

OT 516
Isaiah to Malachi
Dr. Currid
Fall 2007

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Isaiah to Malachi

Goals:

This course is not a survey. We will not spend time with all the incidentals that are normally covered in a survey course. Rather, it is our intention to get at the heart of the meaning and message of the prophets of the Old Testament. And we will attempt to set the prophets into the overall thrust of God's revelational history – thus, this is primarily a course on biblical theology. We will do this by tracing the prophetic history in the entire Bible, and not just limit ourselves to the books called the Prophets. So we will consider topics such as the origin of prophecy, the nature of false prophecy, the schools of the prophets, and so forth. Understanding the development of prophecy in the Bible is one of our main goals. Another important goal is to see how the prophetic literature in the Old Testament is used in the New Testament – how does it point to Christ? And, finally, how is it to be used in the church today? How is it to be preached?

Textbooks:

The following books are required for the course:

1. W. C. Kaiser, **The Messiah in the Old Testament** (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995).
2. O. P. Robertson, **The Christ of the Prophets** (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2004).

Requirements:

1. Read through the English text of Isaiah to Malachi. You will be required to report this reading on your final examination. 5% of the final grade.
2. Read both textbooks in their entirety. Again, you will report the percentage of reading on the final examination. 5% of the final grade.

3. Term project. It is due by 3:30 pm on December 1. 30% of the final grade. Later papers will be marked off one letter grade per day.
 - a. *For students who have had at least Hebrew 1-2:* read and translate the Hebrew text of the Book of Isaiah 49:1-7; 53; 61:1-7, compiling as you do a vocabulary list. In the list you will identify all vocabulary words that you do not immediately recognize, and then parse all verb forms that you are unfamiliar with. To discourage you from simply taking this material from a computer and not learning it, you will be given a passage from one of the texts to translate on the final examination. In addition, you are to submit a detailed outline (two pages, single-spaced maximum) of a sermon on one of these three passages.
 - b. *For non-Hebrew language students:* Select one of the following books: 1. Derek Kidner, **The Message of Jeremiah**, IV Press, 1987; 2. Sinclair Ferguson, **Daniel**, Word, 1988; 3. John Benton, **Losing Touch with the Living God**, Evangelical Press, 1985. Read it, and then write a two-page review of it. Then write a practical exposition of a passage from that biblical book (e.g., if you read Ferguson, you must write an exposition on a passage from Daniel). Note bibliography for more resources. Your exposition should reflect careful study of the text and adequate use of secondary sources. The exposition should be structured by a homiletical outline (to be preached) – so you need to explain the text, apply the text, and do it in an organized manner. Your exposition should not exceed two single-spaced typed pages.
4. There will be a final examination on the afternoon of December 1. It is worth 60% of the final grade.

Course Outline

Introductory Matters

Syllabus
Authority and Inspiration of Prophetic Literature
Origin of Prophecy
Titles Used of Prophets
False Prophecy
Prophets of Idolatry
Schools of the Prophets
Call of the Prophet

First Prophets of Israel

Samuel
Nathan
Case Study: Elijah
Elisha

The Eighth Century Prophets

Joel
Obadiah
Hosea
Amos
Isaiah: Case Study of the Four Servant Songs
Jonah
Micah

The Seventh Century Prophets

Nahum
Zephaniah
Habakkuk: Case Study
Jeremiah

Prophets of Exile and Restoration

Ezekiel
Haggai
Zechariah: Case Study of the Visions
Malachi
Daniel