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OT 619 Exegesis of 1-2 Samuel

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PRELIMINARY DRAFT

OT 619: Exegesis of 1-2 Samuel

Asbury Theological Seminary – Virtual Campus

Summer 2008

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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 books' strategic passages. Prerequisites: NT (IBS) 510 or 511; OT 520; OT 501. Maximum enrollment: 22. 3 credit hours.

Introduction

Welcome to OT 619 - Exegesis of 1-2 Samuel. During our exploration of this part of the Old Testament, you will reinforce your knowledge of the material in these books, understand their literary structure, place them in their historical context, and sharpen your interpretive skills. With plenty of help from the instructor, you will have the opportunity to enhance your abilities in translating the Hebrew text and using it for exegesis.

Finally, you will also reflect on the importance of 1-2 Samuel for the life of the church. I see this as particularly important, because for five years I served as pastor of United Methodist congregations in North and South Dakota, interpreting Scripture and preaching and teaching it to my congregation, just as some of you may be doing wherever you are.

Welcome again, and I hope you enjoy the course!

Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, students should be able to:

1. confirm and refine by recourse to the Hebrew text of 1-2 Samuel literary analysis of longer units previously studied in translation.
2. assess the textual integrity of shorter passages of Scripture employing the Hebrew text and apparatus and basic text-critical methodology.
3. analyze the significance of the grammar and sentence structure of brief pericopes using primarily the Hebrew text.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

4. present the significance of key terms in a given passage by using basic original language word-study tools and techniques.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Participation in class discussion in the forums – 10%
Regular participation is expected. Evaluation will be based on consistency and quality of responses, rather than on quantity. Discussion questions will be posted as part of each module.
2. Four exegetical papers – 10%, 10%, 10%, 15%
Each student will write four brief exegetical papers of 3-4 pages. These papers should make use of the exegetical methodologies taught during the course. Due dates for the papers are noted below in the course schedule.
3. Brief assignments – 10%
Many of the modules will call for the completion of brief assignments such as reflection papers or grammatical analysis of several verses of Hebrew text.
4. Book Review – 10%
Another requirement for this course is to write a review of Walter Brueggemann's book, *David's Truth in Israel's Imagination and Memory*, 2nd ed.
5. Final paper – 25%
The final paper will be a 10 page exegetical paper, integrating the various interpretive methods used in the course. It should also include a sermon or Bible study outline. Students should start planning early enough so that research materials can be secured from the library.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Note the catalogue descriptions of letter grades:

- A: Exceptional work; surpassing, remarkably outstanding achievement of course objectives.
- B: Good work. Strong, significant achievement of course objectives
- C: Acceptable work. Basic, essential achievement of course objectives
- D: Marginal work. Inadequate minimal achievement of course objectives
- F: Unacceptable work. Failure to achieve course objectives

Specific instructions for the exegetical papers, brief assignments and final paper will be posted in the modules.

How To Submit Work

You are, of course, encouraged to use Greek and Hebrew in your course work. To make this possible, please use the following fonts. Also, these are the fonts that I will use in the discussion center.

Hebrew: Use "**bwhebb**" You need to both download and install the font for it to work both in the Virtual Campus classroom and in your word processor.

To download this font, in First Class, go to ATS Info ->Student Information->Resource Center and click on the folder called "Fonts." Then click on "bwhebb" with your RIGHT mouse button. When the list pops up, left click on "download." When the box pops up, click on "save."

To install this font, open the file called "How to install the fonts" for instructions.

The keyboard map for this font is available at <http://www.bibleworks.com/fonts.html>.

Greek: If you make use of Greek, use "**bwgrkl**" which is available in the same location. Keyboard map is on the same website as the Hebrew font.

Required Reading

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

Arnold, Bill and John Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 2003

Brueggemann, Walter. *David's Truth in Israel's Imagination and Memory*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Tsumura, David Toshio. *The First Book of Samuel*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Expectations

of students.

