

OT 511 Interpreting the Old Testament

GCTS-Jacksonville
May 28 - Aug 19, 2019

*“Apply yourself wholly to the text;
apply the text wholly to yourself.”*

Johann Albrecht Bengel
18th c German Lutheran pastor and Greek scholar

Instructors and Contact Information:

Professor: Dr. Catherine McDowell
cmcdowell@gordonconwell.edu

Course Meeting Times (on JAX campus)

June 7 – 8 Friday 7:00 – 9:00 pm & Saturday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

June 28 – 29 Friday 7:00 – 9:00 pm & Saturday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

July 26 – 27 Friday 7:00 – 9:00 pm & Saturday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

*plus a one hour Zoom session in Week 12

NOTE: Class begins on May 28 even though we don't meet in person until June 7. See the week by week schedule below.

This class involves significant discussion, interaction, and hands-on work in class and in the campus library, hence attendance is required. It is very important to the learning objectives.

The only time we will meet by Zoom is during Week 12 for a one hour session. If you need to take OT 511 by Zoom, register for the GCTS-Charlotte OT 511, also offered this summer.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to interpreting and applying God's word in the Old Testament. The goal is to prepare students for 600 and 700 level Hebrew exegesis courses and for preaching and teaching God's word faithfully. Attention will be given to maintaining one's Hebrew, to hermeneutical and critical issues in Old Testament studies, and to the exegetical process.

If you have been out of Hebrew for more than one semester you must pass a Hebrew competency test no later than May 25, 2019 in order to take OT 511 for credit. To take the Hebrew competency test contact Jeanne Higgins (jhiggins1@gordonconwell.edu) in the registration office.

Relation to Curriculum

OT 511 is a required course in the MDIV, MABS, MAOT, MANT, and MABL degrees. It is a prerequisite for all 600 level Hebrew exegesis courses.

Course Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will

1. learn exegetical skills which will enable them to interpret God's word in its historical, literary, and theological contexts.
2. become conversant with some of the current trends in hermeneutics and Old Testament interpretation, and competent in assessing and evaluating these trends.

3. learn to apply Scripture faithfully.
4. be introduced to quality library resources related to hermeneutics and biblical studies (both hard-copy and electronic).
5. refine his or her skills in graduate level thinking, discussion, research and writing.
6. improve his or her Hebrew translation skills.

These objectives will be measured by the course requirements (assignments, reading, and participation), as listed below.

Relationship to the Mission of Gordon-Conwell

This course, which seeks to maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship (GCTS Missions Statement, Article 2), helps students to become knowledgeable of God's word and competent in its interpretation (GCTS Missions Statement, Article 1).

Office Hours

Office hours are by appointment. Please do not hesitate to email me to set up a time to talk. I am happy to speak with you in person, by phone, or by Zoom.

Late work

Late work is not accepted except in the case of genuine illness or serious emergency ("serious" as deemed by the professor). *Please do not ask me to make an exception.* Our summer schedule is a bit tighter than the fall and spring terms, and thus I don't have the same level of flexibility. If you have a legitimate need for an unofficial extension, please contact me immediately. If you need an official extension, contact the registrar's office.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism for any assignment will result in a failing grade for the course, and the Seminary will hold a judiciary enquiry into the matter in accordance with the Student Handbook. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Please be aware that unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism. For a refresher, review what you learned in IS 502/CT 500 and see the following:

<http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&tabgroupid=icb.tabgroup106849>

Internet Usage

This course will use the Seminary's web platform, Canvas, for posting resources, announcements, contacting students, etc. Students should be sure that their email addresses are registered correctly with GCTS, and they should access Canvas and their GCTS email accounts several times a week. Students should refrain from accessing the internet at any point during class sessions (other than for Zoom), unless otherwise instructed by the professor. "Surfing the web," checking email, and other non-class related internet-based activities are distracting to you (and can be distracting to other students and to the professor) and they prevent you from fully participating in the class session. You may use the internet for non-class related activities during class breaks. Please turn your cell phone *off* or to "do not disturb" and refrain from using your cell phone during class. This includes answering calls and texting. You may use your cell phone during the breaks.

