



## PROPHETIC BOOKS OT 503DE

SYLLABUS

FALL 2009

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*The passion of Bethel Seminary is to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ among all people in culturally sensitive ways. As a Spirit-empowered, biblically grounded community of learning, Bethel strives to develop and equip whole and holy persons to serve and lead so that churches and ministry agencies can become all they are called to be and do in the world for the glory of God.*

The objectives and assignments of PROPHETIC BOOKS are designed in light of that statement of mission and in light of the degree program aims appropriate to this course. In addition, each member of this learning enterprise is expected to set out personal objectives to pursue in their studies this term.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

An investigation into Israel's prophetic literature. While students will be introduced to highlights of recent scholarship on this material, the primary emphasis will be on the content & theology of the prophetic books and the persuasive nature of Hebrew prophecy. Attention is given to the application of these biblical texts to current issues in society and your personal life. This course also includes a review of selected issues of Bible introduction. **Prerequisites: BT 501/BI501, OT501 and OT502** (except for those programs in which OT502 is not required)

Someone has observed that in order to love intimately one must know accurately, else one is loving an image of their own making. Knowing accurately is the function of sound biblical studies.

The classical or "writing" prophets served from the 9th century B.C. through the 5th century, a convulsive time in the ancient world. For the community of the PROPHETIC BOOKS, this period is a tragic one as the "People of God" declined from the "golden age" of David and Solomon to ruin. By now Israel has already been torn in two by civil war. The northern Kingdom of Israel is characterized by unrelenting spiritual rebellion and significant political instability. The southern Kingdom of Judah, led by David's dynasty (except for a six-year break), finds itself on a spiritual "roller-coaster." Yet both kingdoms experience periods of affluence and ease which seems to anaesthetize any latent spiritual sensitivity toward the LORD.

On the international scene a "world power" emerges in the last half of the 8th century: the Neo-Assyrian Empire. By 627 the empire encompasses lower Egypt, eastern Turkey, southern Armenia and Azerbaijan, western Iran and everything in between in the Fertile Crescent. Toward the end of the 7th century the Babylonian-Median alliance sacks Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, and by 605 the neo-Babylonian Empire has become the new "superpower." Sixty-six years later she is replaced by the Medo-Persian Empire which extends its world-power West to Libya, Northwest into Bulgaria and Greece, East to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

And in the midst of all this, Yahweh demonstrates faithfulness to His Promise and Covenant as He sends His servants the prophets to call His people back to a vital personal relationship from merely a formal one. He commissions His prophets

with words of grace and accountability to the nations as well. He commissions the prophets that both Israel and the nations would “know that I am Yahweh.” And to all, the prophets proclaim the coming Promised One Who alone would effect the blessing promised to Abraham on behalf of all peoples.

This term we get to dig into what it was like to be a spokesperson for Yahweh in challenging times, what these persons were like, what made them tick, what was the essence of their ministry, what was the thrust of their message, how they handled issues of spiritual and social leadership, and what significance their ministry and message has for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century *anno Domini*.

## COURSE BENEFITS

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Upon completion of this course you should be able to

- ✓ state the basic facts with respect to each book's setting, theme, and content. This is essential to the reflection required for teaching and preaching the “whole counsel of God.” As St. Jerome (340?-420AD) claimed in the prologue to his commentary on Isaiah, “ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” (Knowledge)
- ✓ trace and synthesize core theological themes of the prophetic books. A good facility in biblical theology is essential to “doing” theology in contemporary settings. (Analysis & synthesis)
- ✓ locate the historical/geographical/cultural setting of main events recorded in this portion of the Hebrew Bible. Whether in the pulpit, study group, or counsellor’s office, a clear exposition requires an understanding of the context of revelation. (Knowledge & synthesis)
- ✓ discuss how prophetic discourse was designed to persuade. (Analysis & synthesis)
- ✓ demonstrate greater skill in interpreting the Scripture. This will benefit both you and all those to whom you minister. (Application & articulation)
- ✓ more effectively and faithfully apply the 77% of Scripture we call the Old Testament in life and ministry. This is critical because the whole Bible really is the Christ-follower’s Bible. (Valuing & application)
- ✓ articulate personal objectives achieved.

