



Nipawin Bible College
BI3013 Historical Books II: 1 Kings - Esther
Fall 2022
3 Credit Hours
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class provides an introduction to the latter historical books of the Old Testament (1 Kings – Esther). These books document the spiritual decline of Israel following the kingship of David. This decline resulted in the defeat and exile of God's people. From exile, God's people turned back to him and he restored them to the land he gave them.

This class intends to highlight the long-suffering of God as he patiently deals with his rebellious people. God's abiding presence with his people, even in exile, will be seen throughout the books.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Bible (a translation, *not a paraphrase*). **170 Pages.**

Satterthwaite, Philip E., and J. Gordon McConville. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Historical Books*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007. **115 Pages.**

Ulrich, Dean R. *Now and Not Yet: Theology and Mission in Ezra-Nehemiah*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2021. **160 Pages.**

THE BIG QUESTION

What is the abiding significance of the historical books for our lives as followers of Jesus?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will gain:

1. A growing appreciation for the spiritual value of the Old Testament.
2. Basic familiarity with the Old Testament books of 1 Kings - Esther.
3. Knowledge and ability to use basic principles for interpreting 1 Kings - Esther.
4. An understanding of how the historical books should inform their interpretation of the New Testament.
5. The ability to relate the message of the historical books to their own life and ministry.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Participation in Class and Lab Activities – 5%

- The student will be engaged in class discussion and classroom practical activities throughout the course.

Bible Reading – 10%

- The student will read the entirety of 1 Kings - Esther throughout the class. During the last class period they will indicate how many chapters they read out of the 145 chapters from 1 Kings - Esther.

DUE: December 12th, 2022

Bible Memorization – 10%

- The student will memorize one passage from each of the historical books under consideration. The student will write out the passage verbatim (indicating the translation) by the beginning of the class period. The verses to be memorized are:
 - 1 Kings 8:27 ***Due: October 17th***
 - 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 ***Due: November 4th***
 - Ezra 7:10 ***Due: November 18th***
 - Nehemiah 1:5-6 ***Due: November 25th***
 - Esther 4:14 ***Due: December 9th***

Satterthwaite and McConville Textbook Reading Comprehension Quizzes – 15%

- The student will be prepared for a quiz that corresponds to the assigned reading for the class period. All quizzes will be at the beginning of class and based on the content of *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Historical Books*.

DUE: Every morning that has assigned reading

Ulrich Textbook Reading and Report – 15%

- After reading *Now and Not Yet: Theology and Mission in Ezra-Nehemiah* the student will submit a **3 page** report that includes: proper bibliographic information of the chosen text (indicate pages read), **interaction with 4-5 insights that were particularly helpful** ("I understand _____ better because of this." "I can apply this _____."), **interaction with 2-3 points of disagreement or clarification** ("The author is clearly wrong because _____." "I wish the author had explained _____ better because _____.").

DUE: October 28th, 2022

Exegetical Paper and Presentation of Findings – 2 assignments: paper worth 20%, presentation worth 5% (25% total)

- The student will write a **10 page** exegetical paper consulting at least **8 sources (including at least four commentaries)** on one of the following topics:
 - Elijah's Despair (1 Kings 19:1-5. Was Elijah "afraid" or did he "see"? How does this affect the interpretation?)
 - 1 Kings 22:19-23 (What is going on with the deceiving spirit episode? Does God deceive people?)
 - Religious Intermarriage (Ezra 9-10. Parallels/differences with 1 Corinthians 7:12-20, application for today.)
 - The absence of God in Esther(?) (The student will write a paper on the fact that God is not mentioned in Esther. Why is that?)
 - A passage in Kings that has a parallel in Chronicles with significant differences. (Compare and contrast Kings and Chronicles. What themes do the different writers bring out by the material they choose to include and the material they leave out? What possible reasons could the Chronicler have had to tell the story differently?)
 - Another passage from the historical books that is approved by the professor.
- Some guidelines for this paper are as follows (headings are preferred, you can use the same main headings as below):

Basic Outline:

Introduction: .5-1 page. Have the main point of the passage italicized.

