - There is a practice quiz posted here
- Click on "Course Documents"
  - Any additional course documents you may need will be posted here
- Click on "Communication"
  - Email
- Click on "Discussion Board"
  - Meet Each Other
  - Genesis 1
- Click on "Assesments"
  - Practice Test
  - Midterm and final will be available here

### TO USE THE DISCUSSION BOARD

- Go to the Discussion Board
  - Click on the Discussion Board tab on the left navigation bar

- Click on the "Meet Each Other" forum
- Submit a post
  - Click on "Add New Thread" at the top left of the page
  - For the "Subject" type in your topic, e.g., Biographical Sketch + your name
  - Enter your message
    - Type a one paragraph introduction of yourself
    - You may wish to do this in a word processor, then cut and paste to the "Message" window
  - Attach a photograph, if you wish
  - Click "Submit" at the bottom left of the page
- Read your post and those of your web mates, by clicking on the underscored subject on the left of the list
- Post a reply to the Discussion Board
  - Click on "Reply" after reading the post of a web mate
  - Use the default subject
  - Enter your message: Point out something that you and a web mate have in common
  - Click "Submit" at the bottom left of the page

#### **TO USE EMAIL**

- Click on the Communication tab on the left navigation bar
- Click on the underscored Send Email
- Click on the underscored All Users to email the entire class
- Click on the underscored Selected Users to email an individual or group of individuals

#### **TO TAKE A TEST**

- Click on the Course Information tab on the left navigation bar
- Click on Practice Quiz
- Click on the radio buttons next to the correct answer
- Click "Submit" at the bottom left of the page
- Review the results that will appear after you submit the quiz

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### BOOKS ASSIGNED FOR CLASS

1. Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999).
2. Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. Readings From the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Studies (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002).
3. Collins, C. John. Genesis 1-4: A Linguistic, Literary, and Theological Commentary (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2006).
4. Hagopian, David, ed. The Genesis Debate: Three Views on the Days of Creation (Mission Viejo, CA: Crux, 2000).
5. Provan, Iain W., V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III. A Biblical History of Israel (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 2003).
6. Poythress, Vern S. The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1995).
7. Waltke, Bruce K. Genesis: A Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001).
8. Wenham, Gordon. Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003).

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8. de Moor, J.C. "Baal," TDOT (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1975) 2:181-92.
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14. \_\_\_\_\_. "Creation Account in Genesis 1:1-3, Part III: The Restitution Theory," BibSac 132 (1975) 216-28.
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