Style

Citation of sources should follow the *SBL Handbook of Style* but Chicago, MLA, and Turabian are also acceptable. Do not use APA. Use footnotes rather than endnotes. Electronic copies of the *SBL Handbook of Style* are available via the GCTS library ebook collection and the Digital Theological Library. Hard copies are also available at campus libraries.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Accordance Bible Software (unless you already have another Bible software or unless

purchasing it will cause financial hardship). For a 50% discount contact Dr. McDowell at cmcdowell@gordonconwell.edu.

Bauckham, Richard. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Baker, 2003 & 2005. ISBN 978-0801027710.¹

Carson, D. A. *Exegetical Fallacies*, 2nd edition. Baker. ISBN 978-0801020865.²

Klein, William, Craig Blomberg and Robert Hubbard. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* (3rd ed, 2017). ISBN 9780310524182.³

Vanhoozer, Kevin, *Is There a Meaning in This Text? The Bible, the Reader, and the Morality of Literary Knowledge*. (Deluxe/Anniversary Edition, blue/purple cover w/ foreword by Craig Blomberg) ISBN 978-0310324690.⁴

Wegner, Paul. *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible: Its History, Methods, and Results*. IVP, 2006. ISBN 978-0830827312.⁵

*Other Required Reading is in Canvas.

Text Critical Terms – Google Doc

You will find a list of 60 terms in Canvas from Wegner's *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible* in a document entitled "Wegner Text Criticism Quiz Study Guide.pdf." You will be assigned a few terms to define/identify for your classmates and a few of terms to edit. The term assignments will be posted in Canvas on the first day of class with examples provided. Post your defined terms in the class google doc *by June 12 @ 11 pm*. (You will receive an invitation to the class google doc via your gcts email). Edits are due *June 17 @ 11 pm*. Dr. McDowell will also read and comment on the document, noting where editing is needed. The Text Critical quiz will be available in Canvas on June 22 @ 8 am and is due June 28 @ 6 pm (before class). You may take it at your convenience during that time frame, but once you start the quiz, you have to finish it. There is no pausing and returning later to the quiz.

A note on K. Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in This Text? The Bible, the Reader, and the Morality of Literary Knowledge*

During this course we will be reading one of the most significant books on hermeneutics published in the last 20 years. This is not an easy book to read and understand – you may need access to a dictionary to look up words or references with which you are not familiar. The hermeneutical issues it addresses and raises, however, are extremely important for us to consider. Further, they are highly relevant to our understanding of Scripture and to our desire to articulate the gospel faithfully in an increasingly post-Christian world (and for some of us, in a world that was never Christian!). You will not be tested on this book, but it will serve as the basis for classroom discussion on Weekend III for which you need to prepare in advance. The discussion questions will be available in Canvas. *Please preview the questions before reading each section and answer them as you go.* NOTE: A lack of preparedness negatively impacts your grade, your

1. Currently not available as an ebook.

2. Ebook available via the Digital Theological Library (henceforth DTL) at <https://www.gordonconwell.edu/library/Charlotte-Lindsell.cfm> (scroll down to "Search the Digital Theological Library (DTL) Catalog."

3. Recommended for purchase. Ebook available via the DTL.

4. Recommended for purchase so that you can underline, highlight, write notes in the margins, etc. Available as an ebook via the DTL.

5. Available as an ebook via the DTL.

learning, your ability to contribute to class discussion, your preparation for ministry, your formation, and it wastes the time of your professor and classmates. Be sure to complete the book before Weekend III, prepare for the questions (write notes as you go), and arrive ready to discuss it thoughtfully and intelligently. Note that reviewer Dr. Scot McKnight (a recognized authority on the New Testament, early Christianity, and the historical Jesus; the Julius R. Mantey Professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary in Lombard, IL) commented on the back cover of the book, "Evangelical students who are nurtured on this book will change the church." It is indeed a book worth reading and pondering deeply," so that is what we will do – together.

