

OT 132-3 Latter Prophets and Writings  
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Spring 2024 | Monday and Wednesday | 9:00-10:20am

Instructor: Tyler Mayfield  
[tmayfield@lpts.edu](mailto:tmayfield@lpts.edu)

Virtual Office Hours: gladly by appointment  
email me with possible times

**Course Description:**

What does it mean to be prophetic? How do we live a wise life? How are ancient psalms relevant to contemporary spirituality? This course introduces the historical, literary, and theological worlds of what is known in the Jewish tradition as the Latter Prophets and Writings. The course is one of four introductory courses on the Old and New Testaments at Louisville Seminary; it combines elements of a survey course and an exegetical seminar to meet the course objectives.

The Old Testament/Hebrew Bible is a library of books that emerged out of historical situations and purports to describe historical events; so, we engage the *historical perspective*. The Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, however, is also a work of literature that can be studied for its literary form; so, we engage the *literary perspective*. Finally, the Old Testament/Tanakh has the status of Scripture for a variety of religious communities; so, we engage the *theological perspective*.

**Course Objectives/Dreams:**

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Describe the general content and organization of the Latter Prophets and Writings including important historical events behind these texts and literary features within texts.
2. Analyze and differentiate the varied ancient theological perspectives within and among these biblical books.
3. Exegete biblical passages by asking and answering historical, literary, and theological questions of the text.
4. Reflect critically on hermeneutical issues in contemporary, theological readings of the Latter Prophets and Writings.

These objectives relate to the following degree program Student Learning Outcomes:

MDIV SLO #1: Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the Bible, and the ability to use critical skills and educated imagination to interpret it in contemporary social and cultural contexts.

MAR SLO #1: Be able to interpret Scripture critically and imaginatively.

MAR SLO #3: Demonstrate an understanding of multiple theological perspectives, historical and contemporary.

## Assignments & Evaluation:

Students are expected to attend class sessions *regularly* and *punctually*, to have completed the readings and assignments for each class period, to participate in discussions in class, and to have a Bible and textbook/readings accessible.

Assignments are listed here as *summaries* of the work required along with their due dates. Students will be given more information and a grading rubric for the assignments on Canvas. All assignments are due via Canvas. Please do NOT email them to me.

**1. Bible Content Project.** Due by **midnight Sunday, March 3.**

(10% of final grade) [Course Objective #1]

Students will read 10 books from the Latter Prophets and Writings and create a content outline for each book. One line of textual summary per biblical book chapter. Read and summarize!

**2. Response to *Piles of Slain* book.** Due by **midnight Sunday, March 24.**

(25% of final grade) [Course Objectives: #2 and #4]

Students will write a 5-page essay in response to this book.

**3. HLT Reference Sheet on Wisdom Literature.** Due by **midnight Sunday, April 7.**

(20% of final grade) [Course Objectives: primarily #3, also #1 and #4]

Students will create a 3-page reference sheet that addresses 1 historical, 1 literary, and 1 theological issue within a given biblical passage in Proverbs, Job, or Ecclesiastes.

**4. Exegesis Paper on a Psalm.** Due by **midnight Sunday, April 28.**

(25% of final grade) [Course Objectives: #3, #2]

Students will write an 8-page exegesis paper on a selected Psalm.

**5. Take-Home, Open Book Final Exam.** Due by **midnight Friday, May 17.**

(20% of final grade) [Course Objectives: #1, #2, #3]

Students will write short essays during exam week.

## Grading Scale

95-100	A	73-76	C
90-94	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F

## Course Books & Materials: (used copies are acceptable)

1) A NRSV Study Bible. Choose among these options:

A) *The SBL Study Bible*. HarperOne, 2023. ISBN: 978-0062969439. A thoroughly revised edition of The HarperCollins *Study Bible* with the new NRSVUE translation.

B) *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*. Edited by Walter Harrelson. Nashville: Abingdon. ISBN: 0687278325.

