

# Dr. Ted Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 1, Introduction, Theistic Proofs Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

## 1. Abstract of Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 1, Introduction, Theistic Proofs, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This transcript captures the first lecture of an Old Testament course, detailing the syllabus and course structure. **Dr. Hildebrandt** emphasizes the importance of **historical and cultural context** in understanding the text, highlighting the differences between ancient Hebrew culture and modern perspectives. The course utilizes a variety of **digital resources**, including a custom digital Bible (DASV) and online quizzes, to enhance learning and accessibility. **Assignments** involve readings, transcriptions of lectures by other scholars, and a focus on personal spiritual application. Finally, the lecture explores **philosophical arguments for the existence of God**, setting the theological foundation for the course.

**2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 1 – Double  
click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the  
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link  
there (Old Testament → Introduction → Old Testament  
Literature).**



**Hildebrandt\_OTLit\_  
Session01.mp3**

### 3. Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 1, Introduction, Theistic Proofs

#### Old Testament History, Literature, and Theology Study Guide

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What are the three main focuses of this Old Testament course, according to Dr. Hildebrandt?
2. Why does Dr. Hildebrandt emphasize the importance of history when studying the Old Testament?
3. According to the lecture, how does Hebrew poetry differ from English poetry?
4. In what way does Dr. Hildebrandt suggest God adapts to human culture?
5. Why does Dr. Hildebrandt say that geography is important for understanding the Old Testament?
6. What is the DASV and what are some of its advantages as a Bible translation, according to Dr. Hildebrandt?
7. What does Dr. Hildebrandt mean by "idols of the mind," and how does he hope this course will address them?
8. What is the "honors option" in the course and how does one qualify for it?
9. According to Dr. Hildebrandt, what is the basic premise behind the cosmological argument for the existence of God?
10. What does Dr. Hildebrandt mean when he calls the teleological argument the "Jolly Green Giant" argument?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. The three main focuses of the Old Testament course are history, literature, and theology. Dr. Hildebrandt emphasizes exploring the Old Testament through these three lenses to gain a comprehensive understanding of the text. He suggests that they are deeply intertwined.

2. Dr. Hildebrandt emphasizes that history is essential because the Old Testament is not just myth or legends, but God's incredible actions within human history. Understanding the historical context is key to understanding the messages.
3. Hebrew poetry does not use rhyme and meter like English poetry. Instead, it employs parallelism, where thoughts are rhymed rather than sounds, creating a different structure and impact.
4. Dr. Hildebrandt suggests that God adapts to human culture by using their language, literary forms, and ways of communication. God utilizes these methods to communicate his message, as seen in how he uses Hebrew poetry.
5. Geography is important because it affects people's worldviews and understanding of events in the Old Testament. Places like Galilee and Jerusalem have different contexts, influencing the stories, and it is important to read geography like a language.
6. The DASV is Dr. Hildebrandt's Digital American Standard Version of the Bible, which is built on the ASV of 1901 but modified and updated. Its advantages include digital formats (HTML, DOC, PDF), easy access, adjustable fonts, and audio MP3s.
7. "Idols of the mind" refer to false conceptualizations of God that people hold. He hopes to "blow apart" these preconceived ideas through the course so that students can worship the real God, not a false version of Him.
8. The honors option allows students who perform well on the first exam and quizzes to forgo the final exam by doing two extra transcriptions. This allows students to free up time during the final exam week.
9. The cosmological argument posits that every effect must have a cause, leading back to a first cause. Dr. Hildebrandt argues that God is the most reasonable explanation for the first cause of the universe.
10. The "Jolly Green Giant" argument, a.k.a. the teleological argument, illustrates how the order in the universe points to a designer. He posits that the order of a classroom couldn't come from chaos, and thus, the universe with even more complex order implies a designer.