Assignments and Grading

RV Log (Reading and Viewing Log) 5%

Text Criticism Google Doc & Quiz 5%

Weekly Hebrew Quizzes 20%

7 Exegetical Exercises (10 points each) - Text Criticism, Syntax & Grammar, Semantic Analysis, Literary Forms & Features, Historical Context, Literary Context, and Biblical Theological Context. We will discuss application in Week 12 during a Zoom session.

**Even if you are taking the class pass/fail, the Hebrew quizzes & exegetical exercises are required in order to achieve the learning objectives, to prepare for the 600 & 700 level exegesis classes, and to pass the course.*

Grading Scale

A 95-100	B- 81-83	D+ 70
A- 90-94	C+ 78-80	D 68-69
B+ 87-90	C 74-77	D- 66-67
B 84-86	C- 71-73	F 65 and below

How to submit your Exegetical Assignments

Submit your work in Canvas > Assignments as one pdf. Please save file as follows: OT511JAX Week X plus your last name, for example: "OT511JAX Week 6 McDowell" (without the quotation marks). *Make sure your name is both in the file name and on the document.*

Netiquette

Students should review the netiquette policy in the Student Handbook and on this website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette>.

Additional Seminary Policies

For additional seminary policies that may pertain to this course, please refer to the Syllabus Addendum.

UNIT I INTRODUCTION TO INTERPRETATION

Week 1 May 28 – June 3: Cultural Literacy

"Cultural literacy is crucial for those who are not content simply to be carried along by cultural winds and waves (cf. Eph 4:14) but who want critically and constructively to engage culture for the sake of the gospel."

K. Vanhoozer, Everyday Theology, p. 18

Welcome to OT 511! I chose the Vanhoozer article for Week 1 because we want to keep the goal in our sights: effective communication (through proclamation and by embodying the text) of God's word to God's world. This will require that we become literate in the exegesis of both texts and culture. The focus in this course is on the text, but we will begin and end with the latter as it relates to the final step in the exegetical

process - applying/embodying the text, which will then be developed further in your theology, exegesis, and preaching courses.

Objective

to become more intelligent interpreters of culture so that we can communicate the gospel effectively, in word and deed, to our world.

Read

Vanhoozer, *Everyday Theology* p. 7- 60 (in Canvas)

Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in this Text?*, p. xiii-32.

Assignments

Be prepared for discussion & small group work in class (Weekend I) on Vanhoozer, *Everyday Theology* (Chpt 1). Use the pdf in Canvas to prepare. Be sure you have read and understood the article *before* coming to class. You may need to highlight, underline, make notes in the margins, etc. and read it 2-3x.

Hebrew Quiz: vocabulary BBHG 3-10, Parsing of Qal Perfect verbs (strong & weak), short translation

RV Log due June 3 @ 11 pm

Week 2 June 4 – 10

The Need for Hermeneutics; The Interpreter & the Goal of Interpretation

CLASS JUNE 7 – 8; Hebrew Quiz in class on Friday

Wonderful things in the Bible I see, most of them put there by you and me.

Dr. Walter Kaiser, Professor of Old Testament and former president of GCTS

Our goal remains to hear the message of the Bible as the original audiences would have heard it
or as the first readers would have understood it.

KBH p. 12

This week is an introduction to biblical interpretation. Pray for God to give you a sense of excitement at learning how to interpret his word, and to open your mind that you may understand the Scripture, the written revelation of God himself. Interpretation is demanding work, but it is well worth the reward of understanding God's word, knowing Him through it and, as a result, living a transformed life.

