

The BibleJourney at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary presents:

*The Mission of the People of God in the Promised Land:  
Interpreting the Historical and Poetic Books*

with Dean and Professor, Dr. Tim Laniak

**Dates and Times:**

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary will be hosting classes on Thursday evenings, **January 12 - March 8**, from **6:45-8:45 p.m.** (with breakout sessions for credit students at 6:15-6:45 or 8:45-9:15). This winter course is Part 2 of a 3-part sequence on Thursday nights from September, 2011 – May, 2012. Classes will be held at University Park Baptist Church (6029 Beattie's Ford Road, Charlotte, NC 28216, ph. 704-392-1681). The third course on the Prophetic books will be held in the spring term at Grace Community Church (17301 Statesville Rd, Cornelius, NC 28031, ph. 704-892-8005 - class runs **3/22/12 - 5/21/12.**) Participants may register for some or all of the courses; there are no prerequisites. However, students are strongly encouraged to move through the Old Testament completely and then through the New Testament. The New Testament sequence will be offered during the 2012-2013 school year. A "Teaching the Bible" course will also be offered in 2012-2013.

**Registration:**

*Registration for courses is required.* Please visit [www.gordonconwell.edu/biblejourney](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/biblejourney) or call Dr. Alison Littauer at 1-704-940-5814 for more information. Teaching Assistant Coordinator Mark Poe can be reached throughout the semester at [mpoe@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:mpoe@gordonconwell.edu). Participants will sign up either as auditors (those who sit in the class for personal enrichment) or for credit (those who turn in weekly assignments and may receive credit toward a certificate). Credit students will have first preference for the available seats in this course. *A 30 minute breakout session each week is required for those taking the course for credit. Options before or after the core presentation time are offered.*

**Certification:**

Credit students who meet all the requirements for the complete 6-course Bible sequence are eligible to receive a Certificate in Biblical Interpretation. This certificate will exempt those successfully admitted into any masters or other certificate programs at the seminary from three courses (OT Survey, NT Survey, and Biblical Interpretation).

**Note: The cost of the 6-course sequence is the cost of one graduate level course. Therefore, students completing the Certificate in Biblical Interpretation will have taken three courses for the price of one!**

**Goals:**

1. To provide participants with a comprehensive grasp of the main figures, events, and themes in the historical and poetic books of the Old Testament, their relationship to the New Testament, and their ongoing significance for our lives.
2. To enlighten participants with background information and resources that clarify God's revelation in its original setting.
3. To equip participants to interpret the Bible correctly by introducing appropriate tools and methods.

**Format:**

During each evening session there will be 90 minutes of presentation by Dr. Laniak. These sessions include presentations on each book of the Bible, featuring “in the text” summaries, “behind the text” background, and “in front of the text” interpretation and application. Credit students will engage in discussion about assignments and questions during a 30 minute break-out session offered from 6:15-6:45 and 8:45-9:15. Class outlines and notes will be available on the course website ([www.gordonconwell.edu/resources/Bible-Journey-Charlotte.cfm](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/resources/Bible-Journey-Charlotte.cfm)) and as handouts in class. *Ideally, the assigned readings for each week should be done **before** class. The written/typed assignments are designed to **follow** class.*

**Text books:** (available at [www.gcts.christianbook.com](http://www.gcts.christianbook.com) and at the GCTS-Charlotte bookstore)

1. The Bible (preferably a study Bible like *NIV Study Bible* or *Archaeology Study Bible*)
2. B. T. Arnold and B. E. Beyer, *Encountering the Old Testament* (Baker, 2008)
3. J. S. Duvall and Hayes, J. D., *Grasping God’s Word* (Zondervan, 2005) or *Journey into God’s Word* (Zondervan, 2009). [The second is an abridged version of the first.]

**Note: These textbooks will be used throughout the Old Testament course sequence.**

**Assignments:**

Weekly 1-2 page assignments will be expected of those who take the class for credit. Directions for the assignments are located at [www.gordonconwell.edu/resources/class-assignments.cfm](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/resources/class-assignments.cfm). These will be submitted weekly to the Teaching Assistants and returned with grades the following week. Participants will complete a reading log for the assigned texts. ***Plan on 5-10 hours each week for readings and assignments.***

**A final test** (25-35 multiple choice questions) will be taken at the end of the course.

Due date: **March 29.**

In anticipation of a final **10-page interpretation paper** due in the summer, we will be mastering the method explained in the texts, *Grasping God’s Word* (or its abridged version, *Journey into God’s Word*). Some assignments in each of the second and third courses will ask for the full 5-step process. Due date for the final paper: **August 1.**

**Attendance and Missed Classes:**

Credit students will need to be in attendance at least seven of the nine weeks. Students may download audio recordings of missed classes to maintain their pace with the course assignments.

**Discounts and Refunds:**

Gordon-Conwell has significantly reduced the tuition for these courses to make them affordable to our community. We assume that churches may further subsidize this outreach for their members if hardship exists. Full refunds will be provided through the second week of the course for any reason.

## 2012 Schedule for BibleJourney Course 2

### *The Mission of the People of God in the Promised Land: Interpreting the Historical and Poetic Books*

1. January 12 Joshua  
Read: Joshua; Arnold/Beyer chp 11
2. January 19 Judges, Ruth  
Read: Judges, Ruth; Arnold/Beyer chp 12
3. January 26 1 & 2 Samuel  
Read: 1 & 2 Samuel; Arnold/Beyer chps 13-14
4. February 2 1 & 2 Kings  
Read: 1 & 2 Kings; Arnold/Beyer chps 15-16
5. February 9 1 & 2 Kings (cont.)  
[Read: 1 & 2 Chronicles; Arnold/Beyer chp 17. This is covered next term.]
6. February 16 Psalms  
Read: Psalms; Arnold/Beyer chps 19 & 21; Duvall/Hayes chp 15
7. February 23 Job  
Read: Job; Arnold/Beyer chp 20
8. March 1 Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs  
Read: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs; Arnold/Beyer chp 22-23
9. March 8 Pulling the pieces together
  
- Mar. 15 Break (Term test due on March 22)

## Looking ahead: 2012 Schedule for BibleJourney Course 3

### ***The Exile and Return of the People of God: Interpreting the Prophetic Books***

1. March 22           The prophets (intro); Jonah  
Read: Jonah; Arnold/Beyer chp 24; Duvall/Hayes chp 14
2. March 29           Pre-exilic prophets: Hosea, Amos, Micah, Nahum  
  
Read: Hosea, Amos, Micah, Nahum; Arnold/Beyer chps 32-33 (select)
- April 5 (Holy Week)
3. April 12           Pre-exilic prophets (cont.): Isaiah  
  
Read: Isaiah; Arnold/Beyer chps 25-26
4. April 19           Exilic prophets: Jeremiah, Lamentations  
  
Read: Jeremiah; Arnold/Beyer chps 27-28
5. April 26           Joel, Obadiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah  
  
Read: Joel, Obadiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah; Arnold/Beyer chps 32-33 (select)
6. May 3              From Exile to Diaspora: Ezekiel, Daniel  
  
Read: Ezekiel, Daniel; Arnold/Beyer chps 18, 29-31
7. May 10             Post-exilic prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi  
  
Read: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi; Arnold/Beyer chp 34
8. May 17             Restoration period: Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles  
  
Read: Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles; Arnold/Beyer chps 17, 18
9. May 21             Pulling the pieces together  
  
Read: Arnold/Beyer chp 1
- June 27              (Term test due)
- August 1             (Short interpretation paper due)