C) *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*. Edited by Michael Coogan, Marc Brettler, Carol Newsom, Pheme Perkins. Oxford University Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-0190276041.

2) *Opening Israel's Scriptures*. By Ellen F. Davis. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. ISBN: 9780190948948.

3) *Piles of Slain, Heaps of Corpses: Reading Prophetic Poetry and Violence in African Context*. By Jacob Onyumbé Wenyi. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2021. ISBN: 9781725268319.

In addition to these books, there will be required readings (articles, book chapters) placed on Canvas.

## **Course Policies:**

### Academic Honesty

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Two occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For more information, see the Policy for Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

### Citation Policy

Citations in your papers should follow Seminary standards, which are based on these guides:

--Turabian, Kate L., Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 9th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020.

--The Chicago Manual of Style. 17th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

See also the library's citation help page: <https://lpts.libguides.com/digitalresources/citingsources>

### Attendance Policy:

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session. Six or more absences (1/4 of the course) may result in a low or failing grade in the course.

### Special Accommodations

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center during the first two weeks of a semester (or before the semester begins) and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

### Use of Inclusive Language

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. More discussion about inclusive language can be accessed from the Academic Support Center and from the section of the LPTS web site with information for current students.

Policy on late work: All written assignments are due on the date given in the syllabus. Assignments submitted late will be penalized in the grading by one grade increment for every day (a B+ paper becomes a B if one day late, a B- if two days, a C+ if three days, etc.). Assignments submitted more than ten days after the due date will not be accepted.

**Course Schedule:**

**UNIT ONE: INTRODUCTIONS**

**Feb 12: What Are We Studying?**

Topics:

Introductions to Course and Each Other

Old Testament vs. TaNaK vs. Hebrew Bible: Why does it matter?

Jewish divisions: Torah, Prophets (Former and Latter), Writings

Christian divisions: Law/Pentateuch, History, Poetry, Prophecy

Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 1-7. "Introduction"

Amy-Jill Levine, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* (New York: HarperOne, 2006), 193-199. [Canvas]

Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

If you would like a one-volume survey textbook for the OT/HB, I recommend (in addition to our textbook by Ellen Davis):

Rolf A. Jacobson and Michael J. Chan, *Introducing the Old Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2023).

Sandra L. Gravett, Karla G. Bohmbach, F. V. Greifenhagen, Donald C. Polaski. *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.)

## Feb 14: Exegeting the Text

### Topics:

What is Exegesis?

3 Chairs and a Couch

Postmodern Christian Historicism

### Required Readings:

Sandra L. Gravett, Karla G. Bohmbach, F. V. Greifenhagen, Donald C. Polaski. *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.): 53-77. [Canvas]

Dale B. Martin, *Sex and the Single Savior: Gender and Sexuality in Biblical Interpretation* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006): 161-169. [Canvas]

Mercy Amba Oduyoye, "Biblical Interpretation and the Social Location of the Interpreter: African Women's Reading of the Bible," in *Reading from This Place: Social Location and Biblical Interpretation in Global Perspective* (edited by Fernando F. Segovia and Mary Ann Tolbert; vol. 2 of Reading from This Place; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995): 33-51. [Canvas]

Segovia, Fernando F. and Mary Ann Tolbert, eds. *Reading from this Place. Volume 1: Social Location and Biblical Interpretation in the United States*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995. 1-32 (Introduction, Segovia) [Canvas]

### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

William Brown, *A Handbook to Old Testament Exegesis* (Louisville: WJK Press, 2017): 3-10, 21-22.

Tiffany, Frederick C. and Sharon H. Ringe, *Biblical Interpretation: A Roadmap* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996).

*New Interpreters Bible*, pages 2261-65, "Guidelines for Reading and Interpretation" by John R. Donahue, S.J. & pages 2268-72, "Varieties of Readings and Interpretations of the Biblical Text," by Edgar McKnight.

Pontifical Biblical Commission. "The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible." Vatican Curia. 24 May 24 2001. <https://www.ccjr.us/dialogika-resources/documents-and-statements/roman-catholic/vatican-curia/pbc-2001#I>.