## Essay Questions

**Instructions:** Answer each of the following essay questions in a well-developed essay.

1. Discuss the role of cultural context in understanding the Old Testament, and provide examples from the lecture of how this context influences interpretation.
2. Explain Dr. Hildebrandt's pedagogical approach to teaching the Old Testament, and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses, using details from the lecture to support your arguments.
3. Analyze the significance of the transmission and translation of the Bible as discussed in the lecture, considering potential challenges, and why it matters to contemporary study of the Bible.
4. Compare and contrast the cosmological and teleological arguments for the existence of God as presented by Dr. Hildebrandt, and explore the implications of these arguments for faith.
5. Critically assess Dr. Hildebrandt's approach to the use of technology in this course, particularly the use of the DASV and online course resources, and discuss its potential impact on both learning and accessibility.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Parallelism:** A literary device used in Hebrew poetry where thoughts or ideas are rhymed instead of sounds.
- **DASV (Digital American Standard Version):** Dr. Hildebrandt's digital translation of the Bible built on the ASV of 1901 and made available in various formats (HTML, DOC, PDF, MP3).
- **NIV (New International Version):** A common translation of the Bible into modern English, translated by a large group of scholars.
- **NRSV (New Revised Standard Version):** A common translation of the Bible into modern English, done with a broad English focus, not just American.
- **ESV (English Standard Version):** Another common translation into modern English, very close to the NRSV, with conservative focus.
- **Teleological Argument:** An argument for the existence of God based on the perceived order, design, and purpose in the universe; also called "argument from design."
- **Cosmological Argument:** An argument for the existence of God based on the concept of cause and effect, asserting that there must be a first cause for the universe.
- **Idols of the Mind:** False or distorted conceptualizations or perceptions of God that can hinder an individual's relationship with Him.
- **Transmission:** The process of how the biblical text was passed down from the original writers through various copies and cultures to the present day.
- **Transcription:** The process of converting audio or spoken words into written text.
- **Bible-Robics:** Dr. Hildebrandt's method of teaching the Bible through physical movement and interaction.
- **Hittite Treaty:** A formal agreement common in the ancient Near East, that appears to share structural similarities to the book of Deuteronomy.
- **Luddite:** A person who is opposed to new technology or ways of working. In context of the lecture, it references a term for someone who might be opposed to new tech like the DASV.

## 4. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes, ideas, and facts from the provided lecture transcript by Dr. Ted Hildebrandt:

### Briefing Document: Old Testament History, Literature, and Theology Course

#### Introduction

#### 1. Course Overview and Objectives:

- **Course Focus:** The course will examine the Old Testament through the lenses of its history, literature, and theology.
- **Importance of History:** Dr. Hildebrandt emphasizes the significance of historical context in understanding the Old Testament, asserting that it's not just a collection of myths but a record of God's actions in history. He states, "History is going to be really important in the Old Testament because God is going to do these incredible things in history."
- **Understanding God:** A central goal is to understand the nature of God as revealed throughout the Old Testament by witnessing his relationships with diverse people over many centuries. Hildebrandt says, "We are going to get to see God over a period of about 1500 years." He aims to help students see God differently than they may have previously imagined and to see Him for who He really is. He states "Part of becoming Christian is having your view of God blown apart. Not blown apart into atheism, but blown apart into worshiping God for who he really is."
- **Personal Spirituality:** The course aims to connect the Old Testament to contemporary life, fostering a love for God and His Word. Dr. Hildebrandt will use personal stories as a model for connecting the ancient text to modern-day experience, saying, "I want you to see modeled someone who is taking the word of God, the Old Testament, and showing the connection with 21st century life."
- **Content and Context:** The course will cover a significant portion of the Old Testament, focusing on history as a foundation for understanding the prophets and poetry. Hildebrandt says, "We'll spend a lot of time on the history and the history will lay the background for the poetry and the prophets." He emphasizes that a goal is content mastery.

## 2. Cultural and Literary Background:

- **Cultural Context:** The course stresses the importance of understanding the cultural context of the Old Testament. Dr. Hildebrandt notes that God adapted to the Hebrew language and culture, which significantly impacted communication. He asks, "When God comes down to write poetry, does he write Hebrew poetry? Yes, he does. So he adapts to their language and culture and that affects a lot of things in how he's going to communicate."
- **Hebrew Language and Poetry:** Hebrew reads from right to left and Hebrew poetry does not rely on rhyme and meter like English poetry, instead it uses parallelism of thought. Dr. Hildebrandt emphasizes, "Do you realize, Hebrew poetry does not use rhyme and meter? They rhyme thoughts using parallelism."
- **Geographical Significance:** Geography plays a significant role in understanding the Bible. Students will learn to "read geography like a language," exploring how places shape people's worldviews. Dr. Hildebrandt asks, "Does geography affect things? We're going to learn to read geography almost like a language." He uses examples from Tennessee to Massachusetts to demonstrate the impact of location on people's lives and beliefs. He also discusses Galilee vs. Jerusalem, stating "Galilee is where a bunch of hicks lived. So Jesus is from there."
- **Literary Forms:** God used literary forms of the day, such as the Hittite treaty form in Deuteronomy. Hildebrandt mentions, "The Hittites had their treaties and the book of Deuteronomy fits that literary form almost to a 'T'."