## COURSE LITERATURE

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### Primary literature:

Bible. (Whichever translation you are comfortable with. International students may use a translation in their mother-tongue) An on-line concordance featuring several biblical translations can be found at:  
<http://bible.gospelcom.net>

### Secondary literature

#### Required Texts:

Beecher, Willis J. *The Prophets and the Promise*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2002. (*Abbrev. P&P in assignments*)  
Dillard, Raymond and Tremper Longman. *Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006. (*Abbrev. D&L in assignments*)  
Kaiser, Walter. *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2001. (*Abbrev. OTD in assignments*)

#### Supplemental resources (not required to purchase)

Robinson, Haddon. “The Heresy of Application.” *Leadership Journal* 18 (1997) 20-27.  
[http://www.bethel.edu/~pferris/ot103/pr\\_readings.html](http://www.bethel.edu/~pferris/ot103/pr_readings.html)  
also (by subscription) <http://www.ctlibrary.com/le/1997/fall/714020.html>

Schreiner, Thomas. "Preaching & Biblical Theology," *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 10,2 (sum 2006) 20-29.

[http://www.sbts.edu/documents/ttschreiner/10.2\\_article.pdf](http://www.sbts.edu/documents/ttschreiner/10.2_article.pdf)

Schulz, Richard. "How Many 'Isaiahs' Were There and What Does it Matter? Prophetic Inspiration in Recent Evangelical Scholarship" in V. Bacote, L. Miguez, and D. Okholm, eds. *Scripture in the Evangelical Tradition: Tradition, Authority, and Hermeneutics* (Downer's Grove: IVP, 2004) 150-70

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

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**N.b.:** [Guides and resources](#) for these assignments are available on the Prophets website.

- ✓ READINGS (10%): You get to dig into primary sources: (Due as assigned (see Agenda). Keep an account of your progress.)
  - ▶ You get to read the entire text of each book of the Prophets (any version) at one sitting. Be looking for how an ancient Israeli believer saw the world.

You will also be reading secondary literature:

- ▶ The associated chapters in Dillard & Longman are studied along with your Bible reading;
  - ▶ The "[Historical Synopsis](#)" for the period of the Prophets;
  - ▶ Schultz' "How Many 'Isaiahs'?"
  - ▶ Beecher's *Prophets & the Promise*, chs 4-11;
  - ▶ Schreiner's "[Preaching & Biblical Theology](#)";
  - ▶ Robinson's "[Heresy of Application](#)";
  - ▶ Kaiser's *Old Testament Documents*, chs 1-3, 12, 15
- ✓ ANALYSIS & REFLECTION (15%): Each week you get to enhance your spiritual development under the discipline of the Word of God through Personal Application Portfolio (due toward end of term). In addition to being mini-exegetical exercises, these are intended to *facilitate personal reflection on the texts* we are working with. Be sure they are *personal, specific and practical*. See [guidelines](#) on website.

Assigned passages are:

Isa. 42:5-9      Jer. 7:8-11      Lam. 3:19-38      Ezk. 3:4-11      Dan. 1:8-21

Hos. 6:4-11      Amos 5:10-15      Jonah 4:1-11      Mic. 2:1-5      Mal. 1:6-14

You also get to engage in a Case Study in servant-leadership (see worksheet 10).

- ✓ INTERACTION (15%): One of the opportunities you have to develop life-long learning skills is your involvement interacting with others' perspectives on issues. You get to interact with others (scholars, ministers, peers, and others) on issues related to the material you are studying by means of readings and [Interactive Reviews](#) as well as Bb discussions. As you interact with these persons, analyze the perspective they bring to the issue, their philosophical and theological presuppositions, evaluate their handling of the evidence, and respond to the conclusions they offer. The fruit of this interaction will be evident in the assigned interactive reviews, in class discussions.

Interactive reviews:

Beecher, *Prophets & Promise* (extra credit discussion)

Kaiser, *OT Documents*

Robinson, "Heresy"

Schreiner, "Preaching"

Schultz, "Isaiah"

Worksheets are intended to pace your study and guide your engagement with reading material. Your engagement with the worksheets is an integral part of your participation in the course of study, however, they are not meant to be graded.

Case Study: You also get to engage with peers in a case study where you will analyze and reflect on issues of personal and spiritual formation as well as dynamics of leadership (worksheet 10). This is intended as a collaborative effort. on Bb. *N.b., In addition to submitting this assignment to the course instructor, you are also required to upload your assignment to your Integrative Portfolio. For important uploading instructions, visit your Integrative Portfolio Blackboard course (GS002 or GS003). This requirement began in the fall quarter of 2008 and applies to all degree seeking students from that point forward.*

- ✓ INVESTIGATION(25%): You get to engage in an investigation of **Jer 7:1-15** and writing a 2000- 2500 word report (excl. bibliography & appendix) of the results of your investigation. Due as assigned (see Agenda)

This **exegetical paper** will be accompanied by an appendix containing a syntactical layout\* or “clause map” with exegetical outline (for an approach refer to W.C. Kaiser, *Toward an Exegetical Theology* (esp. syntactical layout. See pp. 99-103, 165-181) and a one page analysis of ways you might preach/teach this passage. See the [Exegetical Paper Guide](#) on the course website)

\*We will experiment with clause mapping in class sessions. To this end, you get to prepare a trial clause map of Haggai 1 we will use during our “lab” session on “preaching/teaching the Prophets.”

