Judges to Esther  
Spring 2008/Columbia, SC  
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Course Description

An analysis of each book in this section of the canon from a literary, historical, and theological perspective. Each book is placed in the context of redemptive history to show its relationship to what has gone before and how it furthers the progress of redemption, which ultimately leads to Christ. There is an emphasis on how to interpret narrative and characters in a story.

Course Goals

1) To understand the structure and message of each book covered in this course.  
2) To understand how each book fits into the progress of the unfolding history of God's people.  
3) To understand how these books lay a foundation for the coming of Christ.  
4) To become comfortable teaching and preaching from narrative, with special attention given to how to deal with characters in a story.

Textbooks

1) *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, Ray Dillard and Tremper Longman (*IOT*)  
2) *A History of Israel*, Walter Kaiser  
3) *He Gave Us Stories*, Richard Pratt  
5) Highly recommended: *A Biblical History of Israel*, Ian Provan, V. Philips Long, Tremper Longman III

Assignments

1) The biblical books Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther must all be read.

2) The assigned reading must be read:

   a) *IOT* on the biblical books that are covered in this course (pp 119-198)  
   b) All of Kaiser's *History of Israel*  
   c) *He Gave Us Stories*, Part II (pp 107-308)

3) There will be a quiz week covering outlines of the books. (MV??)
4) There will be an exam with two parts (the two parts can be taken at separate times). Both exams must be completed on or before May 12, postmarked and mailed to RTS Charlotte, 2101 Carmel Rd, Charlotte, NC 28226

a) Part 1 will be an essay exam based on the lectures. Students will be given the questions ahead of time.

b) Part 2 will be the identification of key terms from the Kaiser reading. Students will be given the key terms ahead of time.

5) A research paper is required that will focus on a character of a narrative (see Guidelines for the Research Paper). Paper is due Monday, April 29; it can be postmarked and mailed on that date.

**Grades**

- Quizzes 20%
- Exams 40%
- Paper 30%
- Reading 10%

**Lecture Schedule**

- **February 4**
  - Introduction to the Course
  - Interpreting Narrative: Literary, Historical, and Theological Perspectives

- **February 11**
  - Kingship: The Restoration of Human Dominion
  - Introduction to Judges: Israel's Failed Mission
  - Start Downwad Spiral

- **February 18**
  - The Downward Spiral of the Canaanization of Israel

- **February 25**
  - Ruth: Covenant Loyalty Brings Covenant Blessing
  - Samuel and the Crisis of Leadership

- **March 3**
  - Saul: A King Like the Other Nations
  - David: God's Choice for a King

- **March 10**
  - David: The King After God's Own Heart
  - Solomon: the World-Wide Glory of God's Kingdom

- **March 17**
  - **No Class Spring Break**
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Elijah: the Prophetic Fight Against Idolatry</td>
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<td>Elisha: Yahweh's Power to Deliver</td>
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<td>Covenant Curse: the Exile of the Kingdoms</td>
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<td>March 31</td>
<td>Ezra: Laying the Foundation for Restoration</td>
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<td>Nehemiah: the Need for Continuing Reform</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>Esther: the Hidden Providence of God</td>
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<td>Chronicles: Looking to the Past with Hope for the Future</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td><strong>Paper due</strong></td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td><strong>Exams due</strong></td>
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