

ISAIAH - MALACHI (4OT516)

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta

Spring Semester 2009
Wednesdays, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.
E-mail: jyeo@rts.edu

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An expository study of the message and times of the prophets, emphasizing the themes of the Day of the LORD, judgment, restoration, promise and fulfillment, Messiah, kingdom, and the new people of God. A Reformed biblical-theological approach (i.e., redemptive-historical method) will be used in order to unfold the meaning of the (Latter) Prophetic corpus in relation to its covenant Old Testament context. Its relation and significance to the New Testament will also be discussed.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course:

- 1) The student will be familiar with a couple of key interpretive approaches:
 - a) the grammatico-historical method and b) the biblical-theological/redemptive-historical method.
- 2) The student will be able to identify the message, historical context, and literary structure of each prophetic book. In addition, the student will be familiar with certain key passages found within the Prophetic corpus that will have been examined and expounded in class (e.g., Isaiah 53; Daniel 9; etc.).
- 3) The student will be familiar with the office and function of the Prophets (i.e., prophetism) and their significance in both Old and New Testaments.
- 4) The student will be acquainted with the main interpretive issues concerning the interpretation of prophecy (e.g., conservative vs. liberal views of authorship/dating; genre considerations (e.g., literal or figurative/symbolic); literary structure (e.g., the use of recapitulation); etc.
- 5) The student will see the remarkable development of the Messianic promise found earlier in the Old Testament, e.g., Genesis 3:15, 49:10-12; Num. 24:15-19; 2 Samuel 7:14-16; etc., during the prophetic period.

III. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Required:

- 1) Tremper Longman III & Raymond B. Dillard, *Introduction to the Old Testament*, Second Edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006).
- 2) O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Prophets* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2006).
- 3) ****Supplementary Readings:**
 - i. “Who is the Prophet Talking About?” Some Reflections on the New Testament’s Use of the Old” by Richard N. Longenecker in *The Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts*, edited by G.K. Beale, pp. 375-386.

- ii. “Did Jesus and His Followers Preach the Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts?” An Examination of the Presuppositions of Jesus’ and the Apostles’ Exegetical Method” in *The Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts* edited by G.K. Beale, pp. 387-404.
- iii. “Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions,” by Richard L. Pratt, Jr. in *The Way of Wisdom*, edited by J.I. Packer & S.K. Sonderlund (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000), pp. 180-203.
- iv. “How Many Isaiahs Were There and What Does It Matter? Prophetic Inspiration in Recent Evangelical Scholarship” by Richard L. Schultz in *Evangelicals & Scripture: Tradition, Authority and Hermeneutics*, edited by V. Bacote, L.C. Miguélez, & D.L. Okholm (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2004), pp.150-170.

Suggested Resources:

- 1) *Beale, G.K. & D.A. Carson. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- 2) *Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1986.
- 3) Chisholm, Robert B. *Handbook on the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
- 4) Dorsey, David A. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- 5) *Kline, Meredith G. *Images of the Spirit*. South Hamilton, MA: Meredith G. Kline, 1986. In print, this book has been subsequently reissued by Wipf & Stock.
- 6) McConville, J. Gordon. *A Guide to the Prophets*. Exploring the Old Testament, Vol. Four. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2002.
- 7) *Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, reprint 1992.
- 8) *Williams, Michael J. *The Prophet and His Message: Reading Old Testament Prophecy Today*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2003.
- 9) Wood, Leon J. *The Prophets of Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979.
- 10) Young, Edward J. *My Servants the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952.

IV. ASSIGNMENTS

1) Assigned Readings (15% of Course Grade):

- i. *Primary Literature*: Each student is required to read the entire (Latter) Prophetic corpus. (e.g., *New Geneva Study Bible*, pp.1022-1495; 473 pp.)
- ii. *Secondary Literature*: Each student is required to read the select portions in Longman and Dillard (see syllabus), the entire text by Robertson, as well as the supplementary readings (see III.3 above).

