

JUDGES TO ESTHER SPRING 2007

PURPOSE AND GOALS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Instructor: Dr. Mark D. Futato
- Course title: Judges to Esther
- Course number: 6OT510
- Dates: March 2-3, March 23-24, April 13-14
- E-mail: mfutato@rts.edu
- Dues Dates:
 - March 15 at 4pm:
 - Post #1
 - Exam #1
 - March 22 at 4pm:
 - Post #2
 - April 5 at 4pm:
 - Post #3
 - April 12 at 4pm:
 - Post #4
 - Exam #2
 - April 26 at 4pm:
 - Exam #3

PURPOSE:

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

GOALS:

- Comprehension
 - To increase your knowledge of English Bible in Judges to Esther.
 - To increase your knowledge of introductory issues in each book from Judges to Esther.
 - To increase your knowledge of the history of Israel from the period of the Judges to the post-exilic community.
- Competence
 - To sharpen your ability to interpret Judges to Esther in their geographical, historical, theological, and literary contexts.
 - To sharpen your ability to apply the teaching of Judges to Esther in your own life and in the life of the local church.
- Character
 - To be a person of growing faith.
 - To be a person of increasing hope.
 - To be a person of deepening love.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

- Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. Encountering the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999).
- Longman, Tremper III and Raymond B. Dillard. An Introduction to the Old Testament (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006).
- Merrill, Eugene H. Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987).

DISCUSSION POSTS:

- We will have online discussions of the Book of Ruth and the Book of Esther.
- In preparation for these discussions you will read:
 - The biblical texts in at least two translations
 - Introductions
 - Arnold/Beyer, chaps. 12 and 18
 - Longman/Dillard, chaps. 9 and 14
 - Any other of your choosing
 - Any other reading you choose
- You will submit at least two posts for each discussion.
 - Each post is to be between 250 and 500 words.
 - The first and third will be your position regarding the theology of the Book of Ruth and the Book of Esther.
 - The second and fourth will be your response to a classmate's post.
- Topics:
 - Post #1: How does the Book of Ruth relate the ideas of divine sovereignty and human responsibility and what are some implications of this theology for Christian living?
 - Post #3: What is meant by "the hideness of God" in the Book of Esther and what are some implications of this theology for Christian living?
- Grading criteria:
 - Each post must have the following five headings:
 - **Thesis:** A thesis is a one sentence statement about your topic. It's an assertion about your topic, something you claim to be true. Think about what your readers want or need to know. Then write a sentence—a simple one—stating what will be the main idea of your argument. (2 points)
 - **Proof:** Proof includes logical arguments, examples, facts, supporting opinions. (2 points)
 - **Refutation:** Refutation anticipates objections and counters opposing point(s) of view. (2 points)

- **Conclusion:** The conclusion indicates the significance or application of the thesis. (2 points)
- **References:** All materials read. (2 points)
- Due dates:
 - Post #1: March 15 at 4pm.
 - Post #2: March 22 at 4pm.
 - Post #3: April 5 at 4pm.
 - Post #4: April 12 at 4pm.

ASSESSMENTS:

- Exams:
 - There are three exams.
 - Exam #1: Opens on March 9 at 4pm and closes March 15 at 4pm.
 - Exam #2: Opens on April 6 at 4pm and closes April 12 at 4pm.
 - Exam #3: Opens on April 20 at 4pm and closes April 26 at 4pm.
 - Preparation:
 - Be prepared to answer questions based on the lectures.
 - Be prepared to answer questions based on the Summary boxes and Study Questions at the end of each chapter in Arnold/Beyer.
 - Be prepared to answer questions based on the Study Guide for Merrill's Kingdom of Priests, contained in this syllabus.
- Grading
 - Each exam is worth 40 points (120 total \cong 67% of the final grade).
 - Each discussion post is worth 10 points (40 total \cong 23% of the final grade).
 - The reading of Longman and Dillard is worth 10 points (20 total \cong 10% of the final grade).