## 3. Biblical Translation and Transmission:

- **Textual History:** The course will investigate how the Bible was transmitted and translated over time, highlighting the potential for mistakes in copying and translation. Hildebrandt asks, "When the people copied it, did they ever make mistakes? When people translated it, from Hebrew into Greek, and then Greek into the Latin Vulgate, did they ever make mistakes?"
- **Translation Choices:** Different translations disagree with each other. Hildebrandt highlights the need for an understanding of how the Bible came from the original languages (Hebrew, Greek, Latin) and then came into English. He notes "When it comes over into English, do different translations disagree with each other? Which one do you pick? So how did the Bible come from way back then, and how does it come down to us now?"

- **Sarcasm:** Dr. Hildebrandt explicitly defines sarcasm as meaning the opposite of what is said in order to help students understand his style of teaching and thinking. He states, "When I say something sarcastic, that means I meant the exact opposite of what I just said."

#### 4. Course Materials and Technology:

- **Digital Resources:** The course will use a website with the course syllabus, articles, lectures, and the professor's own translation of the Bible called the Digital American Standard Version (DASV). He states, "So what I decided to do was to make my own translation of the Bible, and you say that's really arrogant and it probably is and it's probably stupid. Anyway I did it. What I'm calling it is the DASV. DASV is the Digital American Standard Version."
- **Accessibility:** The DASV is designed to be accessible with options for different font sizes, audio versions (MP3s), and multiple formats (HTML, DOC, PDF).
- **Cost-Effective Materials:** Dr. Hildebrandt leverages the internet to make course materials available at a minimal cost for students. He explains, "Leverage the digital medium for the good of others and for the glory of God." He has his own website where he posts articles from various scholars (with permission), lecture notes, and his own translated version of the bible for a small fee (\$10). He discusses how publishers make the bulk of the money and authors receive very little.
- **Required Textbook:** The only required purchase is Dr. Marv Wilson's book, *Our Father Abraham*.
- **PowerPoints:** The professor's PowerPoint presentations are available for download, encouraging students to focus on understanding rather than note-taking.

#### 5. Assignments and Grading:

- **Reading:** Students are required to read Genesis 1-25.
- **Transcribing:** Students will work in groups to transcribe audio lectures and will be introduced to ways to use media player to slow down audio. Hildebrandt states, "So what you're going to do is, I'm going to give you a ten minute section of audio and you're going to type up what the person said. I call it "transcribing.""
- **Quizzes and Tests:** There will be quizzes every Thursday and tests approximately every fifth week.



- **Extra Credit:** Students can earn extra credit by doing additional transcriptions or memorizing scripture.
- **Honors Option:** Students who perform well on early quizzes and exams can earn the option to bypass the final exam by completing two transcriptions.

## 6. Foundational Beliefs and Theological Arguments:

- **Existence of God:** The course is based on the assumption that God exists, as the Bible is considered the Word of God. He states "If this is the Word of God, then our first assumption is that there is a what? There is a God."
- **Cosmological Argument:** The course presents the cosmological argument (cause and effect) for the existence of God as the First Cause. Hildebrandt states, "Cause-effect, cause-effect, cause-effect. Can cause-effect, cause – effect work all the way down over thousands of years of causes-effects?" He asks, "What is the first cause that caused everything?"
- **Teleological (Design) Argument:** The teleological argument (argument from design) is introduced with the "Jolly Green Giant" analogy, using the order in the classroom as an illustration of the universe's design. Hildebrandt asks, "When you see order, if you came into this room and you were just born out of the cosmic ether and you came into this room and you walked into this room as your first experience as a little baby walking in, and you looked around and saw these chairs, would you assume these chairs were from a glacier that pushed these chairs into this order?" He also uses the example of the nawamis in Sinai (rock structures facing west) to show design.
- **Intelligent Design:** Intelligent design is briefly discussed, recognizing that there are people with differing opinions.

## 7. Guest Lecture:

- **Big Bang Theory:** Dr. Perry Phillips will give a lecture on the Big Bang Theory and its connection to the idea of God. Dr. Hildebrandt speaks highly of Dr. Perry Phillips as both a friend and a first rate scientist.

