

ISAIAH, JEREMIAH & LAMENTATIONS



Faculty Contact

September 5, 2023

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Please contact me anytime you have comments, suggestions, questions or you would like to talk about this course or your overall learning and ministry goals.

Course Description

This is a textual, historical, theological, literary and contemporary application study of the prophetic books of **Isaiah, Jeremiah and Lamentations**. Isaiah and Jeremiah worked over periods of approximately 40 years each at the beginning and of the period of one hundred and fifty years plus from ca. 740 BC to ca. 582 BC. Through these prophets God spoke powerfully regarding His people, other nations and importantly about the coming of Jesus Christ, the work of His Spirit, the fulfilment of His promises to Israel, the spiritual transformation of His New Covenant people and God's promise of the eternal New Heavens and the New Earth.

Course Objectives

Bible

1. To know God: Father, Son and Spirit more fully from His self-disclosure in the prophets, their revelations about Him, His mighty works in His world and His sovereignty over nations and individuals.
2. To understand nature of the prophets' work in speaking for God regarding His law and moral teaching (Torah = instruction, direction, law), and deliverance in the past, His conviction of their sin, His calls for holy living in the present and His revelations about His work in the future and His fulfilment of His work of redemption through His Son, the Branch, Suffering Servant, Messiah.
3. To appreciate the historical context of the prophets and their messages to increase our understanding of God's actions in His world and as evidence of the historical reliability of His Word for those who need to know Him and the eternal and historical truth of His Word.
4. To become familiar with the New Testament writers' use of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Lamentations in their inspired books to magnify our understanding of God the Father, Jesus, His Holy Spirit, His New Covenant people and how they inform our faith, service and daily living today.
5. To understand the literary power of the prophets, including the characteristics of Hebrew poetry, narrative and apocalyptic literature which play very important roles in the culmination of Israel's history and as major modes of communication throughout the First and New Covenants (Testaments).

Bible & Ministry

6. To be inspired by the prophets and heed their call for righteous, godly, compassionate and holy living in our own lives today as servants of God.
7. To give the prophets a more prominent place in the preaching, teaching and evangelism ministries of our churches.
8. To develop skills in teaching and preaching the prophets through thorough research, exegesis, hermeneutics and application of their important messages to our lives to today in all aspects of ministry, missions, evangelism and personal spiritual growth.
9. Study the prophecies about Jesus, the gospel and God's fulfilment of His eternal purposes including His assembling of Christians (church) critical to the proclamation of the gospel: 1) prophesied, 2) preached and 3) practiced (Wisdom in Counselling, 2023).
10. Understand and apply our lives to all we learn from Isaiah, Jeremiah and Lamentations to continue God's eternal ministry of faith and service leading to eternal life. Understand what they teach us about our relationship to each another in the one body of Jesus Christ, His assembly (*ekklesia*).
11. Meditate upon and memorise select verses in context to enhance our relationship with God and our effectiveness in ministry to others.
12. Research a specific passage from Isaiah, Jeremiah or Lamentations and articulate how the prophetic word empowers and equips us in all dimensions of ministry: preaching, teaching, worship, prayer, evangelism, apologetics, benevolence, visitation and counselling, etc.

Worldviews

13. Enhance our Biblical worldviews by articulating how God's revelations in Isaiah, Jeremiah and Lamentations answer these twelve questions:
 1. Who is God?
 2. What is the nature of external reality, the world around us? (i.e. real or an illusion)
 3. What is a human being?
 4. Where do we come from?
 5. What happens to a person at death?
 6. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
 7. How do we know what is right and wrong?
 8. What is the meaning of human history?
 9. How do we perceive time? (i.e. event/clock, linear, circular cycles, etc.)
 10. Is the worldview/culture open or closed?
 11. Is the centre of this worldview/culture its groups or individuals?
 12. Where are we going, how does the world end?

14. Articulate ways we by our thoughts, actions and words can graciously communicate God's worldview to others and fulfil His purpose for Isaiah, Jeremiah and Lamentations.

Readings

Primary Sources

Isaiah, Jeremiah and Lamentations

Recommended Secondary Resource

The following secondary resources are recommended as valuable reference works with life-long value for knowing God, His Word and serving Him in your own ministries. You are not required to purchase them for this course but if you decide to I can help you acquire them. Copies will be available on reserve through the library. You will receive pdf copies of the introductory chapters for your quizzes and relevant sections for your research paper passages.

Shackelford, Don. *Isaiah*. Truth for Today Commentary. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications. 2005.

Keesee, Dayton. *Jeremiah I.* Truth for Today Commentary. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications, 2011.

Jeremiah II and Lamentations. Truth for Today Commentary. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications. 2011.

Reading & Assignment Schedule

Advance reading of the prophets' books and related chapters in our textbooks before class on the following dates will help you get the most from your studies:

Lesson	Chapters and Assignments	
Lesson 1	Introduction to Isaiah and Course Weekly Passage Posts Friday 5:00 p.m.	
Lesson 2	Isaiah 1-12	
Lesson 3	Isaiah 13-23	q1
Lesson 4	Isaiah 24-33	Research Paper Passage Due
Lesson 5	Isaiah 34-39	Memory Verses Due
Lesson 6	Isaiah 40-48	q2
Lesson 7	Isaiah 49-58	
Lesson 8	Isaiah 59-66	

Lesson 9	Jeremiah 1-10	Introduction to Jeremiah	
Lesson 10	Jeremiah 11-20	q3	Memory Verses Due
Lesson 11	Jeremiah 21-30		
Lesson 12	Jeremiah 31-46	Research Paper Draft Review Due	
Lesson 13	Jeremiah 46-52	Worldview Due	
Lesson 14	Lamentations 1-5	Intro to Lamentations	Term Paper Due
Lesson 15	Conclusion	Term Paper Presentations	q4 Memory Verses Due