SCHEDULE

WEEKEND OF MARCH 2-3

- The Background of Judges to Esther (3 hrs)
 - Arnold/Beyer, chaps. 1-2
 - Longman/Dillard, chap. 1
- OT Historiography (1 hr)
- The Primary History (3 hrs)
 - Arnold/Beyer, chap. 10
 - Merrill, pp. 15-19

WEEKEND OF MARCH 23-24

- The Book of Judges (3 hrs)
 - Arnold/Beyer, chap. 12
 - Longman/Dillard, chap. 8
 - Merrill, chap. 4
- The Book of Samuel (2 hrs)
 - Arnold/Beyer chaps. 13-14
 - Longman/Dillard, chap. 10
 - Merrill, chaps. 5-6
- The Book of Kings (2 hrs)
 - Arnold/Beyer chaps. 15-16
 - Longman/Dillard, chap. 11
 - Merrill, chaps. 7-9

WEEKEND OF APRIL 13-14

- The Chronicler's History (1 hr)
- The Book of Chronicles (3 hrs)
 - Arnold/Beyer, chap. 17
 - Longman/Dillard, chap. 12

- Merrill, chaps. 10-12
- The Book of Ezra-Nehemiah (3 hrs)
 - Arnold/Beyer, chaps. 18
 - Longman/Dillard, chap. 13
- Merrill, chaps. 13-14

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 je (Judges to Esther), e.g., mfutatoje
 - Password = last four digits of your Power Campus 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 are posted here
 - Announcements will also come up on the first page after logging in
 - Click on "Course Information"
 - Materials like the syllabus are posted here
 - Click on "Course Documents"
 - Any additional course documents you may need are posted here
 - Click on "Communication"
 - E-mail
 - Click on "Discussion Board"
 - Meet Each Other

- Click on "Assessments"
 - Practice Quiz
- 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 e-mail
 - Click on the Communication tab on the left navigation bar
 - Click on the underscored Send E-mail
 - Click on the underscored All Users to e-mail the entire class
 - Click on the underscored Selected Users to e-mail an individual or group of individuals

- To take a quiz
 - Click on the Assessments tab on the left navigation bar
 - Click on Practice Quiz
 - Click on the radio buttons next to the correct answer(s), paying attention to the difference between Multiple Choice (only one correct answer) and Multiple Answer (more than one correct answer)
 - Click "Submit" at the bottom left of the page
 - Review the results that will appear after you submit the quiz

STUDY GUIDE

Merrill, Eugene H.

Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel

CHAPTER 4

Key dates

1. period of the Judges
2. period of Philistine oppression

Key Identifications

1. Othniel
2. Ehud
3. Deborah
4. Barak
5. Gideon
6. Abimelech
7. Jephthah
8. Samson

Key Concepts

1. Summarize and evaluate Merrill's reconciliation of the length of the period of the Judges (300 years), the sum of the judgeships (407 years), and Acts 13:19-20 (450 years)?
2. Briefly describe Canaanite religion.

CHAPTER 5

Key dates

1. Saul's reign
2. David's reign

Key Identifications

1. Philistines
2. Saul
3. David
4. Jonathan
5. Ahimelech
6. Abiathar

Key Concepts

1. Demonstrate that the establishment of the monarchy was in keeping with God's plan. In light of this, wherein lay Israel's sin in requesting a king?
2. Why was Saul rejected as King? How does this square with 1 Chr 16:1-3?
3. Outline David's rise to the throne in Hebron from his anointing to Saul's death.

CHAPTER 6

Key dates

1. reign of David in Hebron
2. reign of David in Jerusalem

Key Identifications

1. Abner
2. Ish-baal/Ish-boshet
3. Joab

Key Concepts

1. Describe David's rise to power over all twelve tribes from the death of Saul to his coronation by the twelve tribes at Hebron.
2. Describe and evaluate Merrill's reconstruction of the chronology of major events (moving of the ark, building of the temple, defeat of the Philistines) in David's life.
3. Trace the movements of the ark and the tabernacle from Shiloh in the days of the Judges to Jerusalem at the end of David's reign.