- 1) All assignments must be completed and turned into the appropriate assignment link by 11:55 p.m. on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized by a 1/3 of a letter grade for each day they are late.
- 2) Students are expected to participate regularly in class discussion in the forums. Each module will include discussion questions calling for a response. Also, please reply to the responses of your fellow students. This portion of the grade will be calculated based on quality and regularity of responses, not quantity. Brief responses such as "Right on" or "I agree" don't count. Rather, posts should show evidence of thought and reasoning
- 3) Be polite and courteous in all of your communications.

of professor

- 1) I will check the forums and "To Professor" regularly for questions and concerns and respond as well as possible.
- 2) I will return all work within one week.

Course Schedule

Module 1 – Introductory Material **Due June 6**

Topics:

- 1) Introductions to the course and to each other
- 2) Review of exegetical procedures and methods
- 3) Introduction to and overview of 1-2 Samuel

Assignments

- 1) Brief assignment #1: Prepare an outline of all 1-2 Samuel
- 2) Read Tsumura, 11-46; 65-73
- 3) Participation in on-line discussion of posts pertaining to 1-2 Samuel.

Module 2 – 1 Samuel 1-6 **Due June 11**

Topics:

- 1) Review of Hebrew nouns and verbs
- 2) Review of deuteronomistic history; place of the Samuel story in dtr.
- 3) Introduction to redactional issues in 1 Samuel

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

- 4) Ark narrative

Assignments

- 1) Read 1 Samuel 1-7 and corresponding sections in Tsumura.
- 2) Read Tsumura, 46-55
- 3) Brief assignment #2: Do grammatical analysis of the passage assigned in module 2.
- 4) Respond to the discussion questions posted in module 2 (pertaining to the portrayal of Samuel) and respond to at least two of your classmates' postings on the questions.

Module 3 – 1 Samuel 8-15 **Due June 20**

Topics

- 1) Rise of the monarchy
- 2) Different views of monarchy reflected in 1 Samuel
- 3) Relationship between prophet and king in ancient Israel as reflected in 1 Samuel

Assignments

- 1) Brief assignment #3: Do a grammatical analysis of the passage assigned for module 3.
- 2) Read 1 Samuel 8-15 and corresponding sections in Tsumura.
- 3) Respond to the discussion questions posted in module 3 (pertaining to 1 Samuel's portrayal of the rise of the monarchy)
- 4) Write first exegetical paper

Module 4 – 1 Sam. 16-31 **Due June 25**

Topics

- 1) Textual criticism
- 2) Relationship between Samuel and Saul
- 3) David the mercenary
- 4) David and the Nob priesthood

Assignments

- 1) Read 1 Sam. 16-31 and the relevant material in Tsumura
- 2) Read Tsumura, 2-10
- 3) Brief assignment #4: Text criticism. Summarize the variants for the phrase given in the module 4 assignment. What are the arguments for each variant, and how do the variants affect the interpretation of the passage?
- 4) Participate in responding to the discussion questions for module 4.

Module 5 - 2 Samuel 1-7 **Due July 11**

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Topics

- 1) Civil war following the death of Saul
- 2) God's promise to David

Assignments

- 1) Read 2 Sam. 1-7 and relevant material in Anderson.
- 2) Read Psalms 89 and 132.
- 3) Read D. J. McCarthy, "II Samuel 7 and the Structure of the Deuteronomistic History."
- 4) Read Jon D. Levenson, "The Davidic Covenant and its Modern Interpreters."
- 5) Write second exegetical paper on passage from 2 Sam. 7
- 6) Respond to discussion questions for module 5.

