

Beacon University

6003 Veterans Parkway, Columbus GA 31909

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE TITLE: **BIB 328 Psalms and Proverbs**

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: An exegetical study of the English text of the Psalms and Proverbs. This course will seek to understand the setting and style of the text as well as to find ways to apply the meaning of these portions of scripture in modern life and ministry. Consideration will be given to issues such as authorship, canonicity and use in both Jewish and Christian worship.

III. COURSE RATIONALE:

A. PHILOSOPHICAL

1. To examine the components of the Psalms and Proverbs and their significance for belief and the practice of Christian life.
2. To produce a profound respect for the value of the Psalms and Proverbs in the life of the Christian and the Church.
3. To enable the student to understand the key relationships between the text, type of literature, and historical background of the Psalms and Proverbs.

B. PRACTICAL

1. This course will help students develop a deep appreciation and a profound respect for the Psalms and Proverbs and their relationship to the entire Bible.
2. The course will help students understand how the Psalms and Proverbs point to Christ and the cross and are important to understanding the eternal, incarnational truth of the work of God in and with His people.
3. The course will assist the student to develop knowledge of the Psalms and Proverbs that can be used in his personal life and his ministerial vocation.

IV. COURSE PREREQUISITES: None

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A. Cognitive Domain:

1. The student will be able to demonstrate and explain a working knowledge of the writing styles, classification, and matters pertaining to authorship and dating of Psalms and Proverbs and their impact to other parts of the Bible.
2. Students can demonstrate the influence of parallelism in Hebrew poetry on the interpretation of the Psalms.
3. The student will be able to understand and relate the settings of the Psalms and Proverbs and relate their significance to the whole of the Old and New Testaments.
4. The Student will be able to appraise the message of Christ within the Psalms.
5. The Student will distinguish the biblical principles within the Proverbs and apply them to modern living.
6. The student will be able to discuss the relationship between the knowledge gained in this class and his or her own theological/spiritual development.

Affective Domain:

1. The student will become aware of the various critical issues that confront Christians as they are introduced to studies of the Psalms and Proverbs.
2. The student will be ready to answer those who would deny the divine authorship of the Psalms and Proverbs.
3. The student will be able to appreciate the literary forms that are present in the Psalms and Proverbs.
4. The student will gain an ability to arrange the knowledge gained in such a way that he or she will be able to share his or her informed opinions with others.
7. The student will become comfortable with his or her ability to discern those methods of studies in the Psalter and Proverbs that have the greatest value to the student of the Bible and use them to better assist them in his or her overall theological development.

II. COURSE OUTLINE:

Lectures

1. *Introduction to Psalms*
2. *Psalms 1, 2, 3*
3. *Psalms 4, 5, 8, 14, 15*
4. *Psalms 16, 22*

5. *Psalms 23, 24*
6. *Psalms 27, 36, 37*
7. *Psalms 39, 42-43, 45*
8. *Psalms 46, 49, 51*
9. *Psalms 63, 66, 75, 80*
10. *Psalms 84, 85, 90, 91*
11. *Psalms 103, 105*
12. *Psalms 110, 111, 116, 118*
13. *Psalms 119*
14. *Psalms 121, 126, 127*
15. *Psalms 133, 136, 137*
16. *Psalms 139, 150*
17. *Wisdom Literature, Introduction to Proverbs*
18. *Proverbs 1-9*
19. *Proverbs 10-31*
20. *Proverbs 10-31 (cont.)*

Module	Dates	Assignments
Module 1	Jan 12 – 25	Video sessions 1-3
Module 2	Jan 26 – Feb 8	Video sessions 4-6
Module 3	Feb 9 – 22	Video sessions 7-9, <i>Psalms</i> review
Module 4	Feb 23 – March 8	Video session 10, Lectures Notes Sessions #1-10Exam
Module 5	March 9 – 22	Video sessions 11-13
Module 6	March 30 – April 12	Video sessions 14-16
Module 7	April 13 – 26	Video sessions 17-19, <i>Proverbs</i> review
Module 8	April 27 – May 8	Video session 20, Lecture Notes Sessions #11-20, <i>Psalms</i> log, Exam