## 8. Key Quotes:

- "History is going to be really important in the Old Testament because God is going to do these incredible things in history."
- "They rhyme thoughts using parallelism."
- "Does geography affect things? We're going to learn to read geography almost like a language."
- "When God comes down to write poetry, does he write Hebrew poetry? Yes, he does. So he adapts to their language and culture and that affects a lot of things in how he's going to communicate."
- "Part of becoming Christian is having your view of God blown apart. Not blown apart into atheism, but blown apart into worshiping God for who he really is."
- "I want you to see modeled someone who is taking the word of God, the Old Testament, and showing the connection with 21st century life."
- "Cause-effect, cause-effect, cause-effect. Can cause-effect, cause – effect work all the way down over thousands of years of causes-effects?"
- "If this is the Word of God, then our first assumption is that there is a what? There is a God."
- "When I say something sarcastic, that means I meant the exact opposite of what I just said."
- "We're going to learn to read geography almost like a language."
- "So what I decided to do was to make my own translation of the Bible, and you say that's really arrogant and it probably is and it's probably stupid. Anyway I did it. What I'm calling it is the DASV. DASV is the Digital American Standard Version."

This briefing document provides a comprehensive overview of Dr. Hildebrandt's introductory lecture, covering the course's objectives, methodologies, and philosophical foundations. It highlights the importance of understanding the Old Testament within its historical, cultural, and literary context, as well as its relevance for personal faith and spirituality.

## 5. FAQs on Hildebrandt, Old Testament Literature, Session 1, Introduction, Theistic Proofs, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ: Old Testament History, Literature, and Theology Course

1. **What is the primary focus of this Old Testament course?**
2. This course explores the Old Testament through the lens of its history, literature, and theology. It emphasizes how God interacted with people across a span of about 1500 years, highlighting the cultural, geographic, and literary contexts that shaped the text. It aims to provide a deep understanding of the content of the Old Testament and to understand the nature of God as revealed in it, leading students to a love for God and his Word.
3. **How important is historical context when studying the Old Testament?**
4. Historical context is crucial because the Old Testament records God's actions within real historical events, not just myths or legends. Understanding the historical setting, the people, their cultures, and geographic locations, helps in grasping the messages of the text as it was originally understood. The course treats geography as a kind of language, as locations and environments played an important role in people's lives.
5. **How will this course approach the literary nature of the Old Testament, especially poetry?**
6. The course will address the different literary forms used in the Old Testament, such as Hebrew poetry, and how they influence the message. It will focus on the fact that Hebrew poetry, for example, does not use rhyme and meter like English poetry but uses parallelism of thought. This includes understanding how God chose to communicate within the literary conventions of the time and culture. It will explore various literary forms like the Hittite treaty form and discuss how these influenced the structure of the text, for example, Deuteronomy.

7. **How does this course address the idea of personal spirituality within the context of the Old Testament?**
8. A key goal of the course is to connect the ancient Old Testament with 21st-century life by making God the object of love, wonder, and mystery. The instructor will share personal stories to model how to apply biblical principles to modern situations, aiming to help students develop a personal connection with God through the study of the Old Testament. This also includes having students think about and challenge their preconceived notions about God as an idol.
9. **What is the significance of considering culture when studying the Old Testament?**

Culture is very significant. God adapts to specific languages and cultures when he communicates and that significantly affects how he communicates. The Old Testament is written in Hebrew and reflects a Middle Eastern context. Understanding this different cultural context is vital to interpreting the text correctly and helps us understand the thought patterns of the people in the text.

1. **What is the DASV, and why was it created?**
2. The DASV (Digital American Standard Version) is a custom translation of the Bible developed for the course. It was created to address the accessibility needs of students with visual impairments and to provide an easily searchable, digital format of the Bible. It is based on the ASV of 1901, but updated. The DASV is available in HTML, DOC, and PDF formats, and also includes audio MP3s. This is so the text can be read, edited, listened to, and accessed on multiple devices.
3. **How will the online course resources be used in this class?**
4. The online resources include the course syllabus, all reading materials, lectures, articles from other scholars, audio files, and PowerPoint slides, which can be downloaded by students. All the materials are available in different formats such as HTML, DOC, PDF and MP3. Additionally, there's an online Bible quizzer which provides interactive quizzes over different sections of the Old Testament which is set up to help students master the content. The course emphasizes utilizing the Internet and digital mediums to make resources more accessible and to make students more active in producing scholarly work.

5. **What types of arguments are presented to support the belief in God's existence in this course?**
6. The course introduces both the cosmological argument and the teleological argument. The cosmological argument focuses on cause-and-effect, stating that the existence of the universe implies a "first cause," which the course identifies as God. The teleological argument (or argument from design) highlights the order and complexity of the universe, suggesting that it was created by a designer rather than occurring by chance. An example used is how a room with ordered chairs must have had someone place them that way. It further argues that the universe is much more ordered than a room full of chairs. The course will also discuss the Big Bang Theory and how scientists view the origin of the universe.