

4OT508: GENESIS – JOSHUA

Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
 Thursday, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
 February 04 – May 20

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.
 Spring 2010
 3 Credit Hours

RTS Catalog Description:

An expository approach to the developments in redemptive history: creation, covenant, promise and fulfillment, from creation through Israel's occupation of the Promised Land. (Required for all degree programs)

I. PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

To gain an adequate comprehension of the books from Genesis through Joshua- including their background, content, interpretation, and criticism- in order that we may effectively communicate the revealed truths of the Old Testament as it relates to Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

This course shall attempt to accomplish the following goals:

- 1) to present an expository approach to the development of redemptive history from Creation through the Conquest of the Promised Land;
- 2) to examine the theological themes of the Pentateuch and Joshua, including Creation, covenant, election, promise and fulfillment, Yahweh as divine warrior, chereem warfare, etc;
- 3) to acquaint the student with the historical events of the Pentateuch including the book of Joshua, as well as pertinent literary and legal parallels found in ancient Near Eastern history;
- 4) to acquaint the student to the geography and topography of Palestine;
- 5) to introduce and evaluate the salient features of several interpretive methodologies to the Old Testament, including: Source Criticism, Redaction Criticism, Form Criticism, Tradition Criticism, Comparative Religions, Canonical Criticism, and New Literary Criticism;
- 6) to evaluate current scholarship on critical matters such as the authorship, dating and unity of the Pentateuch along with the book of Joshua;
- and 7) to aid the student in preparation for the preaching of the texts from Genesis through Joshua, highlighting Christological approaches such as typology, promise/fulfillment, and redemptive-historical.

II. COURSE SCHEDULE

February 04- *Syllabus Review and Course Requirements*
Prolegomena: Authorship, Dating, and Text of the Pentateuch

February 11- Authorship, Dating, and Text of the Pentateuch (Cont.)
GENESIS: *The Primeval History*
The Genesis Account vs. ANE Mythology

- Encountering the Old Testament*, pp. 21-87
 -*Readings from the Ancient Near East* edited by B. Arnold & B. Beyer, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002, pp. 31-50 (“Enuma Elish”)
 -*An Introduction to the Old Testament*, pp. 38-62
 -*An Old Testament Theology*, pp. 173-208
- February 18-** Genesis 1-2:3: Exegesis of the Creation Account
Plundering the Egyptians, pp. 120-135: (including all endnotes)
An Old Testament Theology, pp. 209-247
- February 25-** Genesis 3-5: The Fall and the Two Lineages
An Old Testament Theology, pp. 248-283
- March 04-** Genesis 6-10: The Flood Narrative and the Prophecy of Noah
 Excursus: The Source-critical Division of the Flood Narrative
Plundering the Egyptians, pp. 17-29; 116-120; and 225-232:
 (including all endnotes)
An Old Testament Theology, pp. 284-304
- March 11-** *Patriarchal Narratives*
- Exegesis of the Call of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
- Excursus: Theme of the Covenant (The Covenant of Works and the Covenant of Grace)*
 -*Encountering*, pp. 89-101
 -*Plundering the Egyptians*, pp. 102-116 (including all endnotes)
 -*An Old Testament Theology*, pp. 305-345
- March 18-** **Spring Break**
- March 25-** *Patriarchal Narratives continued*
- Exegesis of the Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22)
- Jacob/Joseph Cycles
Excursus: Christological Interpretation of the Old Testament
 -*Intro to the OT*, pp. 17-37
 -*Readings ANE*, pp. 76-82 (“Tale of Sinuhe”)
Due: Map of Israel
- April 01-** **Midterm Examination (2 hours)**
- April 08-** **EXODUS**
 Moses Narratives
 Date of the Exodus
- Exegesis of the Passover (Exodus 13:17-15:21)

-*Intro to the OT*, pp. 63-80
 -*Encountering*, pp. 103-115
 -*An Old Testament Theology*, pp. 346-404

April 15- Law and Covenant: Legal Texts and Exodus
 • Exegesis of the Decalogue (Exodus 20:1-20)
 Tabernacle, the Golden Calf, and Covenant Renewal
 -*An Old Testament Theology*, pp. 405-444

April 22- **LEVITICUS**
 The Sacrificial System (Leviticus 1-7)
 • Exegesis of the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)
 -*Encountering*, pp. 117-126
 -*Intro to the OT*, pp. 81-91
 -*An Old Testament Theology*, pp. 445-478
NUMBERS
 Preparations and Wanderings
 -*Encountering*, pp. 127-139
 -*Intro to the OT*, pp. 92-101

April 29- **DEUTERONOMY**
 Covenant Treaties of the 2nd Millennium B.C.
 The Structure of Deuteronomy and Biblical Authority
 -*Encountering*, pp. 141-154
 -*An Intro to the OT*, pp. 102-119
 -*An Old Testament Theology*, pp. 479-511

May 06- *The Theology of Deuteronomy (Election, Holy War, etc.)*
 • Exegesis of the Paradigm Prophet: Moses (Deuteronomy 17)
JOSHUA
 A Deuteronomistic History?: The Historical Books in relation to Deuteronomy
 The Conquest: Fact or Fiction?
 -*Encountering*, pp.157-179
 -*Intro to the OT*, pp. 120-132
 -*An Old Testament Theology*, pp. 512-533

May 13- **Thematic Paper Due**

May 20- **Final Examination** (2 hours)

III. ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

A. Map of Israel (See Handout)

B. Paper

Write a 10-12 page paper on a major theological theme found in the books, Genesis through Joshua. As an integral part of the paper, show and discuss how the theme relates to the overall narrative plot found in these books. More details will be announced.

C. Midterm and Final Examinations (To be discussed in class)

IV. GRADING

A. 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)

B. Basis for computation

Midterm Examination	30%
Final Examination	30%
Paper	25%
Map	5%

V. BOOK LIST*Required-*

Arnold, Bill T. & Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

Tremper Longman III & Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Waltke, Bruce K. with Charles Yu. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Yeo, John J. *Plundering the Egyptians: The Old Testament and Historical Criticism at Westminster Theological Seminary (1929-1998)*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2010.

(Purchase the book directly from the instructor, Dr. Yeo, at a discounted price.)

Highly Recommended-

Alexander, T. Desmond. *From Paradise to the Promised Land*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995; revised second edition, 2002.

Clines, David J.A. *The Theme of the Pentateuch*. Second edition. Sheffield: Sheffield

- Academic Press, 1997.
- Clowney, Edmund. *Preaching Christ From All the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2003.
- Currid, John D. *Doing Archaeology in the Land of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- Dorsey, David A. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary On Genesis-Malachi*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- Garrett, Duane. *Rethinking Genesis: The Sources and Authorship of the First Book of the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991; reprinted by Christian Focus Publications, 2000.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of the God In the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2002.
- _____. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable & Relevant?* Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2001.
- Kline, Meredith G. *Kingdom Prologue*. South Hamilton, MA: M.G. Kline, 1993; reprinted by Wipf & Stock, 2006.
- _____. *The Structure of Biblical Authority*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975; reprinted by Wipf & Stock Publishers, 1997.
- Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Christ of the Covenants*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1980.
- Sailhamer, John H. *The Meaning of the Pentateuch: Revelation, Composition, and Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.
- _____. *The Pentateuch as Narrative: A Biblical-Theological Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
- VanGemeren, Willem. *The Progress of Redemption*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.
- Wenham, Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Pentateuch*. Vol. One. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003.
- Wolf, Herbert. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.