

# Dr. Robert Vannoy, Foundations of Biblical Prophecy, Lecutre 1A, Session 1, Course Introduction Resources from NotebookLM

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

## 1. Abstract of Vannoy, Foundations of Biblical Prophecy, Session 1, Course Introduction, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Robert Vannoy's lecture introduces a course on the foundations of biblical prophecy, focusing on understanding the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel and the content within the Old Testament's prophetic books. The course aims to explore the nature of prophecy, including discerning true from false prophets, and its apologetic value. **Students will study hermeneutical principles for interpreting prophetic writings, critical theories concerning authorship (particularly of Isaiah and Daniel), and the relevance of prophetic messages for today.** Methods involve readings from Bullock's Introduction and other works, lectures, classroom discussion, and written assignments including an exegetical paper on Hosea, an analysis of Amos 9:11-13, and reports on assigned readings. **Extra credit opportunities involve exploring the continuity and discontinuity between the Testaments and the future of Israel.** The course uses additional resources like lecture outlines, bibliographies, citations, and PowerPoint slides.

**2. 21 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Vannoy, Foundations of Biblical Prophecy, 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 → Major Prophets → Foundations).**



**Vannoy\_FoundProp  
hecy\_Session01.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Vannoy, Foundations of Biblical Prophecy, Session 1, Course Introduction

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Robert Vannoy's "Foundations of Biblical Prophecy, Lecture 1A."

#### Briefing Document: Robert Vannoy, Foundations of Biblical Prophecy, Lecture 1A

##### I. Overview

This document summarizes Lecture 1A of Robert Vannoy's "Foundations of Biblical Prophecy" course. The lecture primarily focuses on outlining the course's objectives, methods, and assignments, while also introducing key concepts related to the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel and the interpretation of prophetic texts.

##### II. Main Themes and Ideas

- **Course Description and Objectives:** The course has a "two-fold purpose":
  - "To introduce to the student to the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel." This involves examining the characteristics of prophecy, its origins, and its unique features compared to prophetic phenomena in other ancient cultures.
  - "To familiarize the student with the content of the prophetic books of the Old Testament." This entails studying the messages and historical contexts of the major and minor prophets.
- Specific objectives include: examining the phenomenon of prophetism in ancient Israel; familiarity with the writings of the prophets of Israel; learning principles of hermeneutics relative to the prophetic writings; acquaintance with critical theories concerning the authorship and character of prophetic books (Isaiah and Daniel); and relevance of the prophetic writings to the church today.
- **The Phenomenon of Prophecy:** The lecture raises several critical questions regarding the nature of prophecy in ancient Israel:
  - The origin of prophetism: "Is this a phenomenon that was simply a creation of the genius of these ancient Israelite people? Did they borrow it from some other surrounding nations...?"
  - Distinguishing between true and false prophets: "...How could the ancient Israelite distinguish between a true and a false prophet? When you read through

the prophetic books, it becomes particularly clear in Jeremiah... Yet, they give two contradictory messages."

- The role of prophets within the cult: "Were the prophets cultic functionaries? There's a whole school of thought that says the prophets were very much like the priests in the employ of the temple..."
- The apologetic value of prophecy: "Can you argue from prophecy and its subsequent fulfillment... that because this body of men spoke so long in advance about such remarkable things that happened much later in time historically, this is really an evidence for genuine revelation?"
- **Hermeneutical Principles:** The course will address the unique challenges of interpreting prophetic literature, including:
  - Prophetic time perspective.
  - Conditionality of prophetic statements.
  - The concept of "double-sense, double-reference" - the idea that prophets may speak of multiple events separated by long periods of time.
  - Importance of application.
- **Critical Theories and Authorship:** A significant portion of the course will address critical theories surrounding the authorship and dating of prophetic books, particularly Isaiah and Daniel.
- **Isaiah:** The lecture highlights the common scholarly view that Isaiah 40-66 (Deutero-Isaiah) was written by someone other than the 8th-century prophet Isaiah, due to its apparent knowledge of the Babylonian exile and the rise of Cyrus the Persian, events that occurred long after Isaiah's time. "So the question is, how could anyone have spoken in advance so clearly and so precisely about the rise of the Persian empire and the ruler Cyrus... In mainstream biblical studies the conclusion is that's impossible."
- **Daniel:** Similarly, the detailed prophecies in Daniel concerning the Seleucid persecution under Antiochus Epiphanes in the 2nd century BC lead many scholars to believe that the book was written around 160 BC rather than in the 6th century BC as traditionally held. "How could Daniel, writing back before 500 B.C., have known in advance in such detail what was going to play out 300 years later?"

