

Bible 9: Freshman Old Testament

2010-11 school year

“We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph!” – Jn. 2:45

Prerequisite: A concept of what the Bible is – the revealed Word of God – and a working knowledge of the Old Testament with an understanding of Messianic promise of what our Jesus would and did do.

Instructor: Pastor Jesse Stern Office hours: MWF – 8:30-10:30; T/TH – 8:30-12:30
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Class Sessions: M/W/F 4th period; Tues. 6th period; Thurs. 7th period

Length of Course: 2 semesters (4 quarters)

Course Description: The biblical record of our God’s grace during the period of the Old Testament.

Course objectives:

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” (II Pet. 3:18)

“With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak . . . so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.” (II Cor. 4:13-15)

Our study of the Old Testament during the Freshman year will prepare our students by providing them with an opportunity to grow. . .

- . . . in love for our Savior Jesus Christ. By his grace, we will be led to a stronger faith, a greater spiritual maturity and sharper skills in sharing our God-given faith.
- . . . in knowledge of the Old Testament. By his grace, we will see our God's hand as we study the prophecies, promises, people contained in the Old Testament.
- . . . in understanding of the Old Testament. By his grace, we will realize how precisely the Old Testament fits together. In his love, our God has preserved his Word for our benefit. It is our humble privilege to study the history of God's

people and the style of literature with which the Old Testament is written.

. . . in our confidence in the certainty of our God and his Word. By his grace, we will see the Messiah!

Learning Goals (cf. L.Deer Fink, *Significant Learning*, 2003)

"Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD." (Ps. 89:15)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Mt. 11:28-30)

"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Lk. 11:28)

"These are the Scriptures that testify about me [Jesus]." (Jn. 5:39)

Our prayer is that our students would never stop in the growing in the learning of and the proper use of our God's Word. May the Spirit bless it to be so!

Course requirements:

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15)

"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:17)

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." (I Cor. 4:2)

1. Please be faithful and diligent in your work and assignments. We will have readings (both public and personal) from our God's Word. I expect you to bring your bible every day.
2. Please be faithful and diligent in-class as well. I recommend a 3-ring binder or a folder to keep notes and handouts together. ***I highly recommend taking notes in your bibles*** – it won't disappoint you!
3. Please participate in class discussion. The Lord has given you many abilities, not the least of which is your intellect. As God's redeemed child, you do have something to add to the discussion- especially with and from your own, personal background.
4. Be prepared to write. You will be expected to put your thoughts on paper in the form of reaction papers that articulate helpful insights gleaned from an assigned reading. These will usually be on a topical essay, but may be on a bible character or topic from your daily reading.
5. There will be regular quizzes, papers, tests and one final exam.
6. Regular "mini-quizzes" will be considered in your participation grade.

Other helpful resources for study and research:

NIV Bible (Concordia Self Study)

People's Bible: Book of Books.

Connecting Sinai to Calvary John Jeske

Your own friends and family! Talk to 'em! Ask 'em!

Course grading policies:

A 94-100	B 84-86	C 74-76	D 64-66
A- 90-93	B- 80-83	C- 70-73	D- 60-63
B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 00-59

Your semester grade will be determined by the following percentages:

Tests	30%
Major Quizzes	25%
Reaction papers	20%
Homework	15%
Class participation	10%

Please understand that assignments are deadlines and make every effort to get your assignments done by the due date. **I understand that situations arise; if you are having trouble and cannot make the due date, please speak with me *in advance*.** Work that is turned in late and without a proper excuse will be penalized.

Our Savior has given each of us many talents and abilities, and he allows and expects us to use them to his glory. Any attempt to use another person's work to complete the requirements of this course will result in a failing grade (0%) on the assignment.

Academic Integrity (I borrowed this next section, with permission, from MLC's Vice-President for Academics, Dr. David Wendler):

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord." (Eph. 5:8-10)

The MLA Handbook defines plagiarism as follows:

- (1) repeating another's sentences as your own,
- (2) adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own,
- (3) paraphrasing someone else's argument as your own,
- (4) presenting someone else's line of thinking as though it were your own.

To plagiarize is to use someone else's work as your own without citing the source. Direct copying, rephrasing, and summarizing, as well as taking someone else's idea and putting it in different words, are permissible **if** the source is cited. The instructor reserves the right to reduce the grade for the assignment, give a failing grade for the assignment, or give a failing grade for the entire course to any student involved in plagiarism.

Cheating (on memory work, quizzes, tests, etc.) is stealing and will not be tolerated. If caught once, the student will receive an F on that grade entry. If caught again, the student can expect to receive an

F for the course. Please keep your eyes on your own paper in these situations so the instructor has no reason even to suspect dishonesty.

What's this all mean anyway:

Young friends, you have the distinct privilege to study the inerrant Word of your God; be mindful of that as you prepare for this class. Know that I will be mindful of the same as I prepare and I pray the Spirit's strength to keep that on my heart and mind. Please, make the most of this opportunity and continue to marvel at the grace and power of our God as he enters human history and still acts in the lives his people. As you read, ask questions – and, by all means, bring those questions to class. As you study, look for your Savior! And as we are blessed to ponder the Word of our God, take to heart that very Word from the prophet Isaiah,

*“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

*As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it
without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:*

*It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose
for which I sent it.”*

-Is. 55:9-11

**May our God bless our studies, strengthen our faith and further
our understanding of His grace in our lives.**