Objectives

- to understand the need for and the rewards of skilled biblical interpretation, as well as the challenges we face.
- to be introduced to the OT canon and the major English translations.
- to understand further how one's own presuppositions about the Bible and the task of interpretation impact his or her work.

Read

KBH Chpts. 1, 5 – 6

Carson, *The Gagging of God* p.57-137 (in Canvas)

Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in this Text?* p. 37-90

Assignments

See Canvas > Resources > Assignments > OT 511 Assignment Week 2 (Personal Assessment). Due June 10 @ 11 pm.

Hebrew Quiz **in class on Friday pm**: Vocabulary BBHG 3-12 + Parsing of Qal Perfect, Imperfect verbs (strong & weak), short translation.

RV Log due Friday June 7 @ 6 pm (before class)

Week 3 June 11 – 17
History of Interpretation; Modern Approaches to Interpretation

“What a man had rather were true he more readily believes.”
Francis Bacon

Week 3 is designed to give you a brief overview of the history of biblical interpretation, including a survey of modern approaches. Special attention will be given to the hermeneutical challenges we face in a postmodern/post-Christian world.

Objectives

- to gain an appreciation for the lengthy history of biblical interpretation that has preceded us.
- to be introduced to and learn to evaluate some of the recent literary and socialscientific approaches to biblical interpretation.
- to consider in what ways postmodernism has had a beneficial impact on hermeneutics.
- to understand what is at stake if we abandon an author-oriented approach to hermeneutics.

Read

KBH Chpts. 2-3

“The SBJT Forum: Evangelical Responses to Postmodernism” (in Canvas)

Hoffmeier, “These Things Happened”: Why a Historical Exodus is Essential for Theology” (in Canvas)

Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in this Text?* p. 98-140

Watch

Dr. Daniel Block: My Advice to Students (less than 2 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POAOLn9xH4I>

Assignments

You do not need to turn in your responses to the following questions, but come to the next class meeting well prepared to discuss the following. I will be calling on students to respond to these questions. Please do not think that because you don't have to turn your responses in, that you do not need to prepare. Everyone's learning and formation is enhanced when we all arrive well prepared!

1. What is at stake if we abandon author-centered meaning?
2. In what ways is postmodernism a fair critique of modernism? What positive things can we learn from postmodernism at it pertains to biblical hermeneutics?
3. Respond to Scott Hafemann's claim in the SBJT article that, “All interpretations are not created equal, simply because they are held with equal sincerity and passion.” How (on what basis), then, do we evaluate differing interpretations?
4. Why is history central to Biblical theology (Hoffmeier article)?

Hebrew Quiz: vocabulary BBHG 3-15, Parsing of Qal Perfect, Imperfect & Imperatives, short translation due Monday June 17 @ 11:00 pm.

RV Log due Monday June 17 @ 11:00 pm

UNIT II ESTABLISHING THE TEXT

Week 4 June 18 – 24

Textual Criticism: Determining the most reliable reading of a text

This week we will “meet the manuscripts” on which our modern translations are based and become acquainted with the discipline known as “Old Testament textual criticism.”

Objectives

- to introduce us to the ancient biblical witnesses and the world of textual criticism
- 12
- to learn some of the basic text critical terminology and criteria for evaluating the ancient witnesses
- to apply what we’ve learned to a text critical problem in the Old Testament

Read

KBH p. 183 – 190

Wegner pgs. 19-37, 44-78, 89-203, 269-301. Be sure to study all of his Old Testament examples are you read (the pictures, captions, text boxes, tables, charts, etc.)

