



Instructor:

Dr. Mark D. Futato

mfutato@rts.edu

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Israel's Background
- Explore Israel's Bible
- Explore Israel's Law
- Explore Israel's Prophets
- Explore Israel's Writings

FOR EVERYTHING THAT WAS WRITTEN IN THE PAST
WAS WRITTEN TO TEACH US, SO THAT THROUGH
ENDURANCE AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE
SCRIPTURES WE MIGHT HAVE HOPE.
ROMANS 15:4

Exploring Ancient Israel

A Survey of the Old Testament

What This Course Is About

Have you ever thought of the Old Testament as a **training manual to equip you for life and ministry?** That is exactly why God gave you these thirty-nine books!

The Old Testament is a unified book that tells an ancient story about God establishing his ideal for the world (Law), how that ideal was lost (Prophets) and then restored at least in part (Writings).

The story in the Old Testament is the prelude to the greatest story ever told, the story of God's ultimate restoration in Jesus Christ.

Seeing your personal story as part of this larger story is key to grasping the significance of your life and ministry.

As you grow in your understanding of the Old Testament, you will grow in your knowledge of Christ and in your likeness to him. **Welcome to the exploration!**



What You Can Expect to Learn

How to read and understand books the Old Testament and the Old Testament as a whole.

How to live in freedom and integrity in your relationships with God and others through the reflecting on the messages found in books of the Old Testament.

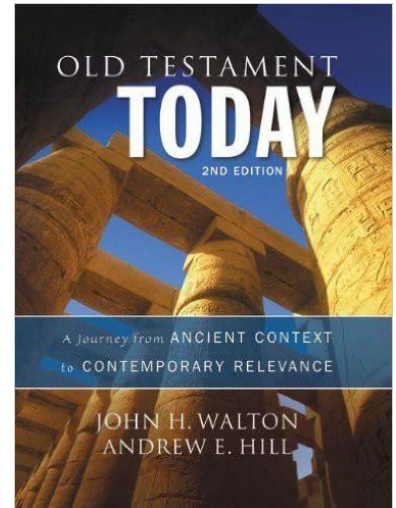
How to find encouragement and hope in the pages of the Old Testament.

How to use the Old Testament in your own life and your ministry.

What You Need To Read

The following textbook is required reading for the course:

- ⇒ John H. Walton and Andrew E. Hill, *Old Testament Today, 2nd Edition: A Journey from Ancient Context to Contemporary Relevance* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014).
- ⇒ Note: This book is available in both a [Nook version](#) and a [Kindle version](#).



Given the fact that we will cover the whole Old Testament, it would be good to do as much of the assigned reading as possible before the first day of class.

- ⇒ All reading is to be completed by the beginning of the final day of class.
- ⇒ You will turn in both a reading report and answers to assigned reading questions at the end of the last class. The reading report is just a number representing the percentage of assigned reading that you completed (e.g. “I completed ___% of the reading”). The answers portion will be your answers to the following reading questions found at the end of each section in *Old Testament Today*:

ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND IS USEFUL FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, AND FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELONGS TO GOD MAY BE PROFICIENT, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.
2 TIMOTHY 3:16

1 Orientation Fundamentals	4 Prophets
None	#9
2 Pentateuch	#10
#6	A question of your choice
#13	5 Wisdom and Psalms
A question of your choice	#1
3 Old Testament Narrative	#7
#3	A question of your choice
#28	6 Epilogue
A question of your choice	None

- ⇒ All answers are to be typed.
- ⇒ First, type the question.
- ⇒ Then type a brief response to the question based on your reading.

How You Will Be Graded

Quizzes and Final Exam.

- ⇒ The exam is online and objective. It is worth 40 points = 20% of your grade
- ⇒ The exam and quiz questions will be based on the lectures.
- ⇒ There are 10 quizzes worth 10 points each, totaling 100 points = 50% of your grade.



Ministry Reflections.

- ⇒ There 10 ministry reflections worth 2 points each, totaling 20 points = 10% of your grade.
- ⇒ Each reflection is to be between 250 and 500 words and must show an application of the lecture material to your ministry. You will also post 3 critiques per session of other students' posts.

Reading.

- ⇒ The reading responses are worth 1 point each, totaling 12 points and the reading itself is worth 28 points making all reading total 40 points = 20% of your grade.

Grading Scale.

- ⇒ 94-100 A
- ⇒ 92-93 A-
- ⇒ 90-91 B+
- ⇒ 84-89 B
- ⇒ 82-83 B-
- ⇒ 80-81 C+
- ⇒ 74-79 C
- ⇒ 72-73 C-
- ⇒ 71-0 F

- ⇒ *You will need a grade of 72 or better to pass the course and obtain the required IBS credit.

What We Will Cover

There are 10, 2 part modules which consist of the following:

Exploring Israel's Background: Biblical Theology, Geography, and Archaeology

- Module 01 *Abundant Living In The Land: A View From The Mountain Top*
- Module 02 *Exploring The Land: A Land Flowing With Milk And Honey*
- Module 03 *Visiting The OT World: Archaeology and Theology*

Exploring Israel's Bible: Law, Prophets, and Writings

- Module 04 *The Primary History: The Message of Genesis to Kings, Part 1*

Exploring Israel's Law: The Ideal Established

- Module 05 *The Primary History: The Message of Genesis to Kings, Part 2*

Exploring Israel's Prophets: The Ideal Lost

- Module 06 *The Chronicler's History*
- Module 07 *The Book of Psalms: The Psalms as Instruction*

Exploring Israel's Writings: The Ideal Restored

- Module 08 *The Book of Proverbs*
- Module 09 *My Servants The Prophets: Nature of The Prophetic Books*
- Module 10 *God's Mission, Our Response: The Message of Jonah*

AND
 BEGINNING
 WITH MOSES
 AND ALL THE
 PROPHETS,
 HE
 EXPLAINED
 TO THEM
 WHAT WAS
 SAID IN ALL
 THE
 SCRIPTURES
 CONCERNING
 HIMSELF.
 LUKE 24:27
 (NIV)

What You Can Study In The Future

Introduction

- ⇒ Longman, Tremper III and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007).

Theology

- ⇒ Waltke, Bruce K. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007).

History

- ⇒ Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008).

Geography

- ⇒ Beitzel, Barry J. *The New Moody Atlas of the Bible* (Chicago, IL: Moody, 2009).

Archaeology

- ⇒ Currid, John D. *Doing Archaeology in the Land of the Bible: A Basic Guide* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999).

Creation

- ⇒ Hagopian, David, ed. *The Genesis Debate: Three Views on the Days of Creation* (Mission Viejo, CA: Crux, 2000).

Pentateuch

- ⇒ Vogt, Peter T. *Interpreting the Pentateuch: An Exegetical Handbook* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2009).

Historical Books

- ⇒ Chisholm, Robert B. *Interpreting the Historical Books: An Exegetical Handbook* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2006).

Psalms and Wisdom Books

- ⇒ Futato, Mark D. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2007).

Prophetic Books

- ⇒ McConville, Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Prophets* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003).