

OT550 Exodus to Exile  
Biblical Theological Seminary  
Winter Semester, 2007  
Dr. J. Robert Vannoy

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course takes a close look at the deliverance of the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt, their establishment as God's covenant people at Mt. Sinai, and the ways in which the Israelites either embraced or rejected their covenantal obligations from the time they left Mt. Sinai (1400-1200 B.C) until they returned from exile at about 500 BC. The focus of classroom discussion will be on the narrative material of the Pentateuch, and the books of Joshua, Judges and 1, 2 Samuel. Included in class discussion and outside assignments is a look at how one is to find meaning for today from Old Testament historical narratives. Are these narratives to be understood primarily as providing illustrations from the lives of Old Testament rogues or saints of either ungodly or godly behavior that God's people today should either shun or imitate? Or are these narratives more properly understood as intended to describe how God was at work in the Old Testament period to bring to pass his great plan of redemption? Or is it some combination of both these perspectives? How does one's point of view on these questions affect the way in which contemporary meaning and value is found Old Testament narrative? While part of the intent of the course is simply familiarization with the content of Old Testament historical narratives and their historical setting in the ancient world, including the light that archaeological findings throw on their literary, historical and social context, the overriding purpose of the course is to discern the theological perspective that comes to expression in some of the greatest narrative literature ever written. The early history of Israel provides important background for the understanding the nature of God's redemptive work on behalf of his people. This course provides a survey of Israel's history as recorded in Exodus through 2 Kings, with special attention given to selected periods. The course also addresses the hermeneutics of biblical narrative. Prerequisite: Genesis: Foundations in Biblical History. *Three hours.*

### METHOD OF THE COURSE

1. Class will meet on Monday afternoons at 4:30-7:15 P.M. As a 3 credit hour course, approximately 9 hours of work will be required per week (1 hour in class, 2 hours outside class per credit hour).
2. The reading assignments are an important part of the course. Lectures are designed to supplement rather than duplicate material covered in the readings. A reading assignment is given each week (see the assignment schedule) with the possibility of a quiz on each due date (limited to readings from E. Merrill). It is advisable to read the assigned material carefully, taking good notes while reading. Study the notes for the quizzes; review the notes for the mid-term and final exams. Knowledge of factual information as well as understanding of concepts will be required.

3. Lectures will center on the Exodus and Sinai materials (1,2 Kings, for example, will not be addressed until the last class and then only very briefly) along with focus on some specific interpretive issues rather than attempting to cover in superficial survey fashion the entire span of OT history. For this reason a great deal of the content of the course is dependent on the reading assignments.

4. Grading:

- 1/3 Quizzes on reading and written work on Hebrew narrative.  
*Quizzes may not be made up if missed unless due to sickness or extreme emergency.*
- 1/3 Mid-term exam (primarily on lectures, but also some questions from assigned readings).
- 1/3 Final exam (also primarily on lectures, but with some questions from assigned readings).

5. Required texts:

E. H. Merrill, Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel.  
Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.

Sidney Greidanus, The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text. Chapter 9,  
“Preaching Hebrew Narratives,” Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988,  
pp. 188-227.

Sidney Greidanus, “Redemptive History and Preaching,” Pro Rege 19/2  
(1990) 9-18.

Sidney Greidanus, Preaching Christ from the Old Testament, Chapter 7,  
“Steps from Old Testament Text to Christocentric Sermon.”  
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999, pp. 279-292.

The historical books of the Old Testament (Exodus - Nehemiah)

Reference will be made to numerous other books and articles in the lectures to enable the interested student to work further into particular problems. Consult the “Selected Bibliography.”

## PURPOSES OF THE COURSE

By means of the lectures and assignments of this course the student shall be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the main facts, persons, places, and events of the Old Testament historical narratives of Exodus through Nehemiah.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of the meaning and significance of Old Testament events in the context of redemptive history.
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of some of the archaeological findings that have a bearing on the credibility and elucidation of Old Testament history.
4. Demonstrate an awareness of some of the arguments, that have been made against the reliability of the historical statements in the Old Testament, along with appropriate responses that may be made to such allegations.
5. Demonstrate an ability to practice sound methods of biblical interpretation, particularly as this relates to the narrative sections of the Old Testament.

## Biblical Seminary's policy on Plagiarism

To plagiarize is “To steal or purloin and pass off as one’s own (ideas, writings, etc., of another)” (*Webster’s new collegiate dictionary*, 1953). Plagiarism is theft. Not putting the definition above within quotation marks, not crediting Webster’s (via the text citation), or changing a word (e.g., “claim” for “pass off”) and presenting the definition as your own would all be plagiarism. In other words, plagiarism is using someone else’s material without giving that person credit. Other forms of plagiarism include mixing unmarked quotations with your own words and putting a single reference at the end of the paragraph, buying a paper from a term paper service (from any source, including one of those online), turning in a paper written by a student who already took the course, or having someone else write your paper. If in doubt, ask your professor or the library staff *before* you turn it in.