Ronald Allen and John Holbert, *Holy Root Holy Branches: Christian Preaching from the Old Testament* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1995): 15-31.

Presbyterians would do well to find the following two denominational documents: "Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture," and "Biblical Authority and Interpretation."

Jacqueline M. Hidalgo. "Reading from No Place: Toward a Hybrid and Ambivalent Study of Scriptures." In *Latino/a Biblical Hermeneutics: Problematics, Objectives, Strategies*. Francisco Lozada Jr. and Fernando F. Segovia, eds. Atlanta: SBL, 2014. Pgs. 165-186.

## Feb 19: Reading Historically

### Topics:

Israelite and Judahite History including major Events

The Babylonian Exile and Persian Period

### Required Readings:

Sandra L. Gravett, Karla G. Bohmbach, F. V. Greifenhagen, Donald C. Polaski. *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.), 27-39. [Canvas]

Douglas Knight and Amy-Jill Levine, *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us* (New York: HarperOne, 2011), 3-41. [Canvas]

### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

For those students with a strong interest in history, the next resource to read is the following:

Victor Matthews's *A Brief History of Ancient Israel* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002).  
Or Victor Matthew's *The History of Bronze and Iron Age Israel* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

For those interested in reading more about historical criticism, see:

David R. Law, *The Historical-Critical Method: A Guide for the Perplexed*. (London: T&T Clark, 2012).

### As you read...

Construct your own chart or timeline for the MAJOR historical events related to the OT/HB (empires, rulers, kings, conquests, wars, important leaders, etc.). Which handful of dates seem the most important to you? The reading in *The Meaning of the Bible* contains a helpful chart on page 8.

## UNIT TWO: PROPHETS

### Feb 21: What is a Prophet? What is Prophecy?

#### Topics:

Prophets, Prophecy, Prophetic Literature

5 elements of the Prophetic Perspective

#### Required Readings:

Ellen F. Davis, *Biblical Prophecy: Perspectives for Christian Theology, Discipleship, and Ministry* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014), 1-21. [Canvas]

#### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* (New York: HarperOne, 2020), 43-48.

Martti Nissinen, *Ancient Prophecy: Near Eastern, Biblical, and Greek Perspectives* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).

Carolyn J. Sharp, *Old Testament Prophets for Today* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009).

Esther J. Hamori, *Women's Divination in Biblical Literature: Prophecy, Necromancy, and Other Arts of Knowledge* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015).

Stephen Cook, John Strong, Steven Tuell, *The Prophets: Introducing Israel's Prophetic Writings* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2022).



## Feb 26: Amos

### Topics:

Social Justice Preacher

Exegetical Exercise: Amos 1:3-2:16

### Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 220-231. "Questioning Prosperity—Amos"

Corrine L. Carvalho, "The Challenge of Violence and Gender under Colonization," in *The Hebrew Bible: Feminist and Intersectional Perspectives* (ed. Gale A. Yee; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2018), 107-133. [Canvas]

### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Gale A. Yee, "Materialist Analysis of the Prophets," in *The Oxford Handbook of the Prophets* (ed. Carolyn Sharp; Oxford University Press, 2016): 491-506.

## Feb 28: Micah and Hosea

### Topics:

Exegetical Exercise: Micah 6:1-8

Hosea's Marriage Metaphor

### Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 232-245. "Justice and Intimacy—Micah and Hosea"

Hosea 1-3

### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Renita Weems, *Battered Love: Marriage, Sex, and Violence in the Hebrew Prophets* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995).

Yvonne Sherwood, *The Prostitute and the Prophet: Hosea's Marriage in Literary-Theological Perspective* (JSOTSup 212; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1996).

Susan E. Haddox, *Metaphor and Masculinity in Hosea* (StBL 141; New York: Peter Lang, 2011).