- **Relevance for the 21st Century Church:** The course aims to explore the contemporary relevance of the prophetic writings. "...how do you find meaning from these books for today?"
- **Course Methods and Assignments:**
- **Readings:** Students will read all the major and minor prophetic books, C. Hasel Bullock's *Introduction to the Old Testament and Prophetic Literature*, and selections from Elizabeth Achtemeier and Donald Leggett on preaching from the prophets.
- **Lectures:** Lectures will supplement readings, focusing on aspects of prophetism and the books of Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, and Amos.
- **Assignments:** These include quizzes on Bullock's readings, an exegetical paper on Hosea, an exegetical analysis of Amos 9:11-13, and a written discussion of the readings from Achtemeier and Leggett. The Hosea paper requires students to engage with the "moral problem" of Hosea's marriage to Gomer, analyze a verse or section from Hosea using Hebrew exegesis, and comment on its significance for today.
- **Extra Credit:** Students can earn extra credit by reading chapters from *Continuity and Discontinuity, Perspectives on the Relationships Between the Testaments* and writing a paper on the relationship between Israel and the Church. This involves considering whether Old Testament kingdom prophecies refer to the Church or a future for national Israel.

### III. Key Quotes

- "Foundations of Biblical Prophecy has a two-fold purpose. One, to introduce to the student to the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel... but secondly, to familiarize the student with the content of the prophetic books of the Old Testament."
- "So the question is, how could anyone have spoken in advance so clearly and so precisely about the rise of the Persian empire and the ruler Cyrus, and that under Cyrus Israel would return from captivity? In mainstream biblical studies the conclusion is that's impossible."
- "How could Daniel, writing back before 500 B.C., have known in advance in such detail what was going to play out 300 years later? So the general conclusion of mainstream biblical studies has been, well, Daniel didn't write this..."

- "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;"
- "Returning to page 5: Do these prophecies speak in figurative language about the New Testament Church or do they have reference to a future involving some sort of a reconstituted nation of Israel? Does the Bible see a future for Israel, or is Israel superseded by the Church?"

#### **IV. Implications**

This lecture sets the stage for a comprehensive study of biblical prophecy, encompassing both its historical context and its ongoing relevance. It prepares students to critically engage with the text, consider different interpretive approaches, and grapple with complex issues related to authorship, dating, and theological implications. The course also emphasizes the practical application of prophetic texts for preaching and contemporary Christian life.

## **4. Study Guide: Vannoy, Foundations of Biblical Prophecy, Session 1, Course Introduction**

### **Foundations of Biblical Prophecy: A Study Guide**

#### **Quiz**

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What are the two main purposes of the "Foundations of Biblical Prophecy" course?
2. According to the lecture, what is one question that will be discussed regarding the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel?
3. How might an ancient Israelite distinguish between a true and a false prophet, according to the lecture?
4. What is one hermeneutical principle that is important for interpreting Old Testament prophetic writing?
5. Name the four minor prophets that will be discussed in class.
6. What critical theories concerning the authorship of which two prophetic books will be examined?
7. What is the central problem regarding Isaiah's authorship?
8. What is the significance of Elizabeth Achtemeier's work for this course?
9. What are the three sections of the Hosea term paper?
10. What is super-sessionism?

#### **Quiz Answer Key**

1. The two purposes are to introduce the student to the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel and to familiarize the student with the content of the prophetic books of the Old Testament.
2. One question is whether all of Israel's prophets received a special call to their prophetic task, or if the phenomenon was borrowed from other surrounding nations.
3. The lecture implies this is a difficult question without a clear answer but it is necessary for an Israelite because they are responsible for obeying the word of

the Lord coming from the mouth of God's prophets. The lecture does not provide any clear steps for how to determine a true prophet.

4. The prophetic time perspective, the conditionality of prophetic statements, and the idea of double-sense/double-reference are all important hermeneutical principles.
5. The four minor prophets that will be discussed in class are Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, and Amos.
6. The course will examine critical theories concerning the authorship and character of Isaiah and Daniel.
7. The central problem is that Isaiah 40-66 assumes the Babylonian captivity has already taken place, even though this event occurred over 150 years after Isaiah lived, suggesting a different author.
8. Her work provides insights on how to find meaning in preaching from the prophetic books for today.
9. The three sections are: (1) a discussion of the moral problem of Hosea's wife Gomer, (2) a selection of a verse, section, topic, or theme other than Gomer and a comment using Hebrew translation exegesis, and (3) a comment on the significance of the book of Hosea for the time in which it was written and bridge the historical gap to today.
10. Supercessionism is the theological view that the Church has replaced Israel, and there is no future for national or ethnic Israel in God's plan.

## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the apologetic value of biblical prophecy, considering both arguments for and against its use as evidence for divine revelation.
2. Explain the critical theories surrounding the authorship of either Isaiah or Daniel, providing the main arguments and counterarguments related to the dating of the prophetic texts.
3. Compare and contrast the approaches of Elizabeth Achtemeier and Donald Leggett in finding meaning for today in preaching from the prophetic books.