Any paper containing plagiarized material will receive a zero (0%). You may appeal this policy to the faculty, who could forgive you **or** discipline you further by, e.g., expulsion or failure for the course.

OT550 Exodus to Return from Exile  
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Assignment Schedule

Dates given are due dates.

<b>Mon. Jan. 15</b>	<b>No Class – Martin Luther King Holiday</b>
	Merrill: Chapters 1, 2
	Bible: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy,
Mon. Jan. 22	Merrill: Chapters 3, 4
	Bible: Joshua, Judges
Mon. Jan. 29	Merrill: Chapter 5, 6
	Bible: 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel 1-12
Mon. Feb. 5	Merrill: Chapters 7, 8
	Bible: 2 Samuel 13-1 Kings 11
	1 Chronicles 1-2 Chronicles 9
Mon. Feb. 12	Merrill: Chapters 9, 10
	Bible: 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 14
	2 Chronicles 10-25
	<b>Learn the names of the kings of Israel and Judah for the final Exam (p. 320, Merrill)</b>
<b>Mon. Feb. 19</b>	<b>MID-TERM EXAMINATION</b>
Mon. Feb. 26	Sidney Greidanus, <u>The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text</u> , Chapter 9, “Preaching Hebrew Narratives,” pp. 188-227.
	Sidney Greidanus, “Redemptive History and Preaching,” <u>Pro Rege</u> 19/2 (1990) 9-18.
Mon. Mar. 5 and 12 (due date: Mar. 19)	
	Sidney Greidanus, <u>Preaching Christ from the Old Testament</u> , Chapter 7, “Steps from Old Testament Text to Christocentric Sermon,” pp. 279-292.
	Write a 2 page discussion of the meaning of 1 Samuel 17 (David and Goliath) in its Old Testament context and its meaning for us today, giving attention to the way in which a redemptive historical

perspective both informs and governs the significance that this passage has for a contemporary reader. In a general way attempt to implement the suggestions of Sidney Greidanus for finding contemporary meaning from Old Testament historical narratives.

Mon. Mar. 19	Merrill:	Chapters 11, 12
	Bible:	2 Kings 15-25, 2 Chronicles 26-36
Mon. March 26	Merrill:	Chapters 13, 14
	Bible:	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
Mon. April 2	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>	

### Extra Credit Options

Extra credit may be gained for this course by reading one or both of the following books, and submitting a three page typewritten report for each book, summarizing the most important things you have learned from the book.

1. Tremper Longman III,  
Making Sense of the Old Testament. Three Crucial Questions. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.
2. Tremper Longman III,  
Immanuel in our Place. Seeing Christ in Israel's Worship. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing House, 2001.

### Grading:

You will raise your final grade by:

- .5 of a grade point for an A on your report
- .4 of a grade point for a B on your report
- .3 of a grade point for a C on your report.

No credit will be given for a report that receives less than a C.

This means that if you read both books the maximum that you can raise your final grade is by one grade point – that is from a B to an A or from a C to a B, etc.

### Due date:

April 2, 2007. No extensions.

### Web sites and e-mail addresses of publishers:

Baker Book House

Web site: [www.bakeracademic.com](http://www.bakeracademic.com)

E-mail: [orders@bakerbooks.com](mailto:orders@bakerbooks.com)

Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing House

Web site: [www.prpbooks.com](http://www.prpbooks.com)

E-mail: [sales@prpbooks.com](mailto:sales@prpbooks.com)

## OT550 EXODUS TO RETURN FROM EXILE

### Class Lecture Schedule

Week 1	Course Introduction. Exodus
Week 2	Exodus continued
Week 3	Exodus continued
Week 4	Exodus continued. Leviticus
Week 5	Numbers / Deuteronomy
Week 7	Mid-Term Exam
Week 8	Joshua
Week 9	Judges
Week 10	1,2 Samuel
Week 11	1, 2 Samuel continued
Week 12	United Kingdom / Divided Kingdom
Week 13	Final Exam

CLASS LECTURE OUTLINE

- I. The deliverance from Egypt - Exodus 1-11
  - A. The book of Exodus
  - B. The historical setting (the problem of the date of the exodus)
  - C. The oppression - Exodus 1:1-2:25; 5
  - D. The deliverer - Exodus 3:1-7:13
  - E. The plagues - Exodus 7:14-11:10
  - F. The Passover - Exodus 12:1-13:16
  - G. The departure from Egypt and the escape through the Red Sea - Exodus 13:17-15:21
  