- ✓ PARTICIPATION (10%): Consistent constructive participation in our common enterprise this term is expected. This involves meaningful interaction both in classroom and on Bb.
- ✓ EXAM (25%): Taken via Blackboard, the exam is designed to assess progress toward realizing the intended Course Benefits as well as your personal objectives. The best preparation for the exam is to keep these objectives in mind as you study throughout the term. See the [Review Guide](#) on the course website.

## Submitting Assignments

All written assignments are to be submitted at the appropriate place on Blackboard by midnight (Central) of date due unless otherwise indicated.

All written assignments that are submitted as a file must be in either MSWord or WordPerfect format. **N.b.**, the filename given each assignment **must** follow a prescribed protocol. The filename will include *course number, term, your last name, and assignment name*. For example, your PA portfolio would be named something like **ot503D-f09-yourlastname-PA**. Documents submitted without this naming protocol may not be registered and graded.

**N.b.**, The Seminary Catalog stipulates: “students are expected to submit all work by the dates set by the course instructors and complete all course requirements on or before the last day of the quarter.” Normally late work will not be accepted. (Circumstances that a congregation would accept for postponing a Sunday sermon may be considered with a reduction in grade. Such exceptions may involve a grade reduction. A deduction of 10% will be taken for each day past a published due date, up to five days. Work more than five days late will not be accepted.)

## Miscellany:

- Policies: Refer to the seminary catalogue and student handbook for policies that apply to all courses.
- Attendance: Regular engagement in the class is an essential part of the learning enterprise. Being on-time for class is a matter of respect. Unexcused absence or multiple tardiness will result in reduction of grade.
- Etiquette: Phones & beepers must be turned off during class. Tardiness & inappropriate behavior will result in reduction of grade. Tape recording is not permitted inasmuch as it can inhibit class participation. Men: hats off to you. ☺

- A summary of library resources may be found at [http://seminary.bethel.edu/library/biblical\\_research.htm](http://seminary.bethel.edu/library/biblical_research.htm)
- **N.b.:** The professor may modify or otherwise supplement this syllabus and/or class instructions via Blackboard or e-mail. Other course material is available on Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to avail herself or himself to such resources and check Blackboard and/or their email for such notices.

**Grading Rubric:** See “Rubric for Assessment” under the “Assignments” tab on the course website.

## COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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This bibliography is a sampling of readings reflecting some range in theological and cultural perspective. It is provided to suggest further reading. Inclusion in this bibliography is not meant to imply an endorsement of the theological stance or methodology taken by a given author. As always, any item should be read with critical judgment.

