

Grace Communion Seminary
Kingdom of God: The Prophets

Prepared by: Rev. Dr. John E. McKenna

Description:

We will study the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Canon, the Former and Latter Prophets, as the development of the People of God in the Monarchy of Israel's history among the Nations in God's Creation. We will seek to establish that foundation and formation of the Biblical Covenanted Relationship (BCR) that leads to the Monarchy and the ultimate hope of Israel as the Kingdom of God. This foundation and formation and renewals of the BCR between the Lord God and His People in His Creation is a prophetic movement that points the believer in Israel's prophecy on into its fulfillment in the New Testament's witness to the Kingdom of the King, Priest, Prophet, and Sage of the People of God.

Objectives:

- 1) To study the formation of the People of God into the Monarchy of Israel's history among the Nations in God's Creation: The periods of Joshua, Judges, and the rise and fall of the Kings of Israel's Monarchy, first to the Assyrian Empire and then to Babylonians, are epochs of times that shape the prophetic vision into Messianic Hope, the fulfilled form of which we read in the New Testament.
- 2) To study the Messianic Vision of the Hebrew Prophets.
- 3) To study the form and content of the Psalter of Israel's worship as belonging to the Messianic Hope of the Kingdom of God.
- 4) To study the role of the office of King, Priest, Prophet, and Sage of in Ancient Israel's hope among the Nations of the Ancient Near East (ANE).
- 5) To study the relationship of Israel's House of David to the hope of the Kingdom of God with Israel and its function as Israel's hope, beyond the judgment of her Judge, into its witness to the eschatological fulfillment of the BCR in the Biblical World.
- 6) To probe the nature of Apocalyptic in relation to Messianic Hope and the development of the eschatology in history and prophetic vision with Israel in her BCR with the Lord God the Great I-AM is.
- 7) To probe the nature of the BCR and its significance in the Light and Word of the fulfillment of its witness to the Person of the Messianic King, the Lord Jesus Christ, Priest, Prophet, and Sage of the Kingdom of God.

Requirements:

The student will be required to submit study unit responses as they are presented in the course times, to prepare an analytical outlines of the assigned books of the Bible, and to submit a final essay on a chosen subject or passage studied for the course. An outline of a preaching or teaching will be prepared from this study. There will be no final exam.

Reading Assignments: (* indicate priorities for your reading, ***required, **recommended, and *so forth)

****The Former and Latter Prophets, Assigned Psalms and Proverbs.* (Perhaps you have not read them lately, and now would be a good time to read them again afresh.)

**Bright, J., *The Kingdom of God* (Still a good historical account, but whose concept of Biblical history is often questioned today.)

**Childs, B.S., *Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*, pp. 624-657 (Seeking to go beyond the historical-critical dead ends.)

*Gray, J., *The Biblical Doctrine of the Reign of God*, pp. 1-157, 182-273 (Ponderous but helpful.)

***LaSor, W.S., et al, *Old Testament Survey*, pp. 131-422 (These authors were my mentors in the Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary. Most of you have already had more than enough surveys of the OT!)

**Ladd, G., *The Gospel of the Kingdom or The Presence of the Future* (He was proud of this development of this understanding of the Kingdom and the King.)

***McKenna, J.E., *The Great AMEN of the Great I-AM* (www.wipfandstock.com), Chapters 5-9.

***Torrance, T.F., *Kingdom and Church* (Lesson in the Reformation's struggle to understand the Church and the Kingdom of God.)

You will report on the total number of pages you have read for this course.

Grades: The assignments will constitute the course grade according to the following percentages:

- 1) Study Unit Reports---50% (See explanation below!)
- 2) Essay---30% (Five to ten pages of a selected text.)
- 3) Preaching or Teaching Outline---10% (May be from your exegetical paper.)
- 4) Analytical Outlines, Reading Report---10% (For you files.)

The assignments come from courses taught in Seminary and University. For the Distance Learning venue, we will designate ‘Study Units’ to take us through the assigned weekly times. They are designed to focus your attention on my argument’s major intent. It is important to understand that the materials in this syllabus are to serve as background for our discussions and are not presented as lectures. Distance learning students will simply respond to each of the Study Units for the course in interaction with me during the course times at the site, or you may dialogue with me at my e-mail address: john.mckenna@wcg.org.

Plagiarism:

To present as your own the work of another lacks personal integrity and will receive an automatic zero for any assignment in which this lack occurs. Habitual plagiarism will result in an automatic ‘Fail’ for the final course grade. We only expect that you to do your best.

“The concern to understand and to appropriate the biblical theme of the Kingdom of God has been a continual one throughout the history of the Christian church. ...The challenge for Biblical Theology still remains at least to point a way by which the bridge between critical biblical scholarship and dogmatic theology can be built. No area of research lends itself more to that enterprise than that of the kingdom of God. Accordingly, the contribution which follows is offered as a first modest step forward toward that goal.” B.S. Childs, Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments, pp. 624, 629.

The Units of study are subject to adjustment to fit various course formats:

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| Unit I | Introduction to the Course |
| Unit II | Josua 24 & Judges |
| Unit III | 1 Samuel 8 & 2 Samuel 6-7 |
| Unit IV | The Covenanted Promise with the Grace of the Lord God (יהוהחסד) |
| Unit V | God Reigns---Royal Psalms and the House of David |
| Unit VI | Enthronement Psalms |
| Unit VII | Elijah/Elishah |
| Unit VIII | Hosea and the Kingdom |
| Unit IX | Vision of Isaiah and the Kingdom |
| Unit X | Vision of Isaiah II and the Kingdom |
| Unit XI | Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Latter Days |
| Unit XII | Wisdom and Prophecy with the Kingdom |
| Unit XIII | Apocalypse of the Kingdom: New Testament Witness |
| Unit XIV | Revelation for the Kingdom: New Testament Witness |