BIB 515 Old Testament II: Joshua to Esther

PURPOSE: This course will provide students will an overview of the historical of the Old Testament from Joshua through Esther. Students will be able to identify key people, places, items and events. Students will be able to give major themes or summaries of each book. Students will be prepared to licensure examination questions in this area of English Bible.

LECTURES:

Lectures on Joshua

<https://subsplash.com/reformtheosem/learn-about-rts/mi/+c3cb6cc>

Judges to Esther – Dr. Richard Belcher

<https://subsplash.com/reformtheosem/learn-about-rts/li/+79eb036>

BOOKS:

Belcher, Richard P., Jr. Prophet, Priest, and King: The Roles of Christ in the Bible and Our Roles Today. Phillipsburg, PA: P & R Publishing, 2011.

Merrill, Eugene H. Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008. (This book is now being used in place of Walter Kaiser’s book).

Van Pelt, Miles V. and J. Ligon Duncan, et. al. A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016.

Whitcomb, Jr., John C. Chart of Old Testament Kings and Prophets. 5th revised edition. Winona Lake: BMH Books, 1977.

(This chart can be found at the BMH website (www.bmhbooks.com).

Summary of Requirements:

1. Listen to all recorded Lectures

2. Complete all Readings

Belcher – all chapters

Merrill – chapters 5-15

Van Pelt – chapters 6-9, 17, 21, 23-25

3. Participate in Mentor Discussions

4. Midterm Exam

5. Final Exam

6. Submit Research Paper

7. Submit Biblical Books Reading Reaction Papers

8. Complete Licensure Questions related to this section.

9. Book summaries for Joshua – Esther.

RESEARCH PAPER

The paper must deal with a character in one of the narratives in Judges to Esther, whether a judge, king, prophet, leader, or some other fairly major character. The paper should cover how the author portrays the character (characterization) and what the author is trying to convey through this particular character in the narrative. It would be helpful to present a misuse of the character or another view of the character as a contrast to your development of the character.

The following questions may need to be addressed in the paper:

a. What function does the narrative serve in the context of the book?

b. What major idea is the author of the narrative trying to establish?

c. What is the meaning of the narrative to the original reading audience?

d. What major OT concepts, institutions, or ideas does the character relate to or develop?

e. Is there any legitimate connections to Christ in your character or narrative?

f. What is the meaning of the character for God’s people today?

The following are criteria that will be used to evaluate the paper:

a. Cogency of argument - is there a thesis statement, how well does the argument hang together, and how well are pertinent and fundamental points brought out?

b. Discussions of historical context, genre, and redemptive history (where these are appropriate, but do not go overboard); just give the reader enough information to understand your paper.

Some issues, like authorship, can be omitted or issues and bibliography related to authorship can be given in footnotes.

c. The use of sources: this is a research paper so avoid study Bibles as a source; read as many commentaries as you can, including conservative commentaries, those from a critical perspective, and at least one older commentary, such as Calvin, Geneva series, etc. At least one journal article must be cited. Research is important and can be included in footnotes.

Think of at least 8 sources.

d. Do not make a Scripture reference as a footnote, but put it in parenthesis in the paper.

e. The paper should be 10-15 pages, double-spaced, pages numbered, and with one inch margins

on all sides, except the left margin should have a 1 1/4 inch margin.

f. You are expected to use as much Hebrew as you are able.

g. Use the guidelines in the current edition of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses,*

*and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian.

h. Don’t leave blank space between paragraphs