Jobs and Silva, *Invitation to the Septuagint*, p. 19-44, 146-166 (in Canvas)

“Introduction”, “Historical Background”, “Historical Timeline”, “Discovery and Publication”, “Discovery Sites”, “Scrolls Content”, “Language and Scripts” and

“Conservation” at <http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/learn-about-the-scrolls/introduction>

Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in this Text?* p. 148-187

Watch

Decoding the Dead Sea Scrolls (45 min)

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/the-truth-behind/videos/decoding-the-dead-seascrolls/>

*this link is also in Canvas

Keep in mind this is a film made by National Geographic, not a group of evangelical scholars. There are parts that are a bit overly dramatic, and we will not necessarily agree with all of the ideas presented in the film (i.e. that Jesus might have been an Essene living at Qumran, that monotheism was invented by Pharaoh Akhenaten, that the roots of Christianity can be traced to Qumran – this is typical NatGeo hype), but this is a visually rich description of the discovery of the DSS that I think you will find very interesting. The scholars and specialists interviewed are legitimate (except for Mr. Feather & Michael Baigent, neither of whom are scholars), even if they are not Christians (and therefore may have a different view of the dating of biblical texts among other things). Enjoy the video (sorry for the commercials)!

Text Criticism Quiz

Available in Canvas on June 15 @ 8 am; due on June 21 @ 6 pm (before class).

Assignment

See Sakai > Resources > Assignments > OT 511 Assignment Week 4 Textual Criticism & Translation of Exodus 19:5-6. We will start this assignment in class on Sat 6/22. Upload your work into Canvas as one PDF. Due July 1 (Week 5) by 11 PM.

No Hebrew Quiz this week

RV Log due June 21 @ 6 pm (before class)

UNIT III INTERPRETING LANGUAGE AND FORM

Week 5 June 25 – July 1

CLASS JUNE 28 – 29: Hebrew Quiz in Class on Friday

Translation

“Traduttori? Traditori!” (“Translators? Traitors!”)

Italian proverb

**“If one translates a verse literally, he is a liar;
if he adds thereto, he is a blasphemer, and a slanderer!”**

Rabbi Judah, b. Kiddushin 49a

An adequate translation of the narrative prose must above all respect its directness and simplicity.
Robert Alter, *The Art of Bible Translation*, p. 55

Translation can be far trickier business than we realize after just one year of Biblical Hebrew. This week we will learn more about what translating a text from one language to another actually involves.

Objective

to become aware of key issues in Bible translation so that we may be better and more faithful translators (and, hence, interpreters) of God’s word

Read

Read Fairbairn “Understanding Language” in Canvas

KHB p. 191 – 197

Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in this Text?* p. 197-265

View/listen to

Dr. Bill Mounce’s 5 mini-lectures on translation at

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/seminar/translations/bill-mounce>

Hebrew Quiz **in class on Friday**: vocabulary BBHG 3-17, Parsing of Qal Perfect, Imperfect, Imperatives & Infinitives (Construct & Absolute), short translation due Mon July 1 @ 11:00 pm.

RV Log & OT 511 Assignment Week 4 Textual Criticism & Translation of Ex 19:5-6 due July 1 @ 11 pm

Week 6 July 2 – 8

Syntax & Grammar

While knowledge of phonology and morphology is essential to understand the Hebrew language and to do Hebrew exegesis, the most challenging and significant exegetical issues are often syntactical in nature.

R. Chisholm, *From Exegesis to Exposition*, p. 57

Week 6 introduces us to grammatical and syntactical relationships necessary for understanding the text.

Objective

to improve our understanding of Hebrew syntax and grammar so that we may interpret and communicate God's word accurately and effectively

Read

KBH p.344 – 360

Chisholm, "Getting Down to the Nuts and Bolts: Basics of Hebrew Syntax" (in Canvas, study his examples as you read)

Carson Chpt. 2 (most of Carson's examples are from the NT but the principles still apply)

Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in this Text?* p. 281-350

Assignments

See Canvas > Resources > Assignments > OT 511 Assignment Week 6 Syntax and Grammar Exodus 19:5-6.pdf. Due July 8 by 11 pm.

Hebrew Quiz: vocabulary BBHG 3-20, Parsing of Qal Perfect, Imperfect, Imperative, Infinitive (Construct & Absolute) & Participle, short translation. Due Monday July 8 @ 11:00 pm.

