

Old Testament Survey

Genesis-Malachi

A Brief Overview of the Old Testament Books of the Bible

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Central Valley Institute for Christian Studies

Turlock, CA

Syllabus

Description:

This course is a survey of the history, literature, and content of the Old Testament, with an emphasis on God's plan for man's salvation. The course will consist of reading and studying portions of the Old Testament, with additional readings from other sources. It will be important for the student to keep up with all reading and written assignments.

Objectives:

Enable students to:

1. Gain a functional knowledge of the books of the Old Testament and their distinguishing characteristics;
2. Gain a functional knowledge of the basic chronology and geography of Old Testament writings and events;
3. Gain a functional knowledge of the types of literature found in the Old Testament;
4. Gain a functional knowledge of the context of the Old Testament setting (ie., economic, political, social, and religious);

Expectations:

Students are expected to read assigned portions of the Old Testament as well as text book assignments. *The Holy Bible: New International Version* will be the standard text. Weekly grades will be given based on the fulfillment of the reading assignments; participation in weekly online discussion boards, weekly quizzes, and a final paper due at the end of the course. Students are expected to fulfill assignments before scheduled times. (Please see the end of this syllabus for details).

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodations may be made.

Course Prerequisites: None

Background Knowledge/Skills: Students should have a basic mastery of reading and writing in English and a basic knowledge of word processing (MS Word 97 or later). A basic familiarity with Facebook, (www.facebook.com) and YouTube (www.youtube.com) will be required and basic paper writing skills for fulfilling written assignments.

The Instructor:

The instructor will be available to meet online with students on Facebook as requested. Students may contact the instructor by phone (209) 675-2325, with an answering machine to leave messages, or e-mail nogan@sbcglobal.net.

Books:

The New International Version of the Holy Bible, Zondervan

It is recommended for this course that each student use the NIV translation of the New Testament. If a student has facility in another language besides English, it is good to read the Bible in that language as well (ie., Spanish).

The Old Testament Speaks: A Complete Survey of Old Testament History, 5th Edition, Samuel J. Schultz. San Francisco, CA.: Harper, 1999. You can purchase the hardback version of this book online at www.amazon.com for \$23.99. Used and paperback editions are also available.

Holman Illustrated Pocket Bible Handbook, Kendall H. Easley, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2004. You can purchase this book online at www.lifewaystores.com for \$14.99 and through www.amazon.com for \$10.18.

Course Organization:

The course is divided into 8 weekly sessions. Each session will include an assignment to be completed and e-mailed to the instructor.

1. **Assignments**-Assignments are due at the designated time indicated below. It is recommended that assignments be sent ahead of time in case there are computer problems.
2. **Late Work**-For work to be eligible for an "A" Grade, it must be e-mailed to the instructor before the designated time. Students may send their assignments in early, and are advised to do so whenever possible. Work may be submitted late, but assignments will be graded accordingly.
3. **Makeup**-Because of the nature of this course, in which students do not have to attend classes at particular times on particular days, there is no provision for "make-up" work.
4. **Quizzes**-There will be eight weekly quizzes.
5. **Book Reports** – Weekly summaries of reading assignments are due as indicated below.
6. **Final Paper** – A final paper meeting the requirements listed below is due at the end of the course.
7. **Extensions**-If you think that you may need an extension, you should contact the instructor ahead of time with your request, and explain the situation.

Old Testament Reading Assignments

Old Testament Survey Reading Plan

Numbers Indicate Chapters Unless Preceded by a Colon

October 2011	10/15 1 Sam 15-20,31	10/28 Prv 1-3
10/3 Gen 1-4,6-9	10/16 2 Sam 1-2,5	10/29 Ecc 1-3
1/4 Gen 11-14,16-17	10/17 2 Sam 7,11-12	10/30 SofS 1-2,8
10/5 Gen 19,22,32:22-32	10/18 1 Kgs 1-3,6,10	10/31 Isa 6-8
10/6 Gen 37,39-41	10/19 1 Kgs 11-12,17-19	11/1 Isa 40,42,49,55
10/7 Gen 42-47	10/20 2 Kgs 2,4-7	11/2 Jer 1,3,5
10/8 Gen 48-52	10/21 2 Kgs 22-23,25	11/3 Jer 18,23,32
10/9 Ex 1-5,7-8	10/22 1 Chr 10-11	11/4 Jer 36,38-39
10/10 Ex 9-12, 20	10/23 2 Chr 3,7, 34-36	11/5 Lam 1-2
10/11 Josh 1-4	10/24 Ezra 1,4-6	11/6 Ez 1-3
10/12 Judg 1-2,4,6-7	10/25 Neh 1-4	11/7 Ez 13,15,18
10/13 Ruth 1-4	10/26 Job 1-2,42	11/8 Dan 1-3
10/14 1 Sam 1,3,8,9	10/27 Ps 1,42,73,90,107	11/9 Hos 1-3

