

OT 500 Survey of the Old Testament: Jacksonville
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
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Course Dates: February 18—22, 2019
Course Times: Monday—Friday, 9:00am—4:00pm
Semester dates: January 22—May 13


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.

2. Course Requirements:

 **CASKET EMPTY: Old Testament Study Guide:** You are required to have read the CASKET Study Guide by the first day of class, Feb 18. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of the Study Guide you had read by Feb 18. Failure to complete the Study Guide will result in *points being deducted* from your final grade.

 **Old Testament Bible Reading:** You are required to read the entire Old Testament. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of the Old Testament you have read (audio is acceptable as well). Since this is *required* reading, failure to complete the Old Testament reading will result in *points being deducted from your final grade*. The Old Testament takes approximately 52 hours to read (the entire Bible takes approximately 70 hours). Based on the semester dates, this means that you will complete your Old Testament reading by doing approximately 30 minutes per day. I would strongly encourage you to start your OT Bible reading prior to the class. You are required to have completed your Bible reading by the final exam.

 **Essential Atlas of the Bible:** You are required to read the first 100 pages of this book. You will also be asked to make use of the maps and charts, which will be referenced throughout the course. This reading is to be completed by the final exam. You will be asked on the final exam to indicate what percentage of this book you have read (100 pages only). Failure to complete this reading will result in *points being deducted* from your final grade.

📣 Teach the Old Testament: You are required to teach or preach a sermon on the Old Testament. You may teach on any section of the Old Testament, or you may choose to give an overview of the Old Testament using CASKET. This assignment needs to be completed by the final exam. You will be asked on the final exam to report what you did for this assignment. Failure to complete this will result in *5 points being deducted from your final score.*

📅 Midterm and final Exam: The course grade will be determined on the basis of a mid-term exam (worth 20%) and a final exam (worth 80%). The mid-term exam is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 9:00—10:15am (lectures continue after exam). The 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. The final exam will be scheduled in May (date TBA). A good portion of your time will require you to study on your own as you seek to grow in your knowledge of the Old Testament. The amount of time required will depend on how much knowledge you have of the Old Testament prior to class.

Grading scale:

A+	96.7—100	A	93.3—96.6	A-	89.9—93.2
B+	86.5—89.8	B	83.1—86.4	B-	79.7—83
C+	76.3—79.6	C	72.9—76.2	C-	69.5—72.8
D+	66.1—69.4	D	62.7—66	D-	59.3—62.6
F	59.2 and below				

Class attendance:

Class attendance is required. Missing a half-day of lectures is permitted, but any additional time absent from class will require the prior permission of the professor if you plan to take the course for credit, and only granted under exceptional circumstances.

Required Texts

- 1) Kaminski, C. *CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. CASKET Study Guide* (available in the bookstore, at Amazon [e-book as well], or at casketempty.com).
- 2) Kaminski, C., *CASKET EMPTY: God’s Plan of Redemption through History. Old Testament Timeline* (available in the bookstore or at casketempty.com)
- 3) Carl G. Rasmussen, *Essential Atlas of the Bible* (Zondervan, 2013).

📞 Turn your cell phone to silent mode at the beginning of each class. Internet usage (on computer, ipad/phone) is *prohibited* during class but permissible during breaks.

Highly Recommended Books

- Fee, G.D., & Stuart, D., *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth* (Zondervan, 1982).
 Hoerth, A. J., *Archaeology and the Old Testament* (Zondervan, 1998).
 Kitchen, K.A., *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (Eerdmans, 2003).
 Pritchard, J. B., edit., *Ancient Near Eastern Texts* (abridged versions, 2 volumes)

Lecture Outline:

Monday February 18 CREATION, ABRAHAM, Intro to SINAI

- Overview of the Old Testament through CASKET
- Course expectations and requirements
- Overview of Genesis 1—11 and its major themes.
- Introduction to the patriarchs, the Abrahamic promises and covenant (Gen. 12—50).
- Introduction to the period of Sinai; the Mosaic covenant (Exodus)