CHAPTER 7

Key dates

1. Ammonite wars
2. Absalom's rebellion

Key Identifications

1. Mephibosheth
2. Ammonites

3. Arameans
4. Tamar
5. Amnon
6. Absalom
7. Zadok
8. Ahithophel
9. Adonijah

Key Concepts

1. Describe how and to what extent David expanded his kingdom at the time of the Ammonite wars.
2. Describe the beginning of the David's domestic troubles, and relate this to an episode during the Ammonite wars.
3. Describe the merger of the cultic and political spheres in David and at Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 8

Key dates

1. building of the temple

Key Identifications

1. Hadad
2. Rezon
3. Ahijah

Key Concepts

1. What are some possible reasons for the defections of Joab and Abiathar to Adonijah, and how did Solomon deal with these three?
2. How did Solomon link the Davidic covenant to the Mosaic in the context of his building projects?
3. Describe the early cracks in Solomon's empire, providing the reasons for them.
4. Describe Solomon's apostasy.

CHAPTER 9

Key dates

1. division of the kingdom
2. Ahab's accession

Key Identifications

1. Jeroboam I
2. Rehoboam

3. Abijah
4. Asa
5. Jehu ben Hanani
6. Omri
7. Jehoshaphat
8. Ahab
9. Elijah
10. Naaman
11. Elisha

Key Concepts

1. Give the immediate reason for the division of the kingdom.
2. Describe the reign of Jeroboam I, including its relation to the rest of the northern dynasties.

CHAPTER 10

Key dates

1. beginning of Jehu's dynasty

Key Identifications

1. Jehu
2. Athaliah
3. Jehoiadah
4. Joash
5. Jeroboam II
6. Uzziah

Key Concepts

1. Summarize the rise and fall of Joash king of Judah.
2. Describe the international scene from 850 to 750, as it relates to the history of Israel and Judah.
3. Describe the reigns of Jeroboam II and Uzziah.

CHAPTER 11

Key Identifications

1. Menahem
2. Tiglath-Pileser III
3. Pekah
4. Hoshea
5. Jotham
6. Ahaz

7. Sargon II

8. Hezekiah

Key Concepts

1. Describe the reign of Hezekiah.
2. Correlate the ministries of Hoshea, Isaiah, and Micah with kings of Israel and Judah.

CHAPTER 12

Key dates

1. fall of Nineveh
2. battle of Haran = death of Josiah
3. battle of Carchemish = end of Neo-Assyrian empire
4. first deportation to Babylon, including Daniel
5. second deportation to Babylon, including Ezekiel
6. third deportation and fall of Jerusalem

Key Identifications

1. Manasseh
2. Josiah
3. Hilkiah
4. Nebuchadnezzar II
5. Jehoiachin
6. Zedekiah

Key Concepts

1. Describe the reign of Josiah.
2. Describe the major events in Judah from 605 to 586.
3. Correlate the ministries of Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah with the kings of Judah.

CHAPTER 13

Key dates

1. fall of the Neo-Babylonian empire
2. decree of Cyrus
3. laying of foundation of the temple
4. completion of the temple

Key Identifications

1. Cyrus
2. Darius Hystaspes
3. Zerubbabel

Key Concepts

1. Describe the life of the Jewish people during the exile.
2. Correlate the ministries of Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, and Zechariah with the the history of Judah in exile.

CHAPTER 14

Key dates

1. Ezra's return to Jerusalem
2. Nehemiah's first return to Jerusalem
3. Nehemiah's return to Susa
4. Nehemiah's second return to Jerusalem

Key Identifications

1. Esther
2. Xerxes
3. Artaxerxes
4. Ezra
5. Nehemiah

Key Concepts

1. Correlate the Book of Esther with the history of Persia and the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.
2. Correlate the ministry of Malachi with the history of post-exilic Judah.

FURTHER READING

SPECIAL INTRODUCTION

- Bandstra, Barry L. Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1995).
- Cate, Robert L. An Introduction to the Historical Books of the Old Testament (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994).
- Longman, Tremper III and Raymond B. Dillard. An Introduction to the Old Testament (2nd. ed.; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006).
- Dumbrell, W.J. The Faith of Israel (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002).

THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. A History of Israel: From the Bronze Age Through the Jewish Wars (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1998).

