



## AIM – Fall 2017

### Syllabus

Core Course: Old Testament Survey I

**Instructor:** Rev. Joshua Burden  
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**Location:** Penney Memorial Baptist Church, Augusta  
**Time:** Tuesdays, 6:00-8:45 p.m.  
**Dates:** September 19—November 14, 2017

#### Required Texts:

Walton, John H. and Andrew E. Hill. *Old Testament Today, A Journey from Original Meaning to Contemporary Significance*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.  
Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

**Course Overview:** This course will survey the Old Testament books of the Pentateuch and the Historical books (the Former Prophets in the Hebrew Bible) of Genesis through Esther. The course is designed to open a window of appreciation for the ancient texts through investigation of the historical and cultural context, and by acquiring tools for the interpretation of the principal literary genres. Practical application of biblical themes and teachings for personal and church life will be encouraged throughout the study. The classes should also foster spiritual growth as the Holy Spirit accompanies us with new insights and fresh words of power and life.

#### Objectives:

In this class the students will:

1. Explore the cultures of the ancient world in order to better understand the cultural milieu and world view of the Old Testament texts.
2. Develop a panoramic view of the history of Israel as recorded in the Old Testament.
3. Learn basic techniques of Bible interpretation for the main genres of the Old Testament.
4. Become conversant with main theological themes of the Old Testament and be able to understand how the revelation of God through the old covenant is foundational and anticipates the new covenant in Jesus Christ.

5. Discover in fresh ways how the Holy Spirit speaks to us through the ancient texts of God's Word and draws us into communion with Himself.
6. Practice applying the learning from Old Testament texts to their personal lives and for their church family.

### Class Schedule

Date	Class Topics	Assigned Readings
Sept. 19	Course overview Old Testament as Scripture Basics of biblical interpretation	<i>Fee &amp; Stuart</i> , pp. 21-35 <i>Walton &amp; Hill</i> , pp. 2-25
Sept. 26	The ancient Middle East Scripture, science, and history Creation and Fall	<i>Walton &amp; Hill</i> , pp. 26-64, 76-82, 117-120 Genesis 1-4, 6-9, 11
Oct. 3	Interpreting OT narratives Promise, covenant, and faith The Patriarchs	<i>Fee &amp; Stuart</i> , pp. 93-111 <i>Walton &amp; Hill</i> , pp. 65-71, 82-88, 120-123 Genesis 12-25, 26:34-28:5, 32-33
Oct. 10	The Exodus History: Likeliest date for Exodus? Theology of Exodus	<i>Walton &amp; Hill</i> , pp. 71-74, 88-96 Exodus 1-20, 40 <b>First take-home exam due</b>
Oct. 17	The Law Theology, worship, social justice Relevance of the Law for Christians	<i>Fee &amp; Stuart</i> , pp. 168-186 <i>Walton &amp; Hill</i> , pp. 74-75, 96-116, 123-139 Lev 16-26; Num 12-14; Deut 5-10, 29-31
Oct. 24	Joshua and Judges Ancient approaches to history Theological interpretation of history	<i>Walton &amp; Hill</i> , pp. 140-148, 163-190, 197-204 Joshua 1-8, 24; Judges 1-4
Oct. 31	Monarchy in Israel God as king, king as God's anointed God's covenant with David	<i>Walton &amp; Hill</i> , pp. 149-150, 190, 204-208 1 Samuel 7:1-13:15, 16; 2 Samuel 5-7 <b>Project presentations</b> <b>Interpretation paper due</b>
Nov. 7	The Divided Kingdom Politics: Israel/Judah and empires Theology: Sin, judgment, exile	<i>Walton &amp; Hill</i> , pp. 150-159, 209-223 1 Kings 8, 11-12, 16:29-19:21 2 Kings 17-25 <b>Project presentations</b>
Nov. 14	Exile and Return Israel's sin and God's promises Summary: OT history for the church	<i>Walton &amp; Hill</i> , pp. 159-162, 190-196, 223-244 Ezra 1, 3-6; Nehemiah 1-2, 8-9 <b>Project presentations</b> <b>Second take-home exam due</b>

**Class Content and Assignments:** The reading assignments noted are important background material and should be completed in preparation for participation in the class. A more detailed outline of class content will be handed out each class.

Four assignments will be due during the course of the class. Written assignments should be typed and may be submitted either by digital form as an email attachment to [pastorjosh@greenebaptist.org](mailto:pastorjosh@greenebaptist.org) or as a printed copy. Instructions for each assignment will be handed out during the course, but summaries can be found below.

Assignment #1

A mid-term take-home exam will be handed out at the end of the second class, due at the fourth class (Oct. 10). It will cover content from first three class sessions and from the readings for the first four classes.

Assignment #2

An interpretation paper on a specific Old Testament text will be due at the seventh class (Oct. 31). A list of possible passages will be provided by the instructor, or another may be selected with the instructor's approval. This paper should be at least 1200 words (about 5 pages double-spaced).

Assignment #3

Each student will present a creative project interpreting an Old Testament text. Class presentations of the projects will take place during the final three classes, with presentation dates randomly assigned. A written explanation of the project is also due at the time of the presentation.

Assignment #4

A final take-home exam will be handed out at the end of the seventh class, due at the final class (Nov. 14). It will cover all class content, focusing mainly on topics not covered in the mid-term.

**Evaluation:**

1. Mid-term take home exam 25%
2. Interpretation paper 25%
3. Project presentation 25%
4. Final take home exam 25%