Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

— Jeremiah 17:7

In the economy of human progress every race has had its office to fulfill, and the Bible has claimed for Israel the specialism of religion. It represents Israel as brought by God to the Holy Land- as He also carried other peoples to their lands- for the threefold purpose of being preserved through all the changes of ancient history, of being educated in true religion, and sent forth to the world as apostles and examples. But how could such a people be better framed than by selection out of that race of mankind which have been most distinguished for their religious temperament, and by settlement on a land both near to, and aloof from, the main streams of human life, where they could be at once the spectators of history and yet not its victims, where they could at once enjoy personal communion with God and yet have some idea also of His providence of the whole world; where they could at once gather up the experience of the ancient world and break with it into the modern?

— George Adam Smith, Historical Geography of the Holyland (1894:112)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT
It is hoped that by the end of the course each student will:

• Possess a survey knowledge of Old Testament content, themes, and tools of interpretation.
• Understand the spatial, temporal, and cultural context of the events recorded in the Old Testament and the contribution of ancient Near Eastern studies in particular.
• Articulate a well-informed evangelical view of Old Testament canon, sources, and history.
• Appreciate the literary genres through which the message of the Old Testament is mediated.
• Explore carefully and rethink the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.
• Gain a deeper awareness of the Old Testament's theology and teaching as well as the relevance and application of its message today for personal and corporate Christian life.

TEXTBOOKS (REQUIRED)

TEXTBOOKS (SUGGESTED)
Baylis, A. From Creation to the Cross, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete all assignments.
2. Attend all sessions and participate in class discussion.

COURSE READINGS

1. Readings should be completed before class.
2. The student is encouraged to read interactively so as to build upon existing knowledge rather than to memorize for an exam. Imagine in your mind that you are having an enriching dialog with the author. To learn more of this approach see M. Adler, *How to Read a Book*, 2nd edition (Touchstone, 1972).
3. The sequence of your reading for each lesson should be:
   a) Read Longman (think of it as a “guided tour” through the Old Testament);
   b) Read the Biblical texts (write and bring to class two questions per biblical book);
   c) Read Christopher Wright (fresh insight on the missional aspect of the Old Testament).
4. Helpful tools, bibliography, and links are posted at www.monsoncourse.com

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS (DUE EACH CLASS SESSION AS PER COURSE SCHEDULE)

1. Fifteen mini-essays of 3-5 paragraphs, each in response to a question (30%).
2. Fifteen worksheets with the same five questions each week, 1-2 paragraphs (30%).
3. Read the entire Old Testament, produce two of your own questions per biblical book (30%).
4. Participate in class and small group discussions (10%).

SUBMISSION OF WORK

• Assignments must be word processor or PDF documents. If you are writing by hand please scan into a good resolution color PDF and submit as per below.
• Assignments should be written in just three documents to be expanded and resent weekly.
• Name your assignments in the following manner, all lower case with no spaces between letters.
• Assignment names are: essay, worksheet, reading.
• For example, the file names are listed below on the right for a person whose last name is Smith.
  ot5000[last name]essay.doc  ot5000smithessay.doc
  ot5000[last name]worksheet.doc  ot5000smithworksheet.doc
  ot5000[last name]reading.doc  ot5000smithreading.doc
• Submit your work to both of these destinations:
  Attach your file to an email sent to = submit@monsoncourse.com
  Upload file to = www.dropitto.me/monsoncourse (password is “submit” all lower case).

A  94-100  B  84-86  C  74-76  D  64-66
A-  90-93  B-  80-83  C-  70-73  D-  60-63
B+  87-89  C+  77-79  D+  67-69  F  0-59
COURSE SCHEDULE

January 15, Friday
Lesson 01: Introduction to the Old Testament and tools of interpretation
   Read Longman Introduction; Wright chapter 1

January 16, Saturday
Lesson 02: Cosmic beginnings– Pentateuch and creation
   Genesis 1-11 – Read in the Bible and in Longman; Wright chapter 2
Lesson 03: Israelite beginnings– Patriarchs, Exodus, Sinai
   Genesis 12-50; Exodus – Read in the Bible and in Longman; Wright chapter 3

February 05, Friday
Lesson 04: Israel outside the land– Wilderness, Deuteronomy, covenant
   Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy – Read in the Bible and Longman; Wright chapter 4
   Essay and worksheet for Lesson 04 due

February 06, Saturday
Lesson 05: Israel settles in the land– and struggles to stay true
   Joshua, Judges, Ruth – Read in the Bible and Longman; Wright chapter 5
   Essay and worksheet for Lesson 05 due
Lesson 06: Israel rules the land– The United Monarchy of David and Solomon
   1-2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-11; 1 Chronicles- 2 Chron 9 – Read in Bible and Longman
   Wright chapter 6; Essay and worksheet for Lesson 06 due

March 18, Friday
Lesson 07: Israel falters in the land– The Divided Monarchies of Israel and Judah
   1 Kings 12-2 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 10-22 – Read in the Bible and Longman
   Wright chapter 7; Essay and worksheet for Lesson 07 due

March 19, Saturday
Lesson 08: Threat of Exile– The Assyrian crisis and its prophets
   2 Kings 9-21; 2 Chronicles 23-33; Jonah, Nahum, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Isaiah – Read in the
   Bible and Longman; Wright chapter 8
   Essay and worksheet for Lesson 08 due
Lesson 09: Reality of Exile– The Babylonian crisis and its prophets
   2 Kings 22-25; 2 Chronicles 34-36; Zephaniah, Habbakuk, Obadiah, Joel, Jeremiah,
   Lamentations, Ezekiel 1-39 – Read in the Bible and Longman; Wright chapter 9
   Essay and worksheet for Lesson 09 due

April 08, Friday
Lesson 10: New hope beyond Exile– The Jewish Persian province and its prophets
   Ezrah, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Malachi – Read in the Bible and Longman
   Wright chapter 10; Essay and worksheet for Lesson 10 due
April 09, Saturday  
Lesson 11: Coping with the messy, problematic present– Apocalyptic’s cosmic perspective  
Ezek 40-48, Daniel, Zechariah, Revelation 20-22 – Read in the Bible and Longman  
Wright chapter 11; Essay and worksheet for Lesson 11 due

Lesson 12: The Psalms– The faith Journey of believers then and now  
Psalms 1-150– Read in the Bible and Longman; Wright chapter 12  
Essay and worksheet for Lesson 12 due

May 06, Friday  
Lesson 13: Wisdom– Living and thinking with God’s perspective rather than our own  
Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, Song of Songs – Read in the Bible and Longman; Wright ch. 13  
Essay and worksheet for Lesson 13 due

May 07, Saturday  
Lesson 14: The Mission of God – Discussion on the book  
Read Wright chapters 14-15 and epilogue  
For the “worksheet” answer the following question:  
How does Wright’s book change your interpretation of the great commission in Matt 28 and your understanding of your own personal calling and mission?  
Essay and worksheet for Lesson 134 due

Lesson 15: “And then what?”– New Testament rootedness in and framing of the Old Testament  
John 1; Isaiah 9:1-7; Matthew 4:23; John 3:1-21; Acts 7; Deut 6:4-9; Mark 12:28-34;  
Essay and worksheet for Lesson 15 due; OT reading report due

All work due May 15, 2016