Course Work

Bible

Weekly Passage Post	15%
Memory Verse(s) / Week	15%

Bible & Ministry

Research Paper & Presentation	30%
4 Short Quizzes	20%

Worldview

Isaiah or Jeremiah Worldview	20%
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Assignment Details

Bible

Weekly Passage Post	15%
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1. From the chapter readings for each *upcoming* week select one passage that you find particularly interesting and helpful in both your knowing God and serving Him in practical deeds.
2. In 150 to 200 words briefly highlight why this passage is important to you and how it can help guide God's people in daily living and service. You are *not* required to comment on the posts of your peers but you may if you like.
3. Post your reflections on the Populi Discussion Page by **Friday at 5:00 p.m.**

4. Present your thoughts in class when we come to your chosen passage.

Memory Verse(s) & Applications

15%

1. Memorise one to three verses each week of your own choice from each of the weekly readings. Think about the wider context of your verses when you memorise and meditate on them.
2. Record your verses each week in a word processing file along with the following,
3. For application, with each verse include a brief written reflection of two or three sentences (or the equivalent in point form) on how your chosen verses can equip, guide and encourage you in your walk and service with God.
4. Upload your memory verse and application files to the **Assignments** page at the three weeks shown in the Reading and Assignment Schedule by **Friday at 5:00 p.m.** of the week indicated in the schedule.

Bible and Ministry

Research Paper

30%

1. Write a research paper on any clearly defined passage from Isaiah, Jeremiah or Lamentations and the passage's related historical, literary and eternal truths that you consider important for the church and the world today. Post your choice of passage in the Discussion page by week 4. Your passage should be well defined and no more than one chapter in length.
2. Consult and cite at least 10 conservative scholarly sources on your text, including books and two articles (if we can find relevant articles) and include them in your bibliography. *Do not use Internet websites* (unless the work is a pdf copy of a published peer reviewed book or article). I can help you locate quality articles.
3. The body of your paper will be a minimum of 10 pages of research content (excluding title page, table of contents, bibliography, appendices, etc.)
4. In your paper conclusion discuss how your chosen passage can help you in your personal spiritual growth and ministry with God and His church. Your concluding applications for ministry should be at least 20% of the length of your paper (2 pages).
5. Use the *SBL Handbook of Style*, Second Edition. Available for free access and loan at www.openlibrary.org. Adjust the brightness up using the control on the upper left. You will profit from the first five lessons of **Introduction to Bible and Research 1** that you will all have completed well before your draft paper is ready for review.

6. **Research Paper Draft Review** Post a draft copy of your research paper in Populi Assignments for review comments to help you in research, content and form by **Friday at 5:00 p.m. the week of Lesson 12.**
7. Upload your final paper to the Populi Assignments page *and* post a copy for your peers in the Discussion page by **Friday at 5:00 p.m. the week of Lesson 14.**
8. Present and discuss you paper with your peers in Lesson 15. (10–15 minute summary followed by discussion.)

Grading:	Research and use of sources	30%
	Application (so what now?)	30%
	Development of thought	20%
	Clarity of Structure	10%
	Correct Language & Form	10%

Quizzes

1. Four short quizzes on the introductions to Isaiah, Jeremiah and laments from the recommended readings, Bible chapters and background material covered before the quiz.
2. I will supply you with copies of the introductory chapters from the recommended readings if you do not buy the books or access them from the library.

Worldview

1. In a minimum of seven pages, describe the worldview of Isaiah ***or*** Jeremiah integrating Scripture quotations from Isaiah or Jeremiah/Laments to answer the following 12 questions:
 1. Who is God?
 2. What is the nature of external reality, the world around us? (i.e. real or an illusion)
 3. What is a human being?
 4. Where do we come from?
 5. What happens to a person at death?
 6. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
 7. How do we know what is right and wrong?
 8. What is the meaning of human history?
 9. How do we perceive time? (i.e. linear, circular cycles, etc.)
 10. Is the worldview/culture open or closed?
 11. Is the centre of this worldview/culture its groups or individuals?
 12. Where are we going, how does the world end?
2. In a one page conclusion, express how your chosen quotations from Isaiah ***or*** Jeremiah can help church members and unbelievers move closer to a Biblical worldview that aligns with God's view of His world.

3. This assignment is informal based solely on Scriptures from Isaiah or Jeremiah and Lamentations and your own insights. Use double spaced 12 pt. font with standard 25mm (1 inch) default margins.

Seven pages minimum = ½ page per question + 1 page conclusion.

4. Upload your Worldviews paper to the Populi Assignments page by **Friday at 5:00 p.m. the week of Lesson 13.**

Select Bibliography of Secondary Resources

The Bible is God's only inspired source for understanding His work of redemption, restoration and reconciliation and His will for our faith and practice today. It is the primary source.

The books in this bibliography are secondary sources. As such they are non-inspired but may have some helpful reference value. Their contents are not necessarily in harmony with Scripture.

The inclusion of these resources does not signify endorsement or accuracy of all their content. All content should be assessed for accuracy in the light of the truth of Scripture like the Christians at Berea: **"Now these people were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so"** (Acts 17:11).

ISAIAH

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Coffman, James Burton, and Thelma B. Coffman. *Commentary on Isaiah*. James Burton Coffman Commentaries. Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 1990.

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Hailey, Homer. *A Commentary on Isaiah*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1985.

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For a list of commentary recommendations and bibliographies of commentaries from Harding School of Theology, see:

<https://hst.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/COMMENTARY-RECOMMENDATIONS-FOR-MINISTERS-1.pdf>

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For a list of commentaries published in the past few decades and upcoming, see:

www.bestcommentaries.com