Bible Readings:

Genesis, Exodus

Casket Study Guide reading:

Introduction

Chapter 1: Creation

Chapter 2: Abraham

Chapter 3: Sinai

Tuesday February 19 SINAI, Intro to United Monarchy

- Sanctuary: The Exodus; the priesthood; the sacrificial system; clean/unclean laws.
- Stipulations: The Mosaic Covenant and its legal obligations; the role of the law; blessings and curses.
- Subjugation of the land: The wilderness wanderings; entrance into the land through Joshua; period of the judges; Ruth.
- The prophet Samuel and the rise of King Saul.
- The United Monarchy; the Davidic Covenant, wisdom literature.

Bible Readings:

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel.

Casket Study Guide reading:

Chapter 3: Sinai

Chapter 4: Kings: United Monarchy.

Wednesday February 20

Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom Part 1

- **Midterm exam (9:00am)**
- **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.
- **Kings, Southern Kingdom:** the southern kingdom from Rehoboam to Hezekiah; the prophets Isaiah and Micah.

Bible Readings:

1 Kings—2 Kings; Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon, Hosea, Amos, Jonah.

Casket Study Guide reading:

Chapter 5: The Northern Kingdom

Chapter 6: The Southern Kingdom Part 1

Thursday February 21 Southern Kingdom Part 2 & Exile

- **Kings, Southern Kingdom:** the southern kingdom from Manasseh to Zedekiah; the prophets Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum and introduction to Jeremiah.
- **Kings:** The end of the southern kingdom; the prophet Jeremiah; the Babylonian Empire.
- **Exile:** the demise of the southern kingdom; Lamentations; the seventy-year exile in Babylon; the hope for restoration; the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel.

Bible Readings:

1—2 Chronicles; Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, Joel, Habakkuk, Nahum, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

Casket Study Guide reading:

Chapter 7: The Southern Kingdom Part 2
Chapter 8: The Exile

Friday February 22 EXILE & TEMPLE

- **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.
- **Review of the Old Testament**
- **Preaching and teaching on the Old Testament**

Bible Readings:

Obadiah, Lamentations, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

Casket Study Guide reading:

Chapter 9: The Temple

MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE

You will need to know the following dates, events and Bible references for the midterm (Even though we will not have covered all these periods, you need to know *everything* on this study guide for the midterm).

- **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
 - Davidic covenant: 2 Sam. 7, 1 Chronicles 17
 - 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.
- **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).

Reviewing for the Midterm exam: Quizlet.com

Flash cards have been posted on Quizlet.com. You will need to sign up for this website, and then search for the flashcards by typing in “CasketEmpty Old Testament.”

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 known 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 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 *five* northern kings: Jeroboam I, Ahab, Jehu, Pekah, Hoshea.
 5. Basic information about *eleven* southern kings: Saul, David, Solomon, Jehoshaphat, Rehoboam, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Josiah, Jehoiakim, Zedekiah.
 6. The theological reasons for the exile.
 7. Be able to *identify* whether a king is Assyrian, Babylonian or Persian:
 Assyrian kings: Tiglath Pileser III, Shalmaneser V, Sargon II.
 Babylonian kings: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and Nabonidus.
 Persian kings: Cyrus, Darius I, Xerxes I, and Artaxerxes.
9. You will be required to know the significance of the following ANE inscriptions: The Gilgamesh Epic, the Black Obelisk, the Tel Dan Inscription, the Taylor Prism, the Cyrus Cylinder, the Nabonidus Chronicle.
10. You are required to know the canonical order of the Old Testament books (not reproduce but identify the correct answer, multiple choice question).

Book Summaries:

You are required to know the following OT books *in-depth*, which should include knowing a) the historical context and period, b) key events and people, c) major themes, d) 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.

Selected Bibliography

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