

Chronicles–Esther (Winter 2023)



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Course Description

This course consists of a textual study of 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. It pays special attention to how these books relate to earlier portions of the Bible.

Course Objectives

- 1) To hear what God is communicating through each of these books.
- 2) To observe how these books make use of earlier parts of Scripture and point towards the NT.
- 3) To apply the lessons of these books to draw closer to God.

Course Evaluation

QUIZZES (40%)

LESSON (30%)

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS (20%)

DISCUSSIONS (10%)

Required Readings

- Thompson, John A. *1, 2 Chronicles*. NAC 9. Nashville, Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- Roper, Coy D. *Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther*. Truth for Today Commentary: An Exegesis and Application of the Holy Scriptures. Searcy, AR: Resource, 2015.

Course Schedule

Week 1	1/10	Syllabus, Intro. to 1 & 2 Chronicles, 1 Chronicles 1–7	Other info
Week 2	1/17	1 Chronicles 8–15	
Week 3	1/24	1 Chronicles 16–22	
Week 4	1/31	1 Chronicles 23–29	<i>Quiz (1 Chronicles)</i>
Week 5	2/7	2 Chronicles 1–7	Lesson Topic Due
Week 6	2/14	2 Chronicles 8–15	
Week 7	2/28	2 Chronicles 16–23	
Week 8	3/7	2 Chronicles 24–31	
Week 9	3/14	2 Chronicles 32–36	<i>Quiz (2 Chronicles)</i>
Week 10	3/21	Ezra 1–6	Lesson Draft Due
Week 11	3/28	Ezra 7–10, Nehemiah 1–3	
Week 12	4/4	Nehemiah 4–11	
Week 13	4/11	Nehemiah 12–13, Esther 1–4	<i>Quiz (Ezra/Nehemiah)</i>
Week 14	4/18	Esther 5–10	Lesson Due
Week 15	4/25	Overflow/Class Presentations	<i>Quiz (Esther)</i>

Assignments Description

Weekly Discussions (10%)

Starting Week 2, I will post a discussion thread in Populi each week. Please post a response to the question before class on Tuesday evening and a response to one other student's post by 11:59 PM on Saturday. The initial post should be about 250 words. Responses do not have to be any certain length, but the points awarded will be commensurate with the apparent level of effort.

Lesson (30%)

Written (20%): The written manuscript should be roughly 2,000 words long. Please type this assignment in Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced. Please cite at least 7 sources. Footnote formatting should follow the *SBL Handbook of Style*, 2nd edition. The bibliography at the end of the paper should contain everything cited in the footnotes. Papers should address each of the following questions clearly:

- (1) How does this passage relate to the rest of the book?
- (2) What are the relevant features of the historical/cultural background?
- (3) What is the main idea of the passage?
- (4) How does the passage support this main idea?
- (5) How does this main idea affect our lives today?

Oral (10%): The oral presentation should be about 10 minutes. This will probably involve abridging the paper. The format for this presentation will be discussed closer to the due date, as how much class time can be devoted to this depends on factors that are hard to predict in advance.

Quizzes (40%)

There will be four quizzes, consisting of multiple-choice, matching, and essay questions over the text and class discussions. They are due at 11:59 PM on Saturday of the week designated in the table above.

Weekly Assignments (20%)

You are expected to read through the biblical books covered in this class at least once during the semester (ideally, more than once, using a variety of translations). As you are reading, jot down observations/questions about the text that jump out at you. Beginning with Week 2, you should submit your observations/questions to the appropriate dropbox in Populi by 5:00 P.M. Monday evening, as they will form a partial basis for our class discussion on Tuesday evening.

Policies and other information

Attendance (Adapted from the GLBC Catalogue)

Students are required to attend classes regularly. Three unexcused absences may be permitted. Two percent (2%) of the course grade per academic hour for each hour of classroom instruction missed may be deducted for each unexcused absence beyond the above.

Late Work (From the GLBC Catalogue)

Assignments for the term are listed in the syllabus supplied for each course. Every assignment so listed must be completed to pass the course. Late submission of assignments need not be accepted by the instructor. Extenuating circumstances and emergencies will be taken into consideration. If a late assignment is accepted, a grade reduction of 5% per instructional day may be assessed.

Bibliography

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- Boda, Mark J. *After God's Own Heart: The Gospel According to David*. The Gospel According to the Old Testament. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2007. Logos Bible Software edition.
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- Gregory, Bryan R. *Inconspicuous Providence: The Gospel According to Esther*. The Gospel According to the Old Testament. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2014. Logos Bible Software edition.
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- Longman, Tremper, III. *Immanuel in Our Place: Seeing Christ in Israel's Worship*. The Gospel According to the Old Testament. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2001. Logos Bible Software edition.
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- Noss, Philip A., and Kenneth J. Thomas. *A Handbook on Ezra and Nehemiah*. UBS Handbook Series. New York: United Bible Societies, 2005. Logos Bible Software edition.
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