OT 500 Survey of the Old Testament
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, FL
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Course Dates: January 5—10, 2015
Course Times: Monday—Friday, 5:30—9:45pm
Saturday, Jan. 10, 8:30—4:00pm
Midterm exam: Due by Friday, January 30
Final Exam: Due by Friday, March 6

Provisional Course Outline

1. Course Objectives
   In this course students will become familiar with the content of the entire Old Testament, with specific attention being given to the flow of the biblical story and its major themes (Gordon-Conwell Mission Statement: Priority # 1). Students will discover how each book fits into the larger redemptive-historical narrative of the Old Testament. It is expected that at the completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the Old Testament, by being able to recall and identify key people, events and dates in the Old Testament, and by being able to identify the main message and historical context of individual books. Resources beneficial for the study and application of the Old Testament for preaching and Bible study will be noted throughout the course.

2. Course Requirements
   ☞ Exams: The course grade will be determined on the basis of a mid-term exam (worth 20%) and a final exam (worth 80%). The deadline for the mid-term exam is Friday, January 30. The deadline for the final exam is Friday, March 6. Details about how the exams will be completed will be provided in class.

   Both exams will consist of a series of multiple choice and short-answer questions, which will demonstrate knowledge of key dates, events and people of the Old Testament. These questions will also test a student’s knowledge of the individual books, with focus being given to the main message and historical context of each book. Multiple choice questions related to the theology of the Old Testament will be included in the final exam.

☞ Old Testament Bible Reading: You are required to read the entire Old Testament for this course. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of the Old Testament you have read (audio is fine as well). Since the Old Testament is required reading, this means that failure to complete the Old Testament reading will result in points being deducted, which may result in a 1/3 grade penalty (A grade would become A-) up to a full grade penalty. The deadline for the Old Testament Bible reading is Friday, March 6.
CASKET EMPTY Old Testament Study Guide: As a supplement to the biblical material, you are required to read the textbook, CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. Old Testament Study Guide. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of the Study Guide you have completed. Failure to complete the Study Guide will result in points being deducted, and may result in a 1/3 grade penalty (A grade would become A-). The deadline for the Study Guide reading is Friday, March 6.

Teach the Old Testament in a local church context: You are required to teach one study on the Old Testament in a local church (or in some other context) sometime between January 10 and March 6. You may teach on any section of the Old Testament, or you may choose to give an overview of the Old Testament using the CASKET Timeline, or preach a sermon on an Old Testament passage. Any teaching context will meet this requirement, as long as you are teaching on the Old Testament! You will be asked on the final exam to state whether you have completed this requirement. Failure to complete this will result in 5 points being deducted from your final score for the course.

Please turn your cell phone to silent mode at the beginning of each class. Internet usage is strictly prohibited during class (whether on your computer, ipad or phone), but is permissible during breaks.

3. Required Texts
1) Kaminski, C. CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. CASKET Study Guide (Casket Empty Media, 2012). This is available through Amazon, either as a paperback or Kindle e-book.

4. Highly Recommended Books
Arnold, B. and B. Beyer, Encountering the Old Testament (Baker, 1999)
Fee, G.D., & Stuart, D., How to Read the Bible for all its Worth (Zondervan, 1982).
Fee, G.D., & Stuart, D., How to Read the Bible Book by Book (Zondervan).
Kaiser, W. C. Jr., A History of Israel From the Bronze Age Through the Jewish Wars (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998).
Lecture Outline at a Glance:

Monday January 5
- Overview of the Old Testament through CASKET
- CREATION: Genesis 1—11
- Introduction to ABRAHAM (Gen. 12—50)

Tuesday January 6
- Course expectations and requirements
- Abraham continued
- SINAI

Wednesday January 7
- Sinai continued
- KINGS: The United Monarchy
- Wisdom Literature
- The division of the kingdom

Thursday January 8
- KINGS: The northern kingdom; Elijah and Elisha, Hosea, Amos and Jonah

Friday January 9
- KINGS: The southern kingdom: Rehoboam—Hezekiah
- The 8th century southern prophets: Isaiah and Micah.

Saturday January 10
- KINGS: The southern kingdom: Manasseh—Zedekiah
- The end of the southern kingdom
- The southern prophets, Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum, Jeremiah
- The EXILE: Lamentations, Obadiah.
- The prophets Ezekiel and Daniel.
- TEMPLE: the return from exile.
- The prophets Haggai, Haggai and Malachi.
- The historical books Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

Provisional Course Outline

Monday January 5 (5:30—9:45pm)
- Overview of the Old Testament through CASKET
- Creation: Overview of major themes in Genesis 1—11.
- Abraham: God’s plan of redemption through Abraham; God’s promises to the patriarchs; the Abrahamic Covenant; faith and works; God’s plan to bless the nations.
- OT books surveyed: Genesis.
Tuesday January 6 (5:30—9:45pm)
• Overview of syllabus, course expectations and requirements.
• Abraham: continued.
• Sinai: Introduction to the Mosaic Covenant; overview of the priesthood, the sacrificial system, clean/unclean laws; the role of the law; the wilderness wanderings; conquest of the land through Joshua; the period of the judges; the story of Ruth.
OT books surveyed: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth.

Wednesday January 7 (5:30—9:45pm)
• Kings, United Monarchy: the prophet Samuel; the united monarchy, Saul, David and Solomon; the Davidic Covenant; Psalms and wisdom literature; the building of the temple; the division of the kingdom.
OT books surveyed: 1 Sam. 1—2 Sam. 24; 1 Kings—2 Kings (portions); Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Thursday January 8 (5:30—9:45pm)
• Kings, Northern Kingdom: the northern kingdom and the northern prophets, Elijah and Elisha, Hosea, Amos and Jonah; the Assyrians and the end of the northern kingdom.
OT books surveyed: 1—2 Kings; 1—2 Chronicles; Hosea, Amos and Jonah.