RV Log due July 8 @ 11 pm

Week 7 July 9 – 15

Semantic Analysis: Discovering the Meaning of Significant Words and Concepts

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less." "The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things."

Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland

"It is all too easy, Bacon claims, to mistake one's own definition of a word for knowledge of the thing to which the word refers.

K. Vanhoozer on Francis Bacon, *Is There A Meaning in This Text?* p. 39

Week 6 introduces us to the importance of interpreting words and phrases in the context of the larger discourse in which they are embedded.

Objectives

- to learn to do word and phrase studies to determine what a word or phrase means in its context.
- to learn how to avoid common word-study fallacies.

Read

Walton, "Principles for Productive Word Study" in *The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis* (NIDOTTE) I:161-71 (in Canvas)

Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies*, Chpt. 1

KBH p. 324 – 344 (*read Walton and Carson before reading KBH)

Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in this Text?* p. 367-441, 455-467

Assignments

See Canvas.... > Resources > Assignments > OT 511 Assignment Week 7 Semantic Analysis of *segulah*.pdf. Due July 15 by 11 pm. (We'll be working on this assignment in class on

Saturday)

Hebrew Quiz: vocabulary BBHG 3-23, Qal verbs & Niphal diagnostics, short translation. Due Monday July 15 @ 11:00 pm.

RV Log July 15 @ 6 pm

Week 8 July 16 – 22
Literary Forms (Genre) & Features

“All things in nature have a shape, that is to say, a form, an outward
semblance, that tells us what they are....”
famous Chicago architect Louis Sullivan, 1896

“If all Scripture is ‘God-breathed,’ then the literary and/or legal forms into which the Spirit has cast
items of revelation must of themselves be important and communicate things of value. Form criticism
on this understanding contributes to the content of theology.”
J. Niehaus, *Biblical Theology* (Vol.1), p. 39.

What Sullivan said of architecture is equally true of texts, including the various literary genres in the Old Testament. This week we will learn about the relationship between the form and function of a biblical text and how that relationship informs interpretation.

Objective

To introduce us to the various literary genres in the Old Testament and principles for interpreting them.

Read

KBH Chpt 9

Assignments

Be prepared to discuss Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in This Text*, during class on Weekend III. The discussion questions are in Canvas.
RV Log due July 22 @ 11 pm

Hebrew Quiz: vocabulary BBHG 3-25, Qal verbs, Niphal & Hiphil Diagnostics, short translation. Due Monday July 22 @ 11:00 pm.

UNIT IV: THREE KEY CONTEXTS

Week 9 July 23 – July 29

Historical & Cultural Context

(ANE, History of Israel, Archaeology, Geography, Authorship, Audience, Setting)

CLASS JULY 26 – 27; Hebrew Quiz in Class on Friday

"A text without a context is a pretext for a proof text."

D. A. Carson's father (Canadian minister)

Week 9 introduces us to the role historical and cultural contexts play in understanding the meaning of a text.

Objectives

- to understand the importance of the historical and cultural background of a passage

or book for proper interpretation.

- to learn how to determine the historical background and cultural context of a given passage or book and to become familiar with some of the best resources available (both hard copy and electronic)

Read

KHB p. 312 – 324

Walton, “History and Methods” in *ANE Thought and the OT* (in Canvas)

Currid, *Against the Gods*, p. 9-46 (in Canvas)

Assignments

See Sakai > Resources > Assignments > OT 511 Assignment Week 9. Due July 31 @ 11 pm.

Hebrew Quiz: vocabulary BBHG 3-28, Qal verbs, Niphal, Hiphil & Hophal diagnostics, short translation. Due July 29 @ 11 pm.

RV Log due July 29 @ 11 pm

Week 10 July 30 - Aug 5 Literary Context

Context determines the meaning of things.

Anonymous

As with individual words and phrases, passages of Scripture must be interpreted within their literary context if we want to understand the author’s intent.

