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OT 655 Exegesis of the Old Testament Historical Books

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OT 655 Exegesis of the Old Testament Historical Books

Fall Semester, 1999

1:00-2:15 T, Th

Instructor: Bill T. Arnold

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Exegetical studies of the succession narrative (also known as the “court history”) will enable students to develop the linguistic and exegetical competence required for interpreting the Hebrew text. The distinctive exegetical questions arising in the study of the historical books generally are addressed as well.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. To increase the student's facility in Classical Hebrew for the purpose of reading and comprehension of Old Testament texts.
- B. To broaden the student's understanding of ancient Israelite faith through firsthand experience with Hebrew literature.
- C. To continue developing the student's understanding of the grammatical structure of Classical Hebrew.
- D. To develop a Hebrew vocabulary commensurate with the student's increasing grammatical knowledge.
- E. To enhance the student's appreciation for the study of primary sources for personal reading and sermon preparation.

III. COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

A. Method of Instruction

The class will be conducted in seminar fashion with a combination of discussion and lecture. Class lectures will deal with topics of advanced grammar and the Hebrew verb as unusual forms are encountered in the readings. Discussion will center on selected readings from the succession narrative in 2 Samuel. Points of discussion will involve grammatical details, interpretative methodology, comparative Semitic observations and any questions stemming from the student's work on the text.

Students will be categorized in two groups depending on previous experience in Hebrew exegesis. Students for whom this is the first Hebrew exegesis course will be in track “A,” while those who have had other Hebrew Exegesis courses at ATS will be in track “B.” Differences in assignments for each group will be outlined below.

B. Required Textbooks

Brown, Francis; Driver, S. R.; and Briggs, Charles A. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1907; reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979.
Elliger, K.; and Rudolph, W. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-1977.

- Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkeley, CA: BIBAL Press, 1987.
- Watts, John D. W. *Lists of Words Occurring Frequently in The Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1960.
- Williams, Ronald J. *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1976).

C. Recommended Sources

- Blau, Joshua. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1976.
- Clines, David J. A., ed. *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. 8 volumes. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993-present. (available volumes: 1, a; 2, b-w; 3, z-f; 4, y-l are currently available.)
- Einspahr, Bruce, ed. *Index to Brown, Driver & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1976.
- Joüon, Paul. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Translated and revised by T. Muraoka from the 1923 French edition. 2 volumes. Subsidia Biblica, vols. 14/I-14/II. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1991.
- Kautzsch, Emil, ed. *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar*. 2nd English ed. Revised and translated by A. E. Cowley. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910.
- Kelley, Page H.; Mynatt, Daniel S.; and Crawford, Timothy G. *The Masorah of Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia: Introduction and Annotated Glossary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998).
- Koehler, L., and Baumgartner, W. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Revised by Walter Baumgartner and Johann Jakob Stamm. 4 volumes. Leiden: Brill, 1994. (Volumes 1-3 are currently available).
- Kutscher, Eduard Yechezkel. *A History of the Hebrew Language*. Edited by Raphael Kutscher. Jerusalem: Magnes, 1982.
- Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors*. Second edition. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984.
- VanGemeren, Willem A., ed. *The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 volumes. Zondervan Publishing House. 1997.
- Waldman, Nahum M. *The Recent Study of Hebrew: A Survey of the Literature with Selected Bibliography*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1989.
- Waltke, Bruce K., and O'Connor, M. *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

D. Assignments

Weekly readings will be assigned from selections of the succession narrative, found in 2 Samuel 9-20 and 1 Kings 1-2 (see schedule below). Students should be prepared to recite and/or discuss the assignments as given. Beginning with the assignment for October 28 and continuing each Thursday thereafter, students will be expected to participate in class discussion regarding grammar and vocabulary without reference to notes.

Because of the nature of the class, regular attendance and participation are especially expected. A portion of the final grade will be earned in this area. Additionally, there will be three exercises for learning **BDB** assigned early in the term. All of the work done for these assignments should be collected and submitted to the instructor on December 9 in the form of a notebook or file.

E. Examinations

Each Tuesday afternoon, class will begin with a vocabulary quiz. Specific weekly vocabulary assignments from Watts are included in the schedule below. These quizzes will be cumulative, and the student should review all vocabulary weekly in order to stay current. There will also be a reading exam given on December 14 (1:00 pm), in which the student will be asked to translate 4-5 verses of historical narrative from sight in a one-hour period, using **BDB** exclusively.