## **March 4: First Isaiah**

### Topics:

Isaiah's Theology

Exegetical Exercise: Isaiah 7 and 9

### Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 256-268. "Isaiah: Seeing the King: Isaiah 1-39"

Tyler D. Mayfield, *Unto Us a Child is Born: Isaiah, Advent, and Our Jewish Neighbors* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020), 61-67, 81-85. [Canvas]

Isaiah 7:10-16; 9:2-7

### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Patricia Tull, *Isaiah 1-39* (Smyth and Helwys Commentary; Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 2010).

## March 6: Second Isaiah

### Topics:

Prophetic Response to Exile

Servant Figure

Exile, Return, and the Mexican Immigrant Experience

### Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 269-276. "The Vision Expands: Isaiah 40-66"

Gregory Lee Cuéllar, *Voices of Marginality: Exile and Return in Second Isaiah 40-55 and the Mexican Immigrant Experience* (New York: Peter Lang, 2008): 82-96, 118-134. [Canvas]

Isaiah 40:1-11; 42:1-4; 49:1-6

## March 11: Jonah

### Topics:

Jonah in early Jewish and Christian Interpretation

### Required Readings:

Robert C. Gregg, *Shared Stories, Rival Tellings: Early Encounters of Jews, Christians, and Muslims* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), 335-340, 349-357, 395-407. [Canvas]

### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Amy Erickson, *Jonah: Introduction and Commentary*, Illuminations, 2021.

Susan Niditch, *Jonah*, Hermeneia, 2022.

## March 13: Christian Approaches to the Prophets

### Topics:

Violence

Israel and America

Prophecy-Fulfillment Approach

Prophecy as Future Telling

### Required Readings:

Carolyn Sharp, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of the Prophets* (Oxford University Press, 2016): 646-648. [Canvas]

Tyler D. Mayfield, *Unto Us a Child is Born: Isaiah, Advent, and Our Jewish Neighbors* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020), 21-26, 33-37. [Canvas]

### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Julia M. O'Brien, *Challenging Prophetic Metaphor: Theology and Ideology in the Prophets* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008).

L. Juliana M. Claassens, *Mourner, Mother, Midwife: Reimagining God's Delivering Presence in the Old Testament* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012).

## UNIT THREE: WISDOM WAYS

### March 25: Wisdom Tradition

#### Topics:

What is wisdom?

Sages

#### Required Readings:

Kathleen M. O'Connor, *The Wisdom Literature* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1990), 13-34. [Canvas]

Amy Plantinga Pauw, *Church in Ordinary Time: A Wisdom Ecclesiology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017), 11-18. [Canvas]

#### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

William P. Brown, *Wisdom's Wonder: Character, Creation, and Crisis in the Bible's Wisdom Literature* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014).

David H. Kelsey, *Eccentric Existence: A Theological Anthropology* (Louisville: WJK, 2009), 1: 159-241.

### March 27: Proverbs & Wisdom Woman

#### Topics:

Short Sayings

Woman Wisdom

#### Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 335-341. "Proverbs and Ecclesiastes"

Proverbs 1-2, 8-9

#### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Linda Day, "Wisdom and the Feminine in the Hebrew Bible." Pages 114-27 in *Engaging the Bible in a Gendered World: An Introduction to Feminist Biblical Interpretation in Honor of Katharine Doob Sakenfeld*. Edited by Linda Day and Carolyn Pressler. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.

Christine Roy Yoder, "Proverbs." in *Women's Bible Commentary*. Edited by Newsom, Carol A., Sharon H. Ringe, and Jacqueline E. Lapsley. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.

### **April 1: Wisdom Exegetical Seminar**

#### Topics:

Prologue to Proverbs: Proverbs 1:1-7

Conclusion to Proverbs: Proverbs 31:10-31

#### Required Readings:

William P. Brown, *Wisdom's Wonder: Character, Creation, and Crisis in the Bible's Wisdom Literature* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014), 30-39. [Canvas]

Mmapula D. Kebaneilwe, "Paddling the Bellowing Waters Away from the Margins: African Perspectives on Proverbs 31," in *The Bible, Centres and Margins: Dialogues between Postcolonial African and British Biblical Scholars* (eds. Johanna Stiebert and Musa Dube; London: T&T Clark, 2018), 27-39. [Canvas]

#### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Timothy J. Sandoval, "Revisiting the Prologue of Proverbs," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 126 (2007): 455-73.