- II. Israel in the wilderness - Exodus 15:22 to the end of Deuteronomy
  - A. The importance of this period
  - B. General features
    - 1. Redemption is foremost
    - 2. The promised land was the goal
    - 3. God's supernatural care for His people
    - 4. The giving of the law
  - C. From Egypt to Sinai - Exodus 15:22-18:27
    - 1. Manna and quails given - Exodus 16
    - 2. At Rephidim - Exodus 17-18
      - a. Water provided Exodus - 17:1-7
      - b. Victory over the Amelekites - Exodus 17:8-16
      - c. Jethro's advice - Exodus 18
  - D. At Sinai - Exodus 19 to Numbers 10:10
    - 1. The establishment of the Sinaitic covenant - Exodus 19 - 24:8
      - a. The covenant presented - Exodus 19:3-8
      - b. Arrangements for the declaration of the foundational law - Exodus 19:9-25
      - c. The foundational law proclaimed - Exodus 20:1-17
      - d. The people's fear - Exodus 20:18-21
      - e. The Book of the Covenant - Exodus 20:22 - 23:33
      - f. The covenant formally ratified - Exodus 24:1-11
    - 2. Ancient Near Eastern vassal treaties and the Sinaitic covenant
      - a. The Hittite treaties
      - b. Form of the treaties
      - c. The Hittite treaties of the 2nd millennium BC differ in form from later treaties (7th century Assyrian treaties and 8th century Aramaic treaties)
      - d. The treaties and the biblical covenant



3. Additional detailed instructions given on the mount - Exodus 24:9-31:18
    - a. Directions for the construction of the tabernacle - Exodus 25:1 to end of 27
    - b. Directions for the priesthood - Exodus 28:1 to end of 30
    - c. Workmen provided by the LORD - Exodus 31:1-11
    - d. The Sabbath stressed - Exodus 31:12-17
    - e. The tables of stone - Exodus 31:18
  4. The golden calf - Exodus 32:1 - 35:3
    - a. The first great apostasy of Israel - Exodus 32:1-6
    - b. Moses' first intercession - Exodus 32:7-14
    - c. Moses returns to the camp - Exodus 32:15-24
      - 1) Destruction of the tables of stone
      - 2) Aaron's lame excuses
    - d. Vengeance on the people - Exodus 32:25-29
    - e. Further intercession - Exodus 32:30-33:23
    - f. The covenant renewed - Exodus 34:1-35
  5. The tabernacle is built - Exodus 35:1-39:43
  6. The tabernacle is set up - Exodus 40
  7. The book of Leviticus
    - a. Name
    - b. General comments on content
  8. Laws regarding sacrifice - Leviticus 1-7
  9. Consecration of priests - Leviticus 8-9
  10. The rebellion of Nadab and Abihu - Leviticus 10
  11. Other laws - Leviticus 11-27 (including the Day of Atonement, Leviticus 16)
  12. Preparation for leaving Sinai - Numbers 1:1-10:10
    - a. The book of Numbers
      - 1) Name
      - 2) Content - chronological framework for the book
    - b. The men of war numbered and positions assigned - Numbers 1:1-2:24
    - c. The Levites are numbered and their duties assigned - Numbers 3:1-4:49
    - d. The law of jealousy - Numbers 5:11-31
    - e. The law of the Nazarite - Numbers 6:1-21
    - f. The offering of the princes at the dedication of the altar - Numbers 7:1-89
    - g. The second passover after leaving Egypt - Numbers 9:1-14
    - h. Divine provision for direction and guidance - Numbers 9:15-10:10
- E. From Sinai to the Plains of Moab - Numbers 10:11-22:1
1. The first stage of the journey - Numbers 10:11-36
  2. Rebellion and dissatisfaction - Numbers 11:1-12:16
  3. The twelve spies - Numbers 13:1-14:45