- Achtemeier, Elizabeth. “Preaching the Prophets with Honor: How to Accurately Present These Overlooked Books.” *Leadership Journal* 18 (1997) 57-59. [http://www.bethel.edu/~pferris/ot103/pr\\_readings.html](http://www.bethel.edu/~pferris/ot103/pr_readings.html)
- Adeyemi, Femi. *The New Covenant Torah in Jeremiah and the Law of Christ in Paul*. N.Y.: Peter Lang, 2006.
- Adogbo, Michael. “A comparative Analysis of Prophecy in Biblical and African Traditions.” *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, 88 (1994): 15-20. <http://63.136.1.23.ezproxy.bethel.edu/pls/eli/ashow?aid=ATLA0000889290>
- Alexander, David and Pat Alexander. *Zondervan Handbook to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. (This is especially helpful if one has never read the prophets.)
- Archer, Jeffrey. *Preaching with Variety: How to Recreate the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.
- Bright, John. *Covenant and Promise: The Prophetic Understanding of the Future in Pre-Exilic Israel*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1976.
- Burrow, Rufus. “Some Characteristics of Biblical Prophecy.” *AME Zion Quarterly Review* 105 (1993): 27-31.
- Chisolm, Robert B., Jr. *Handbook on the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002 (Abbrev. HP in assignments. Optional but recommended if one has not previously read the prophets.)
- Doohan, Helen. “Contrasts in Prophetic Leadership: Isaiah & Jeremiah.” *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 13 (1983): 39-43.
- \*Ferris, Paul W., Jr., “Eye on the Prophets: Visual Outlines of the Prophetic Books.” Unpubl., available on course website: [http://www.bethel.edu/~pferris/ot103/pr\\_eye\\_on\\_the\\_prophets.html](http://www.bethel.edu/~pferris/ot103/pr_eye_on_the_prophets.html)
- \* \_\_\_\_\_. “Prophecy & Renewal: Historical Synopsis.” Unpubl., available on course website: <http://www.bethel.edu/~pferris/historical/hispass.html> (See Blackboard announcement for login & password)
- Gafney, Wilda. *Daughters of Miriam: Women Prophets in Ancient Israel*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2008.
- Gibson, Scott. *Preaching the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.
- Gruber, Mayer. “Mordecai M Kaplan and Abraham Joshua Heschel on Biblical Prophecy,” *ZAW* 116/4 (2004): 602-609.
- Habel, Norman. “The Form and Significance of the Call Narratives.” *ZAW* 77 (1965): 297-323. <http://prophetess.lstc.edu/~rklein/Documents/habel.htm>
- Huh, Do-Hwa. “A New Understanding of Prophetic Preaching,” *Evangel* 23/2 (2005):39-47.
- Kaiser, Walter. *Majesty of God in the Old Testament: a Guide for Preaching & Teaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Messiah in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Preaching and Teaching from the Old Testament : A Guide for the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Toward an Exegetical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981. (Helpful for aspects of the exegetical paper, especially the syntactical layout.)
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Toward Rediscovering the Old Testament*. Grand rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Uses of the Old Testament in the New*. Chicago: Moody, 1985.
- Katho, Bungishabaku. “Jeremiah 22: Implications for the Exercise of Political Power in Africa,” *Interpreting the Old Testament in Africa*. N.Y.: Lang, p. 153-58.
- Malamat, Abraham. "A Forerunner of Biblical Prophecy." In *Ancient Israelite Religion*, edited by Patrick Miller, Paul Hanson, and S. Dean McBride, 33-52. Phila.: Fortress, 1987. [http://prophetess.lstc.edu/~rklein/Documents/malamat.htm?kbw\\_ID=37297359](http://prophetess.lstc.edu/~rklein/Documents/malamat.htm?kbw_ID=37297359)
- Matthews, Victor. *The Social World of the Hebrew Prophets*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2001.
- Miller, Patrick. “Toward a Theology of Leadership.” *Asbury Theological Journal* 47 (1992): 43-50.
- Nissinen, Martti (ed). *Prophecy in its Ancient Near Eastern Context: Mesopotamian, Biblical, and Arabian Perspectives*. PANEC. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2000.
- O'Connor, Kathleen. “The Prophet Jeremiah and Exclusive Loyalty to God.” *Interpretation* 59.2 (Ap 2005) 130-40. <http://63.136.1.23.ezproxy.bethel.edu/pls/eli/ashow?aid=ATLA0001455228>
- Oswalt, John. “The Book of Isaiah : A Short Course on Biblical Theology” *Calvin Theological Journal* 39 (2004) 54-71. <http://63.136.1.23.ezproxy.bethel.edu/pls/eli/ashow?aid=ATLA0001438513>

- Petuchowski, Jakob. "Faith and Works in the Biblical Confrontation of Prophets and Priests." *Judaism* 39 (1990): 184-191.  
<http://proquest.umi.com.ezproxy.bethel.edu/pqdweb?index=0&did=1692069&SrchMode=1&sid=1&Fmt=6&VInSt=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1136434299&clientId=27654>
- Pixley, Jorge. "Isaiah 52:13-53:12: A Latin American Perspective," in *Return to Babel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1999, p. 95-100.
- Rasmussen, Carl. *NIV Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
- Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- \* . "The Heresy of Application." *Leadership Journal* 18 (1997) 20-27.  
<http://www.ctlibrary.com/le/1997/fall/714020.html> (by subscription), also  
[http://www.bethel.edu/~pferris/ot103/pr\\_readings.html](http://www.bethel.edu/~pferris/ot103/pr_readings.html)
- Sandy, D. Brent. *Plowshares & Pruninghooks: Rethinking the Language of Biblical Prophecy and Apocalyptic*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2002.
- Schrieber, Paul. "Liberation Theology and the O.T.: an Exegetical Critique." *Concordia Journal* 13 (1987): 27-46.
- \*Schreiner, Thomas. "Preaching & Biblical Theology," *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 10,2 (sum 2006) 20-29.  
[http://www.sbts.edu/documents/tschreiner/10.2\\_article.pdf](http://www.sbts.edu/documents/tschreiner/10.2_article.pdf)
- \*Schultz, Richard. "How Many 'Isaiahs' Were There and What Does it Matter? Prophetic Inspiration in Recent Evangelical Scholarship" in V. Bacote, L. Miguez, and D. Okholm, eds. *Scripture in the Evangelical Tradition: Tradition, Authority, and Hermeneutics* (Downer's Grove: IVP, 2004) 150-70
- Seitz, Christopher. *Prophecy and Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Soares-Prabhu, George. "The Prophet as Theologian: Biblical Prophetism as a Paradigm for Doing Theology." *Asia Journal of Theology* 2 (1988): 3-11.
- van Groningen. *Messianic Revelation in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker,
- Walton, John. *The Old Testament Today: A Journey from the Original Meaning to Contemporary Significance*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- Williams, Michael. *The Prophet & His Message: Reading OT Prophecy Today*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2003.
- Willhite, Keith & Scott Gibson. *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

