

OLD TESTAMENT HERMENEUTICS



Instructor: Mr. Instructor

Contact Info: instructor@oakspa.org

Room: 3rd Floor Room 301

Meeting Time: Mon-Thurs 1-1:55pm

Texts: *ESV Student Study Bible* by Crossway

Course Description:

*The LORD passed before him and proclaimed,
The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,
keeping steadfast love for thousands,
forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty,
visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children,
to the third and the fourth generation.”*
—Exodus 34:6-7

The Old Testament is the story of how the LORD revealed himself to humanity through his gracious and merciful covenants with Abraham and his offspring. It is a passing by, a proclamation from God himself—of himself. For no other purpose than the praise of his glorious grace, for no other reason than the demonstration of his steadfast love, for no other compulsion than the working of his forgiveness toward fallen sinners.

As we survey the Old Testament, we will understand them not merely as Hebrew Scriptures—which they are—but as Christian Scriptures. We will see how the plan of salvation unfolded in, through, and despite God’s chosen people Israel. We will hear and catalogue God’s promises and see how they point toward the coming of Christ. We will also observe the ways God gives us vocabulary and theological language to speak about him in the words of Scripture and the narratives recounted there.

Our course will break down into three units: Law, Prophets, and Writings. We will seek to comprehend the righteousness and holiness of God in his Law, his heart for repentant sinners in the Prophets, and the promise of eternal life in his coming kingdom in the Writings. While we will not be able to give every book close attention, we will learn the general structure of each. Each unit we will focus in detail on one particular book from each genre.

In the spirit of *docendo discimus* (“by teaching, we learn”), it will be our objective to digest the Scriptures through comprehending and teaching them to one another. We will learn not only how to read the Bible, but how to teach the Bible. In this way, students will begin a lifelong journey of comprehending the mind of God in His Word and being able to communicate his truth to others.

Course Objectives:

- Memorize foundational texts from the OT
- Witness the unified nature of the canonical Scriptures and the interconnection of OT and NT
- Grow in confidence to teach the Bible
- Understand basic information and structure for all 39 books of OT
- Learn to read OT Scriptures closely for personal knowledge, growth, and instruction

Supplies:

- 1.5 inch binder
- 3 page dividers (labeled Notes, Papers, Tests)
- Loose leaf paper

Classroom Expectations:

- Take notes.
- Be respectful. (Romans 13:7-8)
- Be prepared. (1 Peter 3:15)
- Be diligent. (Colossians 3:23)

Assignments:

Homework—Students should expect to read a few chapters of the Bible each week. Homework may be checked on the honor system or by way of a brief quiz from week to week.

Memory Verse Quizzes—Students will memorize passages of Scripture cumulatively, adding a verse each week to what they have already memorized. These quizzes will typically happen once a week.

Tests—Students will be tested after each unit is complete: Law, Prophets (Part 1), Prophets (Part 2), and Writings. These tests will be drawn from class notes.

Teaching Lessons—Students will be learning how to teach the Scriptures. While they may not have to teach every lesson they write, they will turn them in for a completion grade.

Midterm and Final Exams—Students will have exams at the end of each semester to check their progress. The exams will be worth one major grade and will cover information already tested on quizzes and tests.

Late Work—Students are responsible to get late work completed and turned in. At the teacher's discretion, the grade will be lowered up to one letter grade for each class meeting day (MWF) that it is late.

Grading: Essentially, all points scored from all assignments will be added up and divided by all points possible. Weightier assignments will be worth more points (e.g., tests and exams) while lighter assignments will be worth less points (e.g., homework, quizzes, class exercises). Parents and students are reminded that grades are earned and should reflect a student's level of mastery.

A – 90-100 B – 80-89 C – 70-79 D – 60-69 F – below 60

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2025-2026 Long Range Plans

Plans are subject to change according to the needs of the students. However, this is a general overview of the class:

Week	Class Dates	Topics
1	9/2 – 9/4 (No class Mon 9/1)	Syllabus & Intro How to Teach the Bible: “The Role of the Teacher” Intro to the Law Overview: Genesis Memorization: Genesis 17:1-8 NEW UNIT—Law
2	9/8 – 9/11	How to Teach the Bible: “The Character of the Teacher” Overview: Exodus Overview: Leviticus Verse Quiz: Genesis 17:1
3	9/15 – 9/18	How to Teach the Bible: “The Centrality of Christ” Overview: Numbers Overview: Deuteronomy Verse Quiz: Genesis 17:1-2
4	9/22 – 9/24 (Retreat 9/25-26)	How to Teach the Bible: “The Necessity of Application” Closer Reading: Genesis 1-9 Verse Quiz: Genesis 17:1-3 Assign Genesis Journal (Due 10/15)
5	9/29 – 10/2	How to Teach the Bible: “Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth” Closer Reading: Genesis 10-26 Verse Quiz: Genesis 17:1-4
6	10/6 – 10/9	How to Teach the Bible: “Teaching Helps” Closer Reading: Genesis 27-36 Verse Quiz: Genesis 17:1-5