F. Text Criticism Paper (track A only)

The student will be required to submit a study of the text critical variants in his or her selected pericope on November 4. This 2-3 page paper should offer a preliminary overview of the textual uncertainties of the selected passage and draw tentative conclusions with regard to reconstructing and translating the original text. This material will then be included, with any modifications desired by the student, in the full exegesis paper described below.

G. Exegesis Paper

The focus of the class will be to assist the student in conducting a detailed exegetical study of a selected pericope from the OT historical books, culminating in a paper of 5000-6000 words (approximately 20-24 pages). The selection will normally be 3-5 verses. The student should notify the instructor on or before September 30 of the pericope selected. The paper should present the student's original translation of the verses with full text critical treatment. The paper should consider the canonical and historical contexts of the pericope, as well as the structural relationships within the unit itself. The paper will offer word studies as appropriate and should thoroughly draw out the theological and biblical ramifications of the unit. Please staple the paper in the upper left-hand corner, and submit with no binders or folders.

- IV. Student Evaluation
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Class performance/Notebook | 10% |
| Vocabulary quizzes | 20% |
| Reading examination | 15% |
| Text Critical study | 15% (track A only) |
| Exegesis paper | 40% (55% for track B) |
- V. Schedule of Assignments
- | | |
|---------|--|
| Sept 7 | Introduction |
| Sept 9 | 2 Samuel 11:1-5; BHS pp. XI-XVIII |
| Sept 14 | 2 Samuel 11:6-13; Vocabulary quiz (A : Lists I & II; B : List III) |
| Sept 16 | 2 Samuel 11:14-20; BDB exercise 1; Scott 1-15 |
| Sept 21 | 2 Samuel 11:21-27; Scott 16-34; Vocabulary quiz (A : Lists VI and VII; B : List IV.122-169) |
| Sept 23 | 2 Samuel 12:1-6; BDB exercise 2; Williams 3-26 |
| Sept 28 | 2 Samuel 12:7-12; Vocabulary quiz (A : Lists VIII & IX, 117-153; B : List IV.170-220) |
| Sept 30 | 2 Samuel 12:13-19; Williams 27-43; REPORT ON SELECTED PERICOPE DUE |
| Oct 5 | 2 Samuel 12:20-25; Vocabulary quiz (A : Lists IX, 154-191 & III, 60-91; B : List X.192-245) |
| Oct 7 | 2 Samuel 12:26-31; Williams 44-79 |
| Oct 12 | 2 Samuel 13:1-6; Vocabulary quiz (A : List III, 92-121; B : List X.246-296) |
| Oct 14 | 2 Samuel 13:7-14; Williams 80-90 |
| Oct 19 | 2 Samuel 13:15-22; Vocabulary quiz (A : List IV, 122-157; B : List X.297-346) |
| Oct 21 | 2 Samuel 13:23-28; Williams 91-101 |
| Oct 26 | 2 Samuel 13:29-37; Vocabulary quiz (A : List IV, 158-192; B : List V.221-253) |
| Oct 28 | 2 Samuel 13:38-14:3 |
| Nov 2 | 2 Samuel 14:4-10; Vocabulary quiz (A : List IV, 193-220; B : List V.254-291) |
| Nov 4 | 2 Samuel 14:11-17; TEXT CRITICISM PAPER DUE for track A |
| Nov 9 | 2 Samuel 14:18-24; Vocabulary quiz (A : List X, 192-245; B : List V.292-326) |
| Nov 11 | 2 Samuel 14:25-33 |

- Nov 16 2 Samuel 15:1-6; Vocabulary quiz (**A:** List X, 246-296; **B:** List V.327-369)
- Nov 18 2 Samuel 15:7-12
- Nov 30 2 Samuel 15:13-18; Vocabulary quiz (**A:** List X, 297-346; **B:** none)
- Dec 2 2 Samuel 15:19-26
- Dec 7 2 Samuel 15:27-37; PAPERS DUE
- Dec 9 2 Samuel 16:1-12; NOTEBOOKS DUE
- Dec 14 (1:00) FINAL EXAMINATION