OLD TESTAMENT HISTORIOGRAPHY

- Dillard, Raymond B. "Harmonization: A Help and a Hinderance," Inerrancy and Hermeneutic (edited by Harvie M. Conn; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988) 151-64.
- Long, V. Philips. The Art of Biblical History (Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation 5; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994).
- Longman, Tremper III. "Storytellers and Poets in the Bible: Can Literary Artifice Be True," Inerrancy and Hermeneutic: A Tradition, a Challenge, a Debate (edited by Harvie M. Conn; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988) 137-50.
- Merrill, Eugene H. "History," Cracking Old Testament Codes: A Guide to Interpreting the Literary Genres of the Old Testament (edited by D. Brent Sandy and Ronald L. Giese, Jr.; Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995) 89-112.

OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVE

- Longman, Tremper III. Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation (Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation 3; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987).
- Pratt, Richard L. Jr. He Gave Us Stories: The Bible Student's Guide to Interpreting Old Testament Narratives (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1990).

JUDGES

- David, Dale Ralph. Such a Great Salvation: Expositions of the Book of Judges (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1990).
- Groves, J. Alan. "The Book of Judges: Introduction and Notes," The New Geneva Study Bible (edited by R.C. Sproul; Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1995) 331-365.
- Younger, K. Lawson Jr. Judges/Ruth (NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002).
- Webb, Barry G. The Book of Judges: An Integrated Reading (JSOTSup 46; Sheffield: JSOT, 1987).

RUTH

- Hubbard, Robert L., Jr. The Book of Ruth (NICOT; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988).

- Younger, K. Lawson Jr. Judges/Ruth (NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002).
- Luter, A. Boyd and Barry L. Davis. God Behind the Scenes: Expositions of Ruth and Esther (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995).
- Sakenfeld, Katherine Doob. Ruth (Interpretation; Louisville, KY: John Knox, 1999).

SAMUEL

- Arnold, Bill T. 1 & 2 Samuel (NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003).
- Davis, Dale Ralph. Looking on the Heart: Expositions of the Book of 1 Samuel (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994).
- Davis, Dale Ralph. Out of Every Adversity: Expositions of the Book of 2 Samuel (Great Britain: Christian Focus, 1999).

KINGS

- House, Paul R. 1, 2 Kings (NAC 8; Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995).
- Provan, Iain W. 1 and 2 Kings (NIBC 7; Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995).

CHRONICLES

- Dillard, Raymond B. 2 Chronicles (WBC 15; Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987).
- Hill, Andrew E. 1 & 2 Chronicles (NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003).
- Pratt, Richard L. Jr. 1 and 2 Chronicles (Great Britain: Christian Focus, 1997).
- Thompson, J.A. 1, 2 Chronicles (NAC 9; Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994).

EZRA-NEHEMIAH

- Futato, Mark D. "The Book of Ezra: Introduction and Notes," The New Geneva Study Bible (edited by R.C. Sproul; Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1995) 646-642.

- Futato, Mark D. "The Book of Nehemiah: Introduction and Notes," The New Geneva Study Bible (edited by R.C. Sproul; Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1995) 663-85.
- Fensham, F. Charles. The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah (NICOT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1982).
- Thronveit, Mark A. Ezra-Nehemiah (Interpretation; Louisville, KY: John Knox, 1992).

ESTHER

- Bechtel, Carol M. Esther (Interpretation; Louisville, KY: John Knox, 2001).
- Jobes, Karen H. Esther (NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999).
- Luter, A. Boyd and Barry L. Davis. God Behind the Scenes: Expositions of Ruth and Esther (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995).

ANCIENT NEAR EAST

- Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer. Readings From the Ancient Near East: Primary Sources for Old Testament Studies (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2002).
- Bienkowski, Piotr and Alan Millard. Dictionary of the Ancient Near East (Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania, 2000).
- Currid, John D. Ancient Egypt and the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997).
- Hoerth, Alfred J. Archaeology and the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998)
- Millard, Allan. "The Old Testament and the Ancient Near East," Zondervan Handbook to the Bible (edited by Pat Alexander and David Alexander; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999) 105-7.
- Millard, Allan. "The Canaanites," Peoples of Old Testament Times (edited by D.J. Wiseman; Oxford: Oxford, 1973) 27-52.
- Schoville, Keith N. "Canaanites and Amorites," People of the Old Testament World (edited by Alfred J. Hoerth Et Al.; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994) 157-82.