7	10/13 – 10/15 (Fall Break 10/16-17)	How to Teach the Bible: “Teaching Narrative” Closer Reading: Genesis 37-50 Assign Lessons (Due 10/22) Verse Quiz: Genesis 17:1-6
8	10/20 – 10/23	Verse Quiz: Genesis 17:1-7 Law Unit Test (10/22) Genesis Journal Due (10/23) Lesson Workday (10/23) Assign New Memorization: 2 Samuel 7:8-16
9	10/27 – 10/30	Teaching Narratives Lessons (10/27-28) NEW UNIT—Prophets (Part 1) Overview: Joshua Verse Quiz: 2 Samuel 7:8-9 (NOTE! TWO VERSES)
10	11/3 – 11/6	Overview: Judges Overview: 1 & 2 Samuel Verse Quiz: 2 Samuel 7:8-11
11	11/11 – 11/13 (No Class Mon 11/10)	Overview: 1 & 2 Kings Closer Reading: 2 Samuel 1-12 Verse Quiz: 2 Samuel 7:8-12
12	11/17 – 11/20	Closer Reading: 2 Samuel 13-20 Verse Quiz: 2 Samuel 7:8-13 Assign Narrative Lessons (Due 12/15-16)
Thanksgiving	11/24 – 11/27	
13	12/1 – 12/4	Closer Reading: 2 Samuel 21-24 Prophets (Part 1) Test (12/3) Verse Quiz: 2 Samuel 7:8-14 Lesson Workday (12/4)
14	12/8 – 12/11	Review Verse Quiz: 2 Samuel 7:8-15 Teaching Narrative Lessons (12/10-11)
15	12/15 – 12/16 (Exams 12/17-19)	Review Verse Quiz: 2 Samuel 7:8-16 (Tues 12/16) Midterm Exam
Christmas Break	12/22 – 1/4	

16	1/5 – 1/8	NEW UNIT—Prophets (Part 2) Overview: Isaiah Overview: Jeremiah Memorization: Isaiah 61:1-7
17	1/12 – 1/15	Overview: Ezekiel Overview: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah Verse Quiz: Isaiah 61:1
18	1/20 – 1/22 (No Class Mon 1/19)	Overview: Jonah, Micah, Nahum How to Teach the Bible: “Teaching Prophecy” Verse Quiz: Isaiah 61:1-2
19	1/26 – 1/29	Overview: Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Zechariah, Malachi Closer Reading: Isaiah 1-12 Assign Isaiah Project (Due 3/2) Verse Quiz: Isaiah 61:1-3
20	2/2 – 2/5	Closer Reading: Isaiah 13-21 Assign Prophecy Lessons (Due 2/18-19) Verse Quiz: Isaiah 61:1-4
21	2/9 – 2/12	Closer Reading: Isaiah 22-35 Verse Quiz: Isaiah 61:1-5
22	2/16 – 2/19 (No Class Fri 2/20)	Teaching Prophecy Lessons (2/18-19) Closer Reading: Isaiah 36-50 Verse Quiz: Isaiah 61:1-6
23	2/24 – 2/26 (No Class Mon 2/23)	Closer Reading: Isaiah 51-66 Verse Quiz: Isaiah 61:1-7 Prophets (Part 2) Test (2/25) Isaiah Project Workday (2/26)
24	3/2 – 3/5	Isaiah Project Presentations (Due 3/3) Verse Quiz: Isaiah 61:1-7 NEW UNIT--Writings Overview: Psalms New Memorization: Psalm 1
25	3/9 – 3/12	Overview: Proverbs and Job How to Teach the Bible: “Teaching Poetry” Verse Quiz: Psalm 1:1
26	3/16 – 3/19	Overview: Song of Songs, Ruth Overview: Lamentations, Ecclesiastes Verse Quiz: Psalm 1:1-2

27	3/23 – 3/26	Overview: Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah Assign Poetry Lessons (Due 4/8-9) Verse Quiz: Psalm 1:1-3
28	3/30 – 4/2	Overview: 1 & 2 Chronicles Closer Reading: Psalm 1-2, 5, 6, 10, 14-15 Verse Quiz: Psalm 1:1-4
29	4/6 – 4/9	Closer Reading: Psalm 19, 24, 27, 31, 51, 62 Teaching Poetry Lessons (4/8-9) Verse Quiz: Psalm 1:1-5
30	4/13 – 4/16 (No Class Good Fri 4/17)	Closer Reading: Psalm 22, 69, 95, 103, 119 Verse Quiz: Psalm 1:1-6
Easter Break	4/17 – 4/26	
31	4/27 – 4/30	Closer Reading: Psalm 121, 127, 139, 146, 150
32	5/04 – 5/07	Writings Test (4/27) Closer Reading: Proverbs 1-3
33	5/11 – 5/14	Closer Reading: Proverbs 4-9
34	5/18 – 5/19 (Exams 5/20-22)	Review Final Exam