- a. **Context:** 2-3 pages (some passages may need more or less contextual consideration)
 - a. **Historical Context:** Is there a determinable historical context behind the specific passage? Does any of the historical context behind the general period of the book as a whole **help to interpret the passage?**
 - b. **Literary Context:** Why is this passage in this part of the book? Is there anything in the passage preceding my passage or the passage following my passage that **helps to interpret it?**
- b. **Content:** 5-6 pages of exegetical work through the specific passage (key terms, interpretive decisions, evaluation of competing theories, etc.).

Application: .75-1 page. Show how the main point of the passage applies to **your life or ministry** today.

- The week following the due date for the written paper, the student will then present their findings orally in class. The presentations need not be longer than **2-3 minutes** and they will answer the following questions:
 - “Why did I choose this topic?”
 - “What are some insights on this passage that I didn’t know before?”
 - “What is the significance of this passage for **us** today?”

PAPER DUE: November 25th, 2022
PRESENTATION DUE: December 2nd, 2022

Final Exam – 20%

- The student will take a final exam covering the content of the course. The quizzes and memory verses will be valuable preparation.

Due: Exam Week

GRADING

Participation:	5%
Bible Reading:	10%
Bible Memorization:	10%
Quizzes:	15%
Textbook Review:	15%
Research Paper:	20%
Presentation:	5%
Final Exam:	20%

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance to the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments will be due **at the beginning of class on the date assigned.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022-2023

Reading: 445 Pages

Writing: 13 Pages

HISTORICAL BOOKS II CLASS SCHEDULE:

Date	Subject	Reading	Written
Sept. 19	Syllabus Review & Historical Books Overview		
Sept. 23	1-2 Kings	Chapter 6; 1-2 Kings	Quiz
Sept. 26	1-2 Kings		
Oct. 7	1-2 Kings		
Oct. 14	1-2 Kings		
Oct. 17	1-2 Kings		1 Kings 8:27
Oct. 21	1-2 Chronicles	Chapter 11; 1-2 Chronicles	Quiz
Oct. 24	1-2 Chronicles		
Oct. 28	1-2 Chronicles		Reading Report
Oct. 31	1-2 Chronicles		
Nov. 4	1-2 Chronicles		2 Chronicles 7:13-14
Nov. 14	Ezra	Chapter 10; Ezra	Quiz
Nov. 18	Ezra		Ezra 7:10
Nov. 21	Nehemiah	Nehemiah	Quiz
Nov. 25	Nehemiah		Nehemiah 1:5-6 Exegetical Paper
Nov. 28	Esther	Chapter 9; Esther	Quiz
Dec. 2	Presentations/Esther		Presentation
Dec. 9	Esther		Esther 4:14
Dec. 12	Review		Bible Reading
Exam Week			Final Exam

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Braun, Roddy. *Word Biblical Commentary: 1 Chronicles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986.
- Breneman, Mervin. *The New American Commentary: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1993.
- Bush, Frederic. *Word Biblical Commentary: Ruth-Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.
- Devries, Simon J. *Word Biblical Commentary: 1 Kings 2nd ed.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004.
- Dillard, Raymond B. *Word Biblical Commentary: 2 Chronicles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986.
- Fensham, F. Charles. *The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Firth, David G. *The Message of Esther: God Present but Unseen*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010.
- Fyall, Robert. *The Message of Ezra & Haggai: Building for God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010.
- Hill, Andrew E. *The NIV Application Commentary: 1 & 2 Chronicles*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.
- House, Paul R. *The New American Commentary: 1, 2 Kings*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995.
- Jobes, Karen H. *The NIV Application Commentary: Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.
- Konkel, August H. *The NIV Application Commentary: 1 & 2 Kings*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.
- Thompson, J. A. *The New American Commentary: 1, 2 Chronicles*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.
- Williamson, H. G. M. *Word Biblical Commentary: Ezra-Nehemiah*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1985.