

## ISAIAH - MALACHI (OT 516)

Reformed Theological Seminary Orlando  
Spring 2008

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### 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* (Hereafter *IOT*), second edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006).
- 2) O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Prophets* (Hereafter *COTP*). (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2006).
- 3) **\*\*Supplementary Readings:**
  - i. John H. Walton, *Ancient Israelite Literature in its Cultural Context*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990), pp. 201-228.

- ii. Richard L. Pratt, Jr., “Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions,” in *The Way of Wisdom*, edited by J.I. Packer & S.K. Sonderlund (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000), pp. 180-203. [
- iii. Richard L. Schultz, “How Many Isaiahs Were There and What Does It Matter?: Prophetic Inspiration in Recent Evangelical Scholarship” 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) Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1986.
- 2) Chisholm, Robert B. *Handbook on the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
- 3) Dorsey, David A. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.
- 4) \*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.
- 5) McConville, J. Gordon. *A Guide to the Prophets*. Exploring the Old Testament, Vol. Four. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2002.
- 6) \*Vos, Geerhardus. *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*. Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, reprint 1992.
- 7) \*Williams, Michael J. *The Prophet and His Message: Reading Old Testament Prophecy Today*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2003.
- 8) Wood, Leon J. *The Prophets of Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1979.
- 9) \*Young, Edward J. *My Servants the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1952.

**IV. ASSIGNMENTS**

**1) Assigned Readings:**

- 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 (See section III above)

**2) Supplementary Reading Reviews:**

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. The due dates will be announced in class.

- 3) **Paper:** Topic and due date will be announced in class (see handout)
- 4) **Final Examination:** A study guide will be provided. The date of the exam will be announced in class.

## V. COURSE OUTLINE

### **Prolegomena: Introduction to the Prophets**

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*Prophetism in Israel: Its Origin and Its Uniqueness within the ANE*

*Titles Used of Prophets*

*Prophets in Transition*

*The Call and Commission of the Prophet*

*True Versus False Prophets*

*The Role of the Law and Covenant in the Prophetical Books*

#### **Reading Assignment:**

- *COTP*, chapters 1-4, pp. 9-119
- John H. Walton, *Ancient Israelite Literature in its Cultural Context*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990), pp. 201-228

### **The Eighth Century Prophets**

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**Hosea**

**Amos**

**Micah**

**Isaiah**

**Joel**

**Obadiah**

**Jonah**

#### **Reading Assignment:**

- Read the corresponding chapters in *IOT*
- *COTP*, chapter 8, pp. 201-25
- Richard L. Schultz, "How Many Isaiahs Were There and What Does It Matter?: Prophetic Inspiration in Recent Evangelical Scholarship" 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

### **The Seventh Century Prophets**

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**Nahum**

**Habakkuk**

**Zephaniah**

**Jeremiah**

#### **Reading Assignment:**

- Read the corresponding chapters in *IOT*
- *COTP*, chapter 9, pp. 255-282

### **Prophets of Exile**

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**Ezekiel**

**Daniel**

**Reading Assignment:**

- Read the corresponding chapters in *IOT*
- *COTP*, chapters 10-11, pp. 283-358

**Prophets of Restoration**

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Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

**Reading Assignment:**

- Reading the corresponding chapters in *IOT*
- *COTP*, chapter 12, pp. 359-406

**Exposition of Key Passages from the Prophets**

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*Literary Analysis of the Prophets*  
*The Nature of Biblical Prophecy*

**Reading Assignment:**

- *COTP*, chapters 13-14 and Conclusion, 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. Soderlund (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), pp. 180-203

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

**D. Basis for computation**

<i>Final Examination</i>	50%
<i>Article Reviews</i>	15% (5% per review)
<i>Paper</i>	25%
<i>Assigned Readings</i>	10%