Module 6 - 2 Samuel 8-12 **Due July 23**

Topics

- 1) David and Bathsheba

Assignments

- 1) Read 2 Sam. 8-12 and the relevant sections in Anderson
- 2) Write third exegetical paper
- 3) Respond to discussion questions

Module 7 - 2 Samuel 13-20 **Due August 4**

Topics

- 1) Rape of Tamar
- 2) Revolt of Absalom

Assignments

- 1) Read 2 Samuel 13-24 and the relevant sections of Anderson
- 2) Write fourth exegetical paper
- 3) Participate in class discussion
- 4) Begin work on final paper

Module 8 – The David Story as Literature

Topic: *David's Truth in Israel's Imagination and Memory*, by Walter Brueggemann

Assignments

- 1) Write a book review of *David's Truth in Israel's Imagination and Memory*, by Walter Brueggemann
- 2) Participate in an on-line discussion of the Brueggemann book

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Module 9 - Wrap-up and final paper **Due August 22**

Assignment

1) Write final paper

Supplementary Bibliography

Commentaries

Ackroyd, Peter A. *The First Book of Samuel*. CBC. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1971.

----- *The Second Book of Samuel*. CBC. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1977.

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

Arnold, Bill T. *1 & 2 Samuel*. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Baldwin, Joyce G. *1 and 2 Samuel: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Leicester/Downer's Grove: Intervarsity, 1989.

Brueggemann, Walter. *First and Second Samuel*. Interpretation Bible Commentaries. Louisville: John Knox, 1990.

Campbell, Antony F. *1 Samuel*. FOTL. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

----- *2 Samuel*. FOTL. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

Cartledge, Tony W. *1 & 2 Samuel*. Macon, GA: Smith & Helwys, 2000.

Evans, Mary J. *1 and 2 Samuel*. NIBC. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2000.

Hertzberg, Hans Wilhelm. *I and II Samuel*. Translated by J. S. Bowden. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1964.

Jobling, David. *1 Samuel*. Berit Olam. Collegeville: Liturgical, 1998.

Klein, Ralph W. *1 Samuel*. Word Biblical Commentary. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1983.

McCarter, P. Kyle. *I Samuel*. AB. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1980.

----- *II Samuel*. AB. New York: Doubleday, 1984.

Morrison, Craig. *2 Samuel*. Berit Olam. Collegeville: Liturgical, 2007.

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PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Peterson, Eugene H. *First and Second Samuel*. Westminster Bible Companion. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1999.

Robinson, Gnana. *Let Us be Like the Nations: A Commentary on the Books of 1 and 2 Samuel*. International Theological Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

Tsumura, David Toshio. *The First Book of Samuel*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Other Studies

Ackroyd, Peter R. "The Succession Narrative (So-Called)." *Interpretation* 35, no. 4 (1981): 383-96.

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

Flanagan, James W. "Court History or Succession Document? A Study of 2 Samuel 9-20 and 1 Kings 1-2." *JBL* 91, no. 2 (1972): 172-81.

Fokkelman, J. P. *Narrative Art and Poetry in the Books of Samuel*. Vol. 1, *King David (II Sam. 9-20 & 1 Kings 1-2)*. SSN. Assen: Van Gorcum, 1981.

Fokkelman, J. P. *Narrative Art and Poetry in the Books of Samuel*. Vol. 2, *The Crossing Fates (I Sam. 13-31 & II Sam. 1)*. SSN. Assen: Van Gorcum, 1981.

Fokkelman, J. P. *Narrative Art and Poetry in the Books of Samuel*. Vol. 3, *Throne and City (II Sam. 2-8 & 21-24)*. SSN. Assen: Van Gorcum, 1981.

Fokkelman, J. P. *Narrative Art and Poetry in the Books of Samuel*. Vol. 4, *Vow and Desire (I Sam. 1-12)*. SSN. Assen: Van Gorcum, 1981.

Gunn, David M. *The Story of King David: Genre and Interpretation*. JSOTS. Sheffield: JSOT, 1978.

Halpern, Baruch. *David's Secret Demons: Messiah, Murderer, Traitor, King*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Isser, Stanley. *The Sword of Goliath: David in Heroic Literature*. Studies in Biblical Literature. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.

Jones, Gwilym H. *The Nathan Narratives*. JSOTS. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1990.