11/10 Joel 1-3	11/16 Habk 1-3	11/22 Mal 1-4
11/11 Amos 5-7	11/17 Zeph 1-3	11/23 Ps 2
11/12 Oba 1	11/18 Hag 1-2	11/24 Ps 43
11/13 Jonah 1-4	11/19 Zech 1-5	11/25 Ps 74
11/14 Micah 5-7	11/20 Zech 6-11	11/26 Ps 91
11/15 Nahum 1-3	11/21 Zech 12-14	

Text Book Reading Assignments

The Old Testament Speaks: A Complete Survey of Old Testament History, 5th Edition, Samuel J. Schultz. San Francisco, CA.: Harper, 1999= **OTS**
Holman Illustrated Pocket Bible Handbook, Kendall H. Easley = **HIB**

- Week 1 “Beginning in the Beginning”** *October 3, 2011*
 Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
 OTS– The Period of Beginnings, pp.11-42
 HIB- Introduction, pp. 3-7; Genesis-Deuteronomy 11-40
1 Page Summary Report of Reading Due 10/10/11
- Week 2 “His Story”** *October 10, 2011*
 Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel,
 OTS- Emancipation of Israel, pp.43-56; Occupation of Canaan, pp.89-114
 HIB- Joshua, pp.41-46; Judges, pp.47-52; 1 Samuel-1 Kings, 59-76
1 Page Summary Report of Reading Due 10/17/11
- Week 3 “Some Things Just Have to Sung”** *October 17, 2011*
 Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs
 OTS- Interpretation of Life, pp.279-298
 HIB- Psalms, pp.117-122; Ecclesiastes, pp.129-134
1 Page Summary Report of Reading Due 10/24/11
- Week 4 “Practicing While You Preach”** *October 24, 2011*
 Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
 OTS- Isaiah and Daniel, pp.299-322; 365-376
 HIB- Isaiah, pp.141-146; Daniel, 165-170
1 Page Summary Report of Reading Due 10/31/11
- Week 6 “Minor Prophets with a Major Message”** *October 31, 2011*
 Hosea, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah Micah, Nahum,
 Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
 OTS- In Times of Prosperity, pp.377-392
 HIB- Hosea, pp.171-176; Amos, pp.183-188; Jonah, pp.195-200
1 Page Summary Report of Reading Due 11/7/11
- Week 7 “The Old Testament Documents”** *November 7, 2011*
 NTS- Beyond Exile, pp.415-426
 HIB- Haggai-Malachi, pp.225-242
1 Page Summary Report of Reading Due 11/14/11
- Week 8 “The Intertestamental Period”** *November 14, 2011*
 “Intertestamental Period” Essay (To be posted online)
1 Page Summary Report of Reading Due 11/21/11

Online Discussion Board

Each student is required to submit 300 words per week on the discussion board. A total 150 for the main post in response to the lectures and 75 words each for two peer responses.

Weekly Quizzes

There will be a weekly quiz following each lesson to be made available within 48 hours after the lecture.

Final Paper

Each student is required to submit a 6-8 page final paper using MS Word 97 or later format. Pages are to be double spaced and grammatically suitable for reading at a 12th grade level. Below are some optional subject titles or students may get the instructor's approval for another topic not listed. This paper is due before November 21st.

Optional Subject Titles:

“Ways in Which God Appeared to Persons in the Old Testament” - “The Importance of Geography in Old Testament Times” - “The Role of Female Characters in Old Testament Stories” - “Signs and Symbols of God's Covenant” - “Characteristics of those God Chooses to Lead His People”- “Was Abraham's Faith in God a Religion or a Relationship?” - “Describe Joshua's Military Strategy in Conquering Canaan” – “The Role of the Messiah in Old Testament Prophecy”