- 2) **Supplementary Reading Reviews (10% of Course Grade):** Each student must read, summarize, and critique the supplementary readings in a 2 page, double-spaced article review. The reviews should come in two parts: 1) summarize the work and carefully note significant points, and 2) critique the work based upon cogency, point of view, etc. Each review is due the week after they are assigned (see the Course Schedule below).
- 3) **Midterm and Final Examinations (50% of Course Grade):** Study guides will be provided for each. The date for the exams is given below.
- 4) **Theological Paper (25% of Course Grade):** Requirements for this paper will be outlined in class. This paper is due on May 6th 2009 at the beginning of class.

V. COURSE SCHEDULE

February 04: Prolegomena

Introduction to the Course and Syllabus Overview

Lecture 1: **Introduction to the Prophets**

(N.B.: In preparation for this lecture, it is recommended that students read beforehand chapters 1-7 in Robertson's *The Christ of the Prophets*.)

Reading Assignment:

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 409-419; 435-442.
- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 201-254.

February 11

Lecture 2: **Ninth/Eighth-Century Prophets: Obadiah & Joel**

Reading Assignment:

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 397-408; 420-434; 443-448.

February 18

Lecture 3: **Eighth-Century Prophets: Hosea, Amos, & Jonah**

Reading Assignment:

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 449-455; 301-320.
- ***"How Many Isaiahs Were There and What Does It Matter?: Prophetic Inspiration in Recent Evangelical Scholarship" by Richard L. Schultz in *Evangelicals & Scripture: Tradition, Authority and Hermeneutics*, edited by V. Bacote, L.C. Miguélez & D.L. Okholm (Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP, 2004), pp.150-170.

February 25

Lecture 4: **Eighth-Century Prophets: Micah & Isaiah**

Reading Assignment:

- "Who is the Prophet Talking About?" Some Reflections on the New Testament's Use of the Old" by Richard N.

Longenecker in *The Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts*, edited by G.K. Beale, pp. 375-386.

- “Did Jesus and His Followers Preach the Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts?” An Examination of the Presuppositions of Jesus’ and the Apostles’ Exegetical Method” in *The Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts* edited by G.K. Beale, pp. 387-404.

March 04

Lecture 5: **Eighth-Century Prophet: Isaiah** (*continued*)

Reading Assignment:

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 456-476
- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 255-282.

March 11

Lecture 6: **Seventh-Century Prophets: Nahum, Zephaniah, & Habakkuk**

Reading Assignment:

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 321-353.

March 18

Lecture 7: **Seventh-Century Prophets: Jeremiah & Lamentations**

Midterm Exam Review (Study sheet will be handed out in class)

March 25

No Class (Spring Break)

April 01

Midterm Examination

Reading Assignment:

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 354-370.
- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 283-318.

April 08

Lecture 8: **Exilic Prophets: Ezekiel**

Reading Assignment:

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 371-396.
- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 319-358.

April 15

Lecture 9: **Exilic Prophets: Daniel**

Reading Assignment:

- *Introduction to the OT*, pp. 477-502.
- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 359-406.

April 22

Lecture 10: **Postexilic Prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi**
Reading Assignment:

- *The Christ of the Prophets*, pp. 407-502.
- **Richard L. Pratt, Jr., “Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions,” in *The Way of Wisdom*, edited by J.I. Packer and S.K. Sonderlund (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), pp. 180-203.

April 29

Lecture 11: *He Gave Us Prophets* by Richard L. Pratt, Jr. (Selections from the Series) and Class Discussion

May 06

Lecture 12: **Prophecy and Eschatology**
 Final Exam Review (Final Exam study sheet will be handed out in class)
****Theological Paper Due**

May 13

Final Examination

I. ATTENDANCE, LATE ASSIGNMENTS, AND GRADING

A. **Attendance** is not mandatory. However, lectures and materials covered in class will be covered in the final examination.

B. **Late Assignments and Paper** will be penalized one-half letter grade for every week (i.e., each class session) that it is not turned in.

C. **Scale.** The standard RTS grading scale will be used.

A (97-100)	C (80-82)
A- (94-96)	C- (78-79)
B+ (91-93)	D+ (75-77)
B (88-90)	D (72-74)
B- (86-87)	D- (70-71)
C+ (83-85)	F (below 70)

D. Basis for computation

<i>Midterm Examination</i>	25%
<i>Final Examination</i>	25%
<i>Article Reviews</i>	10% (2.5% per review)
<i>Theological Paper</i>	25%
<i>Assigned Readings</i>	15%