Knoppers, Gary. "Ancient Near Eastern Royal Grants and the Davidic Covenant: A Parallel?" *JAOS* 116, no. 4 (1996): 670-97.

Levenson, Jon D. "The Davidic Covenant and Its Modern Interpreters." *CBQ* 41 (1979): 205-19.

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PRELIMINARY DRAFT

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JBL 84 (1965): 131-38.

McCarthy, Dennis J. "The Inauguration of Monarchy in Israel: A Form-Critical Study of I Samuel 8-12." *Interpretation* 27, no. 4 (1973): 401-12.

McKenzie, Steven L. *King David: A Biography*. Oxford: Oxford University, 2000.

Polzin, Robert. *Samuel and the Deuteronomist: A Literary Study of the Deuteronomistic History: Part Two: 1 Samuel*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1989.

Polzin, Robert. *David and the Deuteronomist: A Literary Study of the Deuteronomistic History: Part Three: 2 Samuel*. Bloomington: Indiana University, 1993.

Weinfeld, Moshe. "The Covenant of Grant in the Old Testament and in the Ancient Near East." *JAOS* 90, no. 2 (1970): 184-203.

ExL Contact Information

For **general questions regarding the ExL program**, email
ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu

For **technical support**, email ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu

Library/Information Commons Resources

ExL Contact Information:

For **general questions regarding the ExL program**, contact Dale Hale at
ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu

For **technical support**, contact the Information Commons at
ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu

For **library research support**, contact the Information Commons at
Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu

For **library loans**, contact Library Loan at
Library_Loan@asburyseminary.edu

Obtaining Library Materials and Assistance

1. **General Questions:** Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu, or
Toll-free 1-866-454-2733

- This is the best place to start when you have questions about library resources. Help is available Monday-Thursday from 8am – 7pm and

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Friday and Saturday from 8am - 5:45pm. If the people at the Information Commons desk cannot answer your questions, they will direct you to the person or department who can.

2. **Materials Requests:** Library_Loan@asburyseminary.edu, or **Toll-free 1-866-454-2733**

- ExL Students may request books, photocopies or email attachments of journal articles/reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the library loan office for information on costs and instructions on how to make requests.

- ExL students are also encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Wilmore campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

3. **Research Questions:** Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu

- Or call the toll-free number and then **Information Commons x2233**.

- ExL students are encouraged to contact Hannah Kirsch (x2189) for advanced research assistance including help choosing a paper topic, determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

4. **Online Databases:**

- To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to

<http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information> and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id). If you have questions, contact the Information Commons desk.

Online Section Descriptions and Communication Guidelines

The Virtual Classroom is built upon the open-source Moodle platform. By logging into <http://virtual.asburyseminary.edu> you will have access to this course and be able to collaborate with participant-colleagues and me throughout the course. The following are functions with which you should familiarize yourself:

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

1. The **Course Information Center** contains many features to be used throughout the semester:
 - a) **Course News and Announcements**, where I will post items important for the entire class;
 - b) **Syllabus**, where a copy of the syllabus is provided;
 - c) **To Professor**, which is a way for you to post a message directly to me and we can discuss an issue privately;
 - d) **Course Questions**, which is a public forum where you can publicly post any questions you have regarding the course so others may see your message and respond. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the schedule, the assignments, or anything else that may be of interest to other participants and me you should post it to the Course Questions Forum;
 - e) **Prayer Forum**, which is a public forum where you can post prayer concerns and praises for all to see. This is a way for us to build community;
 - f) **Open Forum**, which is a public forum where you can post anything that is not course-related for all to see. Examples include someone getting married, an upcoming birthday, discussions on topics not course-related, etc. This is a way for us to build community.
2. **Modules**, which are located below the Course Information Center, will contain forums where group discussions will take place, documents or other files to download or view online, and assignment links where you will post your assignments to me. Modules will be clearly labeled so you can follow along during the semester.
3. **Resources**, a section located on the left side, provides links to items you may want to use often in the semester.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT