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OT 619 Exegesis of 1-2 Samuel

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OT 619 The Books of Samuel

Instructor: Bill T. Arnold
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Prerequisites: IBS-1/OT501/OT520
Fall Semester, 2003
Wed/Fri 8 am

1. Course description

This course explores selected exegetical issues in the Books of Samuel, and provides students with opportunities to apply original-language tools to the book's strategic passages. The focus will be on developing appropriate interpretive skills for the pastoral ministry.

2. Course objectives

Students in this course will:

- 2.1. confirm and refine by recourse to the Hebrew text of 1-2 Samuel literary analysis of longer units previously studied in translation,
- 2.2 analyze the significance of the grammar and sentence structure of brief pericopes using primarily the Hebrew text,
- 2.3. present the significance of key terms in a given passage by using basic original language word-study tools and techniques,
- 2.4. identify the function of a given, brief passage of 1-2 Samuel in the framework of its immediate context, its function in the literary flow of the book and in the section of the canon within which it appears,
- 2.5. situate the thematic emphases of specific passages of 1-2 Samuel in the context of the Old Testament's unfolding message and in the context of the Bible as a whole,
- 2.6. demonstrate the impact of representative exegetical methods on the study of 1-2 Samuel, employing relevant scholarly literature, and situating one's own interpretation in the ongoing discussion of biblical interpretation,
- 2.7. illustrate the contribution of exegetical study of the Hebrew text to biblical exposition, instruction, theological reflection, and spiritual formation in order to construct an appropriation of the passage that is integrative and coherent.

3. Course procedures and requirements

3.1. Class presentations will hope to model direct study of 1-2 Samuel, relying primarily on interpretive skills introduced in OT 501 and IBS-1. After an introduction overviewing the contents of the books as wholes, class sessions will walk systematically through the units of 1-2 Samuel, highlighting specific passages that make notable contributions to the meaning of each unit. Grammatical and linguistic details of selected passages will be highlighted in order to illustrate the chosen pericope's contribution to the message of the larger unit. Students will be required to read selected sections of 1-2 Samuel in preparation for each class period.

3.2. Students will take brief quizzes weekly (Wednesdays) to review and reinforce elementary grammar and vocabulary. The central requirements during the term will be four exegetical papers on assigned texts from 1-2 Samuel, utilizing the skills acquired in OT 501 and IBS-1. These papers should be double-spaced and no more than six pages in length (i.e., approximately 1200-1300 words). No secondary resources are to be consulted for these papers, since the student will be encouraged to rely on his or her own reading of the text. The paper should present the student's observations of the text's components, including causal and temporal particles, connotations of the verbal derived stems and aspects, significance of word order, and where appropriate, implications of a specific word's usage elsewhere in the Old Testament. Also where appropriate to the specific pericope, students should show sensitivity to sociohistorical, canonical, and theological issues arising from the text itself. The four passages assigned will be 1 Samuel 7:2-4; 12:20-25; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; 12:7-10.

3.3. Students will write a final paper on a pericope to be chosen from the list below using the methods and skills acquired in the course. Secondary sources may be consulted, beginning with the preliminary bibliography provided in 4.3 below. The paper should also conclude in a brief sermon outline or lesson plan based on the specific observations raised in the paper. These papers should be double-spaced, typed, and no more than ten pages (i.e., approximately 2200 words) in length. Students will be allowed to select a text from the following options: 1 Samuel 2:6-10; 10:9-11; 12:13-15; 16:6-7; 16:11-13; 17:45-47; 18:12-16; 2 Samuel 7:8-11; 11:2-5; 12:1-6; 22:1-4; 23:5-7.

All papers should conform to "Chicago Manual Style," chapter 7 in *Form and Style*, by Slade, Campbell, and Ballou (available in the bookstore). In addition, excerpts from *The SBL Handbook of Style* (see 4.3 below for full bibliography) have been made available as a PDF file in the course center, and the *Handbook* should be consulted for all form-&-style questions related to biblical studies (ATS Reference collection, PN147 .S26 1999). The student should make sure his or her name is clearly visible on the first page of the paper along with the SPO number. The paper should be stapled in the upper left corner with no bindings or folders of any kind.