Friday January 9 (5:30—9:30pm)
• Kings, Southern Kingdom: the southern kingdom from Rehoboam to Hezekiah; the prophets Isaiah and Micah.
OT books surveyed: 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Isaiah and Micah.

Saturday January 10 (8:30am—4:00pm)
• Kings, Southern Kingdom: the southern kingdom from Manasseh to Zedekiah; the prophets Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum and introduction to Jeremiah.
OT books surveyed: 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum, and parts of Jeremiah.

• Kings: The end of the southern kingdom; the prophet Jeremiah; the Babylonian Empire; introduction to Ezekiel.
OT books surveyed: 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Jeremiah.

• Exile: the demise of the southern kingdom; Lamentations; the seventy-year exile in Babylon; the hope for restoration; the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel.
OT books surveyed: Lamentations; Obadiah; Ezekiel, Daniel.

• Temple (the post-exilic period): the return from exile; building of the second temple; the prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi; Ezra and Nehemiah, and Esther.
OT books surveyed: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.
MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE

You will need to know the following dates, events and Bible references:

• Abraham: 2100-1450 BC
  - Abrahamic promises (Gen. 12:1-3), Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 15)
  - Covenant of circumcision: Gen. 17

• Sinai: 1450-1050 BC
  - Exodus from Egypt c. 1450 BC
  - Ten Commandments: Exod. 20; Deut. 5
  - Mosaic Covenant: Exod. 24

• Kings: 1050-586 BC
  - United monarchy: 1050-930 BC
  - The Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7)
  - Division of the kingdom: 930 BC
  - Northern kingdom: 930-722 BC
  - End of the North by Assyrians, 722 BC
  - Southern kingdom 930-586 BC
  - 1st deportation by Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar: 605 BC
  - Nebuchadnezzar defeats Egypt: 605 BC
  - Daniel goes to Babylon: 605 BC
  - 2nd deportation by Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar: 597 BC
  - Ezekiel goes to Babylon: 597 BC
  - Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem and temple: 586 BC
  - End of southern kingdom and exile to Babylon: 586 BC

• Exile: 586-539 BC

• Temple: 539-430 BC
  - Cyrus defeats Babylon: 539 BC
  - Decree of Cyrus allowing Jews to return to Jerusalem: 538 BC
  - 1st return: 538 BC under Zerubbabel and Joshua
  - Haggai and Zechariah: 520 BC
  - Temple completed 516 BC
  - 2nd return from exile under Ezra: 458 BC
  - Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem to rebuild walls: 445 BC

• OT Book Summary: You will need to be able to identify the basic content and historical context of the following Old Testament books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1—2 Samuel, 1—2 Kings, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Proverbs and Job.

• Prophets: You will need to know whether a prophet is northern, southern or post-exilic (all 16 prophets); and be able to provide the century for the following prophets only: Hosea (8th), Amos (8th), Isaiah (8th), Micah (8th), Jeremiah (7th), Ezekiel (6th), and Daniel (6th).

Old Testament Survey Final Exam Study Guide

The final exam will comprise of a series of multiple choice questions, along with short answer questions (not requiring more than one to five words) covering the entire Old Testament. In preparation for this exam, you will want to ensure that you are prepared to answer questions on the following:

1. You will not be required to know the structure of Old Testament books.
2. You will *not* be required to know the dates for the kings of Israel (except any dates that are on the mid-term study guide).
3. You will *not* be required to name the entire list of kings.
4. You will *not* be required to know something about *every* king (but you will be required to know something about a few main kings; see below).
5. You should be able to answer questions related to the content, main themes, historical context, key people and events for *every* Old Testament book (you are responsible for books that were covered on the mid-term). Questions will be multiple choice; you will be required to identify either the correct answer or the one false answer, depending on how the question is phrased (see books below).
6. You will also be required to identify key quotations from a particular book (only well know quotes will be cited which relate to the main themes of the book).
7. You are required to know all the information listed on the mid-term study guide, including all the dates, biblical texts, key events associated with the dates, and the prophetic books.
8. You will be required to answer questions related to key biblical-theological themes/topics, including the following:
   1. The order of the 10 commandments.
   2. Basic information about the major covenants in the Bible: Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, New Covenant.
   3. More detailed information about the promises God makes to Abraham and David, and the promises under the new covenant.
   4. Basic information about the priesthood and sacrificial system.
   5. Basic overview of the divine presence at key stages in the history of redemption: the garden of Eden, the tabernacle, the temple, the departure of God’s presence, the rebuilding of the temple.
   8. The theological reasons for the exile; the role of the blessings and curses in the history of redemption.
   9. Be able to identify key Assyrian, Babylonian and Persian kings:
      Assyrian kings: Tiglath Pileser III, Shalmaneser V, Sargon II.
      Babylonian kings: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and Nabonidus.
      Persian kings: Cyrus, Darius I, Xerxes I, and Artaxerxes.

**Book Summaries:**
You are required to know the following OT books in-depth, which should including knowing a) the historical context, b) the century, c) key events and people, d) major themes, e) how the message of the book contributes to the redemptive-historical narrative:
   Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1—2 Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Malachi
You are required to know the basic content of the following OT books, which should include: the historical-redemptive context, the basic content of the book, and any key events or people if they are given:
   Ruth, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles (including knowing the differences between Kings and Chronicles), Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai and Zechariah.