4. Laws after the crisis - Numbers 15:1-41
  5. The rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram - Numbers 16-19
  6. Incidents on the way to the Plains of Moab - Numbers 20-22:1
    - a. The death of Miriam - Numbers 20:1
    - b. The sin of Moses and Aaron - Numbers 20:2-13
    - c. Edom's refusal to allow passage - Numbers 20:14-21
    - d. The death of Aaron - Numbers 20:22-29
    - e. Victory over Arad - Numbers 21:1-3
    - f. The brazen serpent incident - Numbers 21:4-9
    - g. March around Moab - Numbers 21:10-20
    - h. Victory over Sihon - Numbers 21:21-32
    - i. Victory over Og, King of Bashan - Numbers 21:33-35
    - j. Arrival in the Plains of Moab - Numbers 22:1
  - F. The Balaam incident - Numbers 22-25:18
  - G. Preparations for entrance into Canaan - Numbers 26:1-36:13
    1. A new census - Numbers 26
    2. A special problem regarding inheritance - Numbers 27:1-11
    3. Appointment of a new leader for the conquest of Canaan - Numbers 27:1-11
    4. Laws regarding sacrifice and vows - Numbers 28-30
    5. Vengeance on the Midianites - Numbers 31
    6. Apportionment of Trans-Jordan - Numbers 32
    7. Summary of journeys - Numbers 33:1-49
    8. Plans for division of Canaan - Numbers 33:50-36:13
  - H. Moses' last days
    1. The Book of Deuteronomy
      - a. Its name
      - b. The significance of Deuteronomy in the Old Testament canon
      - c. Date
    2. The death of Moses - Deuteronomy 34
- III. The Book of Joshua
- A. Introductory remarks
    1. Basic theme and structure
    2. Primary character
    3. External evidence for historical events recorded in Joshua
    4. Contemporary approaches to the establishment of Israel in Canaan.
      - a. Traditional view: the conquest model
      - b. Migration model
      - c. Peasant revolt model
  - B. The entry into Canaan - Joshua 1:1-5:12
    1. Joshua's commission - Joshua 1:1-9
    2. The people mobilized - Joshua 1:10-18
    3. The sending of spies to Jericho - Joshua 2
    4. Crossing over Jordan - Joshua 3:1-5:1

5. Circumcision and encampment at Gilgal - Joshua 5:2-12
  - C. The conquest of Canaan - Joshua 5:13-12:24
    1. The conquest of Jericho - Joshua 6
    2. The attack on Ai - Joshua 7-8
    3. Renewal of the covenant at Shechem - Joshua 8:30-35
    4. The southern campaign - Joshua 9-10
    5. The northern campaign - Joshua 11:1-20
    6. Summary of the conquest - Joshua 11:21-12:24
  - D. The division of the land - Joshua 13-22
  - E. Joshua's last days - Joshua 23-24
- IV. The Book of Judges
- A. Introductory remarks
  - B. Chronology - survey of the problem
  - C. The Ancient Near Eastern situation from 1200-1050
  - D. The structure and content of Judges
    1. The historical background for the period to be described further in the book - Judges 1:1-2:5
    2. The theological basis for the proper understanding of the book of Judges - Judges 2:6-3:4
    3. The stories of the major and minor judges - Judges 3:5-16:31
      - a. The major and minor judges
      - b. Brief comments on outstanding judges
        - 1) Deborah and Barak - Judges 4-5
        - 2) Gideon - Judges 6-8
        - 3) Jephtah - Judges 10:6-12:7
        - 4) Samson - Judges 13:1-16:31
    4. The spiritual and moral deterioration in the time of the judges illustrated - Judges 17-21
      - a. Micah's private sanctuary is robbed of its idols and priest- Judges 17-18
      - b. Civil war against Benjamin occasioned by the sexual abuse and murder of a woman - Judges 19-21
- V. The Books of 1,2 Samuel
- A. General Comments
    1. Name
    2. A brief survey of content and its significance
  - B. Important advances in the history of redemption in 1,2 Samuel
  - C. The life of Samuel
    1. Ancestry and youth - 1 Samuel 1-3
    2. The loss and subsequent return of the ark - 1 Samuel 4:1-6:21
    3. The victory at Eben-ezer - 1 Samuel 7
    4. Samuel is established as a leader in Israel - 1 Samuel 7:15-17
    5. The establishment of kingship and covenant continuity - 1 Samuel 8-12

6. Samuel rejects Saul - 1 Samuel 13,15
7. Samuel's death and "appearance" to Saul - 1 Samuel 25, 28

VI. The united kingdom

- A. Saul
- B. David
- C. Solomon

VII. The divided kingdom

- A. 1, 2 Kings
  1. Name and scope of content
  2. Purpose
  3. Structure
- B. 1, 2 Chronicles

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY KEYED TO CLASS LECTURE OUTLINE

GENERAL RESOURCES

HISTORICAL ISSUES

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\_\_\_\_\_. "Traditional Site of Bethel Questioned," WTJ 34/1 (1971) 39-50.

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## II. ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS - EXODUS 15:22 TO THE END OF DEUTERONOMY

II.B.2. Kaiser, W. "The Promise Theme and the Theology of Rest," BibSac 130 (1973) 135-149

II.C.1. Keil, C. F. Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament. Vol. 2. The Pentateuch. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959, 67.

II.D.1.a. Kaiser, W. Toward an Old Testament Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978, 110-113.

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