III. COURSE METHOD:

- A. General Method: Class sessions will include the presentation of lecture material as video presentations. There will also be an opportunity to discuss issues of introduction and key portions of Scripture on the online discussion forums. Work outside of class will focus on reading assignments, brief written responses to those reading assignments, and an opportunity to reflectively expound on a chosen passage of Old Testament Scripture.
- B. Online Method: The uniqueness of distance learning necessitates unique learning experiences and methods. The power of an online course management system like Moodle makes unique assessment methods possible. As a result, this online course will follow the module schedule above. Grades will be given for the viewing of video sessions, participation in discussion forums, the completion of written assignments, and exams. In each case, the deadline will be midnight on the last day of the module.

IV. COURSE TEXT:

- A. Derek Kidner. *Psalms: An Introduction and Commentary*, vols. 14a and 14b. In *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. ed. D. J. Wiseman. Leicester: Tyndale Press, 1973; Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1973.
- B. Derek Kidner. *Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 15. In *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. ed. D. J. Wiseman. Leicester: Tyndale Press, 1964; Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1964.

IX. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Video Lectures
 - 1. All 20 video lectures by Dr. Matthews are to be viewed, taking notes as you do.
 - 2. A copy of your notes for sessions #1-10 will be turned in at the end of the fourth module; for sessions #11-20 at the end of the eighth module.
- B. Reading
 - 1. Read all of the required text on *Psalms* (Kidner).and *Proverbs* (Kidner)
 - 2. Book Reviews on *Psalms* (Kidner) and *Proverbs* (Kidner)
 - 3. Each book review is to be a minimum of three full typed double-spaced pages.
 - 4. Prepared according to Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed.
- D. Project:
 - 1. Read one Psalm each day and prepare a Psalms log of 3-4 sentences each day.
 - 2. These should be notes for your use and describe how God speaks to you or additional research that you feel you need to do.
- E. Exams
 - 1. Mid-term Exam: At the end of Module 4
 - 2. Final Exam: At the end of Module 8

X. COURSE EVALUATION:

Video lecture notes	20%
Psalms Book Review	15 %
Proverbs Book Review	15 %
Psalms log	15%
Exams	<u>35 %</u>
	100 %

XI. COURSE PROFESSOR:

Name: Larry Asplund

Degrees:

B.A., Philosophy and Biblical Studies

M.A., Biblical Literature

D.Min., Leadership and Spiritual Formation
Faculty Rank: Assistant Professor
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XII. COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Alexander, J. A. *The Psalms Translated and Explained*. Reprint Ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977.
- Childs, B.S. *Introduction to the Old Testament Scriptures*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.
- Delitzsch, Frans. *Commentary on the Old Testament: Psalms*, Vol. 5. Translated by Francis Bolton. Reprint Ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984.
- Dahood, Mitchell, ed. *Anchor Bible Series: Psalms*, Vols. 16-17, 3rd Ed. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1983. (Not totally satisfactory theologically but helpful for Ugaritic information.)
- Geisler, Norman. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977.
- Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.
- Hughes, Gerald and Stephen Travis, *Harper's Introduction to the Bible*. New York: Harper and Row, 1981.
- Kidner, Derek. *The Psalms*. 2 Vols. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1969. (Brief but good)
- Kirkpatrick, A. F. *The Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1982. (Good)
- LaSor, William. *Old Testament Survey*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Laurin, Robert B. *The Laypersons Introduction to the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Judson, 1991.
- Leupold, H. C. *The Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1970. (Very good)
- Lewis, C. S. *Reflections on the Psalms*. Reprint Ed. London: Fount, 1998.
- Perowne, J. J. Stewart. *The Book of the Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976. (Excellent)
- Spurgeon, Charles H. *The Treasury of David*. Reprint Ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1998. (Good devotional material)
- Unger, Merrill F. *Ungers Bible Handbook*. Chicago: Moody, 1984.