Objectives

- to understand how to determine the various levels of literary context for a biblical passage
- to understand the significance of determining a passage’s literary context for its proper interpretation

Read

KBH p. 293 – 312

Davies p. 32 – 36 (in Sakai > Resources > Additional Reading > Week 10)

Assignments

See Sakai > Resources > Assignments > OT 511 Assignment Week 10. Due Aug 7 @ 11 pm.

Hebrew Quiz: vocabulary BBHG 3-30, Qal verbs, Niphal, Hiphil & Hophal, Piel & Pual Diagnostics, short translation. Due Monday Aug 5 @ 11:00 pm.

RV Log due Aug 7 @ 11 pm

*sign up in Canvas for the Week 12 zoom session

Week 11 Aug 6 – 12 Biblical & Theological Context: Interpreting the Parts in Light of the Whole

...critical methods of interpretation alone will never do complete justice to Scripture if they exclude its theological and spiritual dimensions from consideration.

KBH, p. 17

Every passage of Scripture is not only part of an individual biblical book – it is part of *the* Book. Each passage contributes to the larger narrative of God’s redemptive acts in history. If we want to understand a biblical text, we must understand its relationship to the Bible and God’s grand redemptive narrative as a whole.

Objectives

- to learn how to interpret a passage of Scripture within three “layers” of biblical –theological context.
- to apply what we have learned to understanding the biblical and theological context of Exodus 19:5-6.

Read

Bartholomew and Goheen, "Story and Biblical Theology" (in Canvas)

Assignments

Sakai > Resources > Assignments > OT 511 Assignment Week 11_Biblical and Theological Context

Hebrew Quiz: vocabulary BBHG 3-33, Qal verbs, Niphal, Hiphil & Hophal, Piel, Pual & Hithpael Diagnostics, short translation. Due Monday Aug 12 @ 11:00 pm.

RV Log due Aug 12 @ 11 pm

*if you haven’t already, sign up in Canvas for Week 12 zoom session

UNIT V: LIVING OUT THE TEXT

Week 12 Aug 13 – 19

A Transformed Life as a Living Gospel “text”

“The final stage of interpretation isn’t to make the text our own, but for us, the readers, to be unmade. All genuine reading for understanding carries with it the risk that we, the readers, will be changed.”

K. Vanhoozer

“Preach the gospel at all times, and use words only when necessary.”

Francis of Assisi

“These days people are looking for authenticity, not valid arguments...words and lives they can believe in. It is hard to refute an authentic life well lived.”

K. Vanhoozer

We have returned to the topic with which we began the course – how to engage our world with the gospel – but now much better equipped for the task of interpretation. The ultimate goal, however, is not the interpretation of a text, but the application of the text’s meaning to our lives. For many of us, “applying Scripture” refers to extracting principles from the text by which, if we can live them out, we become “a good Christian.” That is not the approach we will take in this course. Our goal, rather, is to understand both the text and our culture, so that we can learn to communicate the gospel effectively – not only by proclamation, but by the way we live our lives, day in and day out. Rather than focusing on external behavior, the application of God’s word involves being transformed inwardly by the Holy Spirit, so that our lives become a “living gospel text” for our world

to “read”.

Objectives

- to avoid a purely (or largely) behavioristic approach to applying Scripture
- to understand the work of the Holy Spirit in applying Scripture

20

- to learn more about what it means to embody the message of a biblical passage and the Bible as a whole.

Read

KHB Chpts 11-12

Carson Chpts 3 & 5

Bauckham, *Bible and Mission*

C. Wright, “Reading the Old Testament Missionally” (in Canvas)

[review Vanhoozer, *Everyday Theology* p. 7-60 in Canvas

One hour zoom session to discuss the reading and "Living out the Text".

Hebrew Quiz: vocabulary BBHG 3-36, Qal verbs, Niphal, Hiphil & Hophal, Piel, Pual & Hithpael Diagnostics, short translation. Due Aug 19 @ 11 pm.