4. Analyze the problem of distinguishing between true and false prophets in ancient Israel, proposing criteria that could be used to evaluate prophetic claims.
5. Explore the issue of continuity and discontinuity between the Old and New Testaments, particularly in relation to the kingdom prophecies and the future of Israel.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Apologetic Value:** The potential use of biblical prophecy to defend the truthfulness of divine revelation and the Bible.
- **Cultic Functionaries:** Individuals serving as official personnel within a temple or sanctuary, performing religious duties and rituals.
- **Deutero-Isaiah:** The name given to the presumed author(s) of Isaiah 40-66 by scholars who believe this section was written later than Isaiah 1-39, likely during or after the Babylonian exile.
- **Double-Sense/Double-Reference:** A hermeneutical principle where a prophetic statement has two fulfillments, one near and one distant, potentially separated by a significant period of time.
- **Exegesis:** Critical interpretation or explanation of a text, particularly in the context of biblical study.
- **Hermeneutics:** The theory and methodology of interpretation, especially of scriptural texts.
- **Phenomenon of Prophetism:** The characteristics, origins, and nature of prophecy as it existed in ancient Israel and surrounding cultures.
- **Super-sessionism:** The theological doctrine that the Christian Church has replaced or superseded Israel as God's chosen people.
- **Seleucid Dynasty:** A Hellenistic dynasty that ruled a large part of Western Asia during the Hellenistic period.
- **Ptolemies Dynasty:** A Macedonian Greek royal family, which ruled the Ptolemaic Kingdom in Egypt during the Hellenistic period.



## **5. FAQs on Vannoy, Foundations of Biblical Prophecy, Session 1, Course Introduction, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)**

### **Foundations of Biblical Prophecy: An FAQ**

#### **1. What are the two main purposes of this course on biblical prophecy?**

This course aims to introduce students to the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel, examining its unique characteristics and origins. Additionally, it seeks to familiarize students with the content of the prophetic books of the Old Testament, including the messages and historical contexts of the major and minor prophets.

#### **2. What key questions will be explored regarding the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel?**

The course will delve into questions such as whether all Israelite prophets received a specific call, how prophetism originated in Israel (considering both internal and external influences), and whether parallels exist between Israelite prophecy and similar phenomena in other ancient cultures. Furthermore, it will address the challenge of distinguishing between true and false prophets, and whether prophets were cultic functionaries. The apologetic value of biblical prophecy will also be considered.

#### **3. What hermeneutical principles are important for interpreting Old Testament prophetic writings?**

The course will cover hermeneutical principles specific to prophetic writings, including the prophetic time perspective (how prophets viewed the future), the conditionality of prophetic statements (whether prophecies are always absolute or depend on certain conditions), and the concepts of double-sense or double-reference, where a prophet's words may apply to two different events separated by time.

#### **4. How will the course address critical theories surrounding the authorship and dating of prophetic books, particularly Isaiah and Daniel?**

The course will examine critical theories that challenge the traditional authorship of books like Isaiah and Daniel. For Isaiah, the focus will be on the division between chapters 1-39 and 40-66, with mainstream scholars attributing the latter to a later author (Deutero-Isaiah) due to its apparent knowledge of the Babylonian exile. Similarly, for Daniel, the course will explore arguments suggesting the book was written much later, around 160 B.C., based on its detailed prophecies about events during the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes.

### **5. How will the course help students connect the message of the Old Testament prophets to contemporary life?**

The course includes readings from authors like Elizabeth Achtemeier and Donald Leggett, who address the relevance of prophetic preaching for today. An assignment requires students to reflect on and summarize the key insights gained from these readings.

### **6. What are the major assignments in the course?**

Assignments include reading Bullock's "Introduction to the Old Testament and the Prophetic Books" as well as the prophetic books themselves. There will be quizzes on Bullock's readings, an exegetical paper on the book of Hosea, an exegetical analysis of Amos 9:11-13, and a written summary of readings related to preaching from the prophets. There are also mid-term and final exams.

### **7. What is the focus of the Hosea term paper?**

The Hosea term paper requires students to discuss the moral problem of Hosea's marriage to Gomer, analyze a selected verse, section, topic, or theme from Hosea using Hebrew exegesis, and comment on the significance of the book of Hosea for both its original context and contemporary readers.

### **8. What extra credit opportunity is available, and what issues does it explore?**

Students can earn extra credit by reading chapters from "Continuity and Discontinuity, Perspectives on the Relationships Between the Testaments" and writing a paper exploring the continuity and discontinuity between the Old and New Testaments, particularly concerning the kingdom prophecies and the relationship between Israel and the Church. This delves into the question of whether these prophecies refer to a future for national Israel or are fulfilled spiritually in the Church.