In general, ATS expects students "to invest two and one-half (2.5) to three (3.0) hours of work per week outside of class in preparation for every hour of credit to be earned" (*ATS Catalog*, 2001-2003, p. 25). In other words, you should spend approximately 7.5 to 9 hours of work per week on this class, in addition to the 2.5 hours of in-class time we spend together. If you find yourself spending significantly greater amounts of time, please see the instructor.

4. Course texts

4.1. Required specifically for OT 619.

Brueggemann, Walter. *First and Second Samuel*. Interpretation. Louisville, Ky.: John Knox Press, 1990.

McCarter, P. Kyle, Jr. *1 & 2 Samuel*. 2 vols. Anchor Bible 8 & 9. New York: Doubleday, 1980 and 1984.

4.2. Required in previous courses (OT 501).

Arnold, Bill T., and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. NB: Students who purchased previous versions of this (*A Guide for the Perplexed*) may continue to use the older version.

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77.

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament Based upon the Lexical Work of Ludwig Koehler and Walter Baumgartner*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1971.

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkeley, Calif.: BIBAL, 1987.

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

4.3. Recommended for final exercise (see 3.3 above).

Ackroyd, P. R. *Samuel*. Cambridge Bible Commentary. 2 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1971 and 1977.

Alter, Robert. *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel*. New York: W. W. North & Co., 1999.

Alexander, Patrick H., John F. Kutsko, James D. Ernest, Shirley A. Decker-Lucke, and David L. Petersen, eds. *The SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999.

Anderson, A. A. *2 Samuel*. Word Biblical Commentary 11. Dallas, Tex.: Word, 1989.

Arnold, Bill T. *1 and 2 Samuel*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2003.

Baldwin, Joyce. *1 and 2 Samuel: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries 8. Downers Grove, Ill.: Inter-Varsity, 1988.

Bergen, Robert D. *1, 2 Samuel*. New American Commentary 7. Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman and Holman, 1996.

Evans, Mary J. *1 and 2 Samuel*. New International Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament 6. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2000.

Gordon, Robert P. *1 and II Samuel: A Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1986.

Hertzberg, Hans Wilhelm. *I and II Samuel*. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1964.

Keil, C. F., and Franz Delitzsch. *Biblical Commentary on the Books of Samuel*. Trans. J. Martin. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1956.

Klein, Ralph W. *1 Samuel*. Word Biblical Commentary 10. Waco, Tex.: Word, 1983.

Newsome, James D. *I Samuel, II Samuel*. Knox Preaching Guides. Philadelphia: Westminster/John Knox, 1982.

- Payne, David F. *I and II Samuel*. Westminster Daily Study Bible. Philadelphia: Westminster/John Knox, 1982.
- Smith, H. P. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Books of Samuel*. Edinburgh: T and T Clark, 1898.
- Youngblood, Ronald F. "1, 2 Samuel." Pages 551-1104 in vol. 3 of *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Edited by Frank E. Gaebelin. 12 vols. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1992.

5. Student evaluation

5.1. Class attendance, preparation, and participation	10%
5.2. Grammatical & Vocabulary quizzes	25%
5.2. Exegetical assignments	40%
5.3. Final paper	25%

6. Outline of Unit Topics

The course is divided into 13 units, each of which will occupy about a week of class time. Students will be required to read the assigned sections of the biblical text and the relevant portions of Brueggemann and McCarter in preparation for each class period. These assignments, however, are tentative and adjustments may be made due to class interests or needs.

- 6.1. Introduction to the Study of the books of Samuel. Complete Reading of introductions in the two assigned commentaries.
- 6.2. 1 Samuel 1-3, and overview of Exegetical Process.
- 6.3. 1 Samuel 4-7
- 6.4. 1 Samuel 8-12. *First Short Exegetical Paper Due (Meaning of "return with all the heart" in 1 Samuel 7:3)*
- 6.5. 1 Samuel 13-15
- 6.6. 1 Samuel 16-26. *Second Short Exegetical Paper Due (Significance of "fear" and "serve" in 1 Samuel 12:20-25)*
- 6.7. 1 Samuel 27-31
- 6.8. 2 Samuel 1-4. *Third Short Exegetical Paper Due (2 Samuel 7:12-16)*
- 6.9. 2 Samuel 5-8
- 6.10. 2 Samuel 9-12. *Fourth Short Exegetical Paper Due (2 Samuel 12:7-10)*
- 6.11. 2 Samuel 13-14
- 6.12. 2 Samuel 15-20
- 6.13. 2 Samuel 21-24