

PREACHING OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

Instructors: Dr. Mervyn Eloff, David Helm, Dr. John Woodhouse,
Dr. Philip G. Ryken, and Romell Williams, Jr.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course provides a teaching practice and laboratory to provide students with tools, models, and opportunities for practicing teaching from Old Testament History. It includes viewing online content delivered by the Charles Simeon Trust and participating in discussions on the content, which are then supplemented with additional readings that focus attention on the exegetical demands of this genre, specifically concerning how to study Old Testament History for preaching and teaching.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course:

1. Students will have an accurate grasp of the main characteristics of Old Testament History and understand the specialized opportunities and demands of teaching from this genre.
2. Students will improve the quality of their own study and preparation for teaching by interacting with instructional material from expert practitioners and over preparation on texts from Old Testament History.
3. Students will, by presenting their own work in the context of collegial and critical small group, be better able to identify and improve in skills and strategies relevant to expounding Old Testament History.
4. Students will appreciate the value of offering and receiving constructive feedback.
5. Students will allow the taught Word itself to inform their lives in ways consistent with the reasons the Holy Spirit saw fit to include them in Scripture.

COURSE FORMAT

This course is divided into four primary components:

1. The first component is the student's viewing of the eight online videos and the completion of the relevant study questions. These eight videos include five instructional sessions and three sample expositions.
2. The second component is the small group sessions where the student will discuss the assigned study questions as well as prepare two assigned passages from Old Testament History in advance and present them for collegial feedback.
3. The third component is reading all assigned texts and writing one critical book review.
4. The fourth component and capstone project is to prepare and two sermons from assigned passages from Old Testament History using the tools, skills, and strategies taught in the course and provide supporting preparation documentation.



REQUIRED TEXTS

There are five required readings:

- Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. (212 pages)
- Davis, Dale Ralph. *The Word Became Fresh*. (146 pages)
- Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*. (391 pages)
- Mathewson, Steven D. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. (288 pages)
- Charles Simeon Trust. *Study Guide on Old Testament History*. (17 pages)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each student is expected to:

1. Actively view each of the eight online videos and thoroughly complete the relevant Study Questions.
2. Prepare two practice outlines from the texts listed in the syllabus, and submit outlines after presenting to the course coordinator (Texts 1 & 2).
3. Prepare and deliver two recorded sermons on two texts from Old Testament History other than those used for the practice Outlines that employ the tools, skills, and strategies covered in the course (Texts 3 & 4).
 - a. notes (however rough) from one week in advance of giving each sermon
 - b. practice outline worksheet at least three days in advance of giving each sermon
 - c. a two-page rationale/commentary for the homiletical decisions for each sermon
 - d. final outline of the sermons
 - e. audio or video recording of each sermon
4. Read *The Word Became Fresh* (Davis) and in a ten-page, double-spaced report a) affirm that you have read the book, b) in 5-6 pages, summarize main point(s) of the author's argument(s), being sure to reference specific supporting insights and giving page numbers in parentheses, and, c) in the remaining 4-5 pages, engage personally with the content that you have already summarized. You should address the following questions: 1) How do the author's arguments affirm or challenge my current beliefs or practices in teaching ministry? 2) What from the book will I implement immediately? 3) Why would I recommend (or not recommend) this book?
5. A statement affirming that you have thoroughly and completely read each assigned text.

BIBLICAL TEXTS AVAILABLE FOR OUTLINE AND SERMON ASSIGNMENTS

Genesis 22	Exodus 12
Exodus 14:1-31	Judges 6
1 Samuel 4	2 Kings 5:1-27
Deuteronomy 27:1-10	Leviticus 16



COURSE SCHEDULE

- Lesson 1 View INSTRUCTION #1 (John Woodhouse)
Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #1
- Lesson 2 View INSTRUCTION #2 (John Woodhouse)
Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #2
- Lesson 3 View INSTRUCTION #3 (David Helm)
Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #3
- Lesson 4 View INSTRUCTION #4 (John Woodhouse)
Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #4
- Lesson 5 View INSTRUCTION #5 (David Helm)
Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for INSTRUCTION #5
- Lesson 6 View DEMONSTRATION #1 (Romell Williams, Jr.)
Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for DEMONSTRATION #1
- Lesson 7 View DEMONSTRATION #2 (Mervyn Eloff)
Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for DEMONSTRATION #2
- Lesson 8 View DEMONSTRATION #3 (Philip G. Ryken)
Discuss/Write STUDY QUESTIONS for DEMONSTRATION #3

COURSE RESOURCES

In addition to the required readings, we recommend consulting:

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.

Arthurs, Jeffrey D. *Preaching with Variety: How to Re-Crete the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*, Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.

Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2003.

Davis, Dale Ralph. *The Word Became Fresh: How to Preach Old Testament Narrative Texts*. Fearn: Christian Focus, 2012.

Duduit, Michael, *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*, Nashville: Broadman, 1992.



Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Foundations and Principles of Evangelical Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2010.

Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Mathewson, Steven D. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*, Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.

Ryken, Philip G. *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory*, Preaching the Word. Wheaton: Crossway, 2005.

Scharf, Greg R., *Prepared to Preach: God's Work and Ours in Proclaiming His Word*, Fearn: Christian Focus, 2005.

Woodhouse, John. *1 Samuel: Looking for a Leader*, Preaching the Word. Wheaton: Crossway, 2008.

Woodhouse, John. *2 Samuel: Your Kingdom Come*, Preaching the Word. Wheaton: Crossway, 2015.