### **April 3: Job**

#### Topics:

A Long Poem surrounded by Prose

Why do Innocent People Suffer?

#### Required Readings:

Kathleen M. O'Connor, *The Wisdom Literature* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1990), 86-113. [Canvas]

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 348-359. "Learning to Struggle with God—Job"

Job 1-3, 38-42

#### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Samuel E. Balentine, *Job* (Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary; Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 2006).

# UNIT FOUR: PSALMS

## April 8: Introduction to Psalms

### Topics:

Genre of Psalms

Theology of Psalms

### Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 312-324. "The Psalms"

S. Tamar Kamionkowski, "Psalms," in *The Queer Bible Commentary* Second Edition (eds. Mona West and Robert W. Shore-Goss; London: SCM Press, 2022), 270-280. [Canvas]

Psalm 1-5

## April 10: Visit by 2024 Grawemeyer Winner, Charles Halton

### Topics:

A Human-Shaped God

### Required Readings:

Charles Halton, *A Human-Shaped God* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2021), [Canvas]

## April 15: Exegetical Seminar on Psalms

### Topics:

Psalm 122

Psalm 100

### Required Readings:

Psalm 100 and 122

Frank Lothar Hossfeld and Eric Zenger, *Psalms 3* (Hermeneia; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011), 332-343. [Canvas]

J. Clinton McCann, Jr. "The Book of Psalms" in *The New Interpreter's Bible, Volume IV* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1996), 1077-1080. [Canvas]

## **April 17: Exegetical Seminar on Psalms**

### Topics:

Psalm 22

### Required Readings:

Psalm 22

Bernd Janowski, *Arguing with God: A Theological Anthropology of the Psalms* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013), 322-329. [Canvas]



# UNIT FIVE: FIVE SCROLLS

## April 22: Esther

### Topics:

Esther

### Required Readings:

Robert Williamson, *The Forgotten Books of the Bible: Recovering the Five Scrolls for Today* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2018), 137-172. [Canvas]

Jacueline S. du Toit, "Esther, Pious and Brave: Reading Children's Bibles as Commentary on Twentieth-Century Afrikaner Culture," in *The Five Scrolls* (Texts@Contexts 6, London: Bloomsbury, 2018), 210-220. [Canvas]

### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Carol M. Bechtel, *Esther* (Interpretation; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002).

Jon D. Levenson, *Esther: A Commentary* (Old Testament Library; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997).

Mona West, "Esther," in *The Queer Bible Commentary* Second Edition (eds. Mona West and Robert W. Shore-Goss; London: SCM Press, 2022), 242-250. [Canvas]

## April 24: Ruth

### Topics:

Faith of a Foreigner

Reading against the Grain: A Womanist Approach

### Required Readings:

Yolanda Norton, "Silenced Struggles for Survival: Finding Life in Death in the Book of Ruth," in *I Found God In Me: A Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics Reader*, ed. Mitzi J. Smith (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2015): 265-279. [Canvas]

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 164-172. "Ruth"

Ruth 1-4

### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Jeremy Schipper, *Ruth* (Anchor Yale Bible Commentary; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016).

### **April 29: Song of Songs**

#### Topics:

Sex and Body

Allegorical Readings

#### Required Readings:

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 360-375. "The Ecstasy of Intimacy—Song of Songs"

André S. Musskopf, "Song of Songs," in *The Queer Bible Commentary* Second Edition (eds. Mona West and Robert W. Shore-Goss; London: SCM Press, 2022), 326-338. [Canvas]

#### Recommended Readings/Bibliography:

Sandra L. Gravett, Karla G. Bohmbach, F. V. Greifenhagen, Donald C. Polaski. *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.), chapters 5&6.

Williamson, *Forgotten Books*, 1-31.

### **May 1: Ecclesiastes**

#### Topics:

Ephemerality and mortality

#### Required Readings:

Robert Williamson, *The Forgotten Books of the Bible: Recovering the Five Scrolls for Today* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2018), 107-136. [Canvas]

Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, 341-345. "Living with Death—Ecclesiastes"

Ecclesiastes 1-3

# CONCLUSION

## May 6: Second Temple Judaism

### Topics:

Between the Testaments

Second Temple Judaism

Jesus, the Messiah

### Required Readings:

Matthias Henze, *Mind the Gap: How the Jewish Writings Between the Old and New Testament Help Us Understand Jesus* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2017), 31-50, 53-85. [Canvas]

## May 8: Conclusion

### Topics:

Final Thoughts

### Required Readings:

Dale Martin, *Sex and the Single Savior* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006): 170-179. [Canvas]

## Old Testament / Hebrew Bible Exegetical Tools

### 1) Dictionaries / Encyclopedias

*Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

*Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans, 2000.

*HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1996.

Hayes, John H., ed. *Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation*. 2 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.

Meyers, Carol, ed. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocrypha, Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

*The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. Currently 3 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006 – Hepper, F. N. *Baker Encyclopedia of Bible Plants: Flowers, Trees, Fruits, and Vegetables*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.

Losch, Richard R. *All the People in the Bible: An A-Z Guide to the Saints, Scoundrels, and Other Characters in Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.

Metzger, Bruce M. and Michael D. Coogan. *The Oxford Guide to People & Places of the Bible*. New York: Oxford, 2001.

Ray-Schwartz, Donald. *Noah's Ark: An Annotated Encyclopedia of Every Animal Species in the Hebrew Bible*. Aronson, 2000.

Van der Toorn, Karel, Bob Becking, et al. *Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible (DDD)*. Boston: Brill, 1999.

### 2) Atlases

Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Carta Bible Atlas*. 4th ed. Jerusalem: Carta, 2002.

Curtis, Adrian, ed. *Oxford Bible Atlas*. 4th ed. NY: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Dowley, Tim, ed. *The Baker Atlas of Christian History*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997.

Pritchard, James B. *The Harper Atlas of the Bible*. New York: Harper and Row, 1987.

### 3) Concordances (A specific concordance matches a Bible translation)

Metzger, Bruce M. *NRSV Exhaustive Concordance*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991. Moulton and Geden. *A Concordance to the Greek Testament*. 6th edition, ed. by I. Howard Marshall. London: T.&T. Clark, 2002. Reference: BS 2302 .M8 2002

Strong, James. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Updated ed. Hendrickson, 2007.

Whitaker, Richard E., and John R. Kohlenberger. *Analytical Concordance to the NRSV of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans; New York: Oxford, 2000.

#### 4) Commentary Series

*Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries*  
*Anchor Bible*  
*Berit Olam*  
*Hermeneia*  
*International Critical Commentary*  
*Interpretation*  
*JPS Torah Commentary*  
*New Century Bible Commentary*  
*New International Commentary, Old Testament Series*  
*New Interpreter's Bible*  
*Old Testament Library*  
*Westminster Bible Companion*  
*Wisdom Commentary Series*  
*Word Biblical Commentary*  
*Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture/Old Testament*

#### 5) One Volume Commentaries

Adeyemo, Tokunboh, ed. *Africa Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.  
*The HarperCollins Bible Commentary*. Rev. ed. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2000.  
*The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1990.  
Newsom, Carol A. and Sharon H. Ringe, eds. *Women's Bible Commentary, Expanded Edition*.  
Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.  
*The Oxford Bible Commentary*. NY: Oxford, 2001.  
*Queer Bible Commentary* (ed. Guest, Goss, West, Bohache);  
*Global Bible Commentary* (ed. Patte);  
*The International Bible Commentary* (ed. William R. Farmer);  
*The Africana Bible* (ed. Hugh R. Page Jr.)