Date	Topic	Assignment due midnight Sat. unless otherwise noted
<b>Week of Sep 28</b>	“Webinar”** – 9/28 2PM or 9/29 7PM Discuss syllabus; Introductory reflection & reading; Isaiah	Submit Worksheet 1 N.b.: post on Bb discuss. bd. <i>prior to webinar</i> Post Worksheet 2 - “Prophets” <i>prior to doing assigned readings</i> ; Read P&P chs 4-11 post interactive review (for extra credit interact with one other ob Bb Discussion Board); Scan <i>Historical Synopsis</i> for context of Isaiah; Read: Isaiah 1-66 + D&L; Post Worksheet 3 - “Isaiah”
<b>Week of Oct 5</b>	Jeremiah	Scan <i>Historical Synopsis</i> for context of Jeremiah; Read: Jeremiah 1-52 + D&L; Read Lamentations 1-5 + D&L Post Worksheet 4 - “Calling”; Post Worksheet 5 - “Jeremiah”; 
<b>Week of Oct 12</b>	Ezekiel & Daniel	Scan <i>Historical Synopsis</i> for context of Ezekiel; Read Ezekiel 1-48 + D&L; Post Worksheet 6 - “Ezekiel”; Scan <i>Historical Synopsis</i> for context of Daniel; Read Daniel + D&L; Post Worksheet 7 - “Daniel”; Read <i>OTD</i> , part 1 - post Interactive Review
<b>Week of Oct 19</b>	Book of the Twelve;	Scan <i>Historical Synopsis</i> for context of Minor Prophets; Read Book of Twelve +D&L; Post Worksheet 8 - “Book of Twelve” Read Schultz, “Isaiah” - post Interactive Review
<b>Week of Oct 26</b>	Intensive Week One	
<b>Nov 1</b>	“At Home” – 7PM	1822 Tioga Blvd., New Brighton, MN
<b>Week of Nov 2</b>		
<b>Mon</b>	The prophets & their times; The Prophets & Torah; Interpreting the Prophets;	
<b>Tues</b>	Isaiah ben Amoz;	Collect material for exegetical project
<b>Wed</b>	Jeremiah ben Hilkiyah; Lamentations;	Identify case study triads: Collaborate with assigned case study group to identify a narrative(s) per Worksheet #10;
<b>Thur</b>	Ezekiel ben Buzi; Daniel; The Twelve	
<b>Fri</b>	Hebrew Canon; Preaching/Teaching the Prophets	Draft clause map of Haggai 1 - bring to class

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment due midnight Sat. unless otherwise noted</b>
<b>Week of Nov 9</b>	Reliability & Relevance; Application	Read <i>OTD</i> 12, 15 - post Interactive Review; Read Robinson, "Heresy of Application" - post interactive review ; Read Schreiner, "Preaching" - post interactive review; . Work on PA's
<b>Week of Nov 16</b>	Research & writing	Work on PA's Work on exegesis Worksheet #10 - Case Study - post your study
<b>Week of Nov 23</b>	Research & writing	Worksheet #10 - Case Study - engage discussion with your group PA Portfolio
<b>Week of Nov 30</b>	Writing & revising	Exegetical paper
<b>Week of Dec 7</b>	Review	Exam online at your convenience (Must be completed by 11:55PM, Dec. 11.)

\*\* An "Adobe Connect tab" will be added to the menu in your Blackboard course. To access your scheduled Adobe Connect Session click on this tab five minutes prior to your session and then click on the Adobe Connect URL that you will find there and enter as a guest. A short tutorial will also be located on the Adobe Connect Tab in Blackboard along with helpful troubleshooting information.