

OT 770 OLD TESTAMENT POETICAL BOOKS
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Summer II, 2019
J. J. Niehaus

I COURSE PURPOSE

A study of the nature and techniques of Old Testament poetry. Careful attention will be given to matters of metrics, line and strophic structure, historico-grammatical exegesis and text criticism. The course includes special introduction to the various poetical books of the Old Testament and samples of exegesis, with the emphasis on the Psalms.

II PREREQUISITES: OL 502; OT 511; a 600-level OT exegesis course

III COURSE SCHEDULE

17 Jun	Lecture 1	Introduction to Hebrew poetic techniques: parallelism (Lowth, Gray, Kugel) meter (Ley / Budde / Sievers, Cross / Freedman, Stuart) (Pss 2:6, 7:17, 118:2-4; 135:2.13; Pr 31:30)
19 Jun	Hebrew Competency Test (Ps 2:1-5)	
21 Jun	Lecture 2	Figures of Speech
24 Jun	Lecture 3	Early Poetry (Gen 1:27, 2:23, 4:23-4, 9:6, 12:2-3)
26 Jun	Lecture 4	Early Poetry (Ex 15:1-18; Num 24:5-9)
28 Jun	Test on Lectures 1-3	
1 Jul	Lecture 5	Early Poetry continued Introduction to Psalms: schools of interpretation, Davidic authorship, Gunkel
	Translation	Psalm 1 Torah psalm
	Translation	Psalm 2 "Royal"/Messianic psalm
3 Jul	Lecture 6	Psalm 29 Hymn/Praise psalm
5 Jul	NO CLASS	
8 Jul	Lecture 7	Lam 5 Community Lament
	Translation	Psalm 110 Messianic psalm
		Jon 2:1-10 Individual Thanksgiving
		Psalm 135 Salvation History ("Narrative") psalm
10 Jul	Lecture 8	Isa 1:1-21 Covenant Lawsuit
	Translation	Isa 8:23-9:6 Messianic oracle, sentence name, text crit
	Translation	Isa 44:24-28 Form criticism, <i>vaticinium ex eventu</i>
12 Jul	Test on Lectures 4-8	

IV COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Required readings = **REQUIRED TEXTS (WITH PAGES TO BE READ)**, as listed below. These count 10% of the course grade. Use reading report attached to syllabus. *The reading report must be stapled to your final paper and submitted with it.* Reading reports submitted late will not receive full credit, but will receive proportional credit at the discretion of the professor.
- 2 **Translation.** Some passages, noted in the schedule, will be translated in class. Translations count 20% of the course grade.
- 3 Two tests, as noted. These will be one hour each and will cover the lectures (and Hebrew passages) specified. Each test will count 10% of the final grade.
- 4 An exegesis paper on Ps. 8:1-10. The paper will be 20 pages long. Your own translation of the psalm must precede the paper. A sermon outline must follow it. (See below, **VII EXEGESIS PAPER OUTLINE**, for detailed guidelines). The paper will count 50% of the final grade, and is due on 12 Jul. at 4 p.m.
- 5 Extra credit. An extra credit assignment may be determined by the professor. The assignment would add 3% to the final grade.

V REQUIRED TEXTS

Anderson, B., *Out of the Depths* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983).
 Craigie, Peter C., *Psalms 1-50* WBC 19 (Waco: Word, 1983)
 Garrett, Duane, *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Broadman, 1993)
 Lawson, Steve, *Preaching the Psalms* (Evangelical Press, 2014)

VI EXEGESIS STEPS

Broadly speaking, exegesis is the process by which a text, as a concrete expression of a "sender" to a "receiver" is systematically explained. The steps of exegesis are interrelated and not necessarily sequential. In abbreviated form they are:

1. Delimit the passage for study, noting opening and closing formulae (if any). Is the passage a true pericope, that is, "a self-contained unit of Scripture," or "a preachable unit?" E.g., Ezek. 37:1-14 (revitalized bones), and Ezek. 37:15-28 (the two sticks joined to symbolize the one nation, Israel), are both pericopes in this sense. Ezek. 37:1-28 is not.

2. Determine the literary context of the pericope, and its function in that context. (E.g., is it a word of encouragement placed strategically amid prophecies of impending disaster?)
3. Outline the passage, noting interrelationships of elements. E.g., are certain words or ideas repeated, and what is the significance of this? Are certain contrasts established, and what would God teach us thereby?
4. Check words of historical and theological import in dictionaries; seek cross-references with other passages by means of a concordance. E.g., Heb. *go'el* (kinsman redeemer in Job 19:25. From Boaz and Ruth we know it's a kinsman redeemer - cf. Jesus.
5. Compare other translations, noting significant differences. Words have different shades of meaning. Some translators choose one shade of meaning, others choose another. What are the merits of their choices? What is your choice, and why?
6. Ask: what is unique about the text? What is typical (such as rhetorical or stylistic devices, e.g., parallelism, chiasmus, paranomasia, diatribe, irony, etc.)? How do the typical elements relate to those which are unique? What is their function?
7. What is the setting of the text -- its *Sitz im Leben* (the social setting in the life of Israel in which particular literary forms, e.g. psalms, prophecies, parables, occurred)?
8. What is the function of the passage? Is it didactic, kerygmatic, emotive? How is the hearer expected to respond? What does this say about its content?
9. What is the New Testament usage of the passage? How does the NT understand or develop the OT meaning?
10. List question and problem areas.
11. Consult reference tools. Check commentaries and periodical literature for insights into your own questions.
12. State succinctly the results of your investigation: the text's meaning in its original setting.
13. What is its meaning for today? (Involved in both of these last questions, of course are issues of biblical anthropology and theology: What does the passage reveal about people? About God?)

VII EXEGESIS PAPER OUTLINE

1 page	Translation of pericope. Single spaced.
1 page	Textual criticism - deals with every item in BHS apparatus relating to the pericope. Single-spaced.
17 pages	<p>Body of exegesis paper.</p> <p>Cover especially items: 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, and 13 of exegesis steps. It is preferable to do these in numerical order, with appropriate headings to indicate which item you are discussing (e.g., "2. LITERARY CONTEXT"). Results of item 11 can be incorporated into any and all phases of the paper.</p> <p>The exegesis paper must exegete the Hebrew text but also focus on a limited number of Hebrew verses for in depth analysis, including syntactical analysis. For this paper, focus on verses 4–6 (i.e., from “When I behold” to “honor”).</p> <p>Double-spaced.</p> <p>Footnotes or endnotes are acceptable.</p>
1 page	Sermon outline. Single-spaced.

VIII FURTHER GUIDELINES

To qualify as a Hebrew exegesis paper, the paper must include the following:

- Text Criticism. Students must demonstrate the ability to identify a text-critical problem and resolve it by either providing full support for MT or a full rationale for emendation.
- Translation, including a critical interaction with modern versions on the basis of the student’s translation of the Hebrew text. This is typically demonstrated through an annotated translation
- Grammar and Syntax. A demonstration of the ability to extract significant information for the interpretation of the Hebrew text.
- Structure. Structural considerations must be based on the objective structural data embedded into the original Hebrew text.
- Lexical analysis must be based on concordance data based on the Hebrew text.
- Literary context of the passage (including questions of authorship, form and genre). This step may also include a literary overview of the biblical book
- Historical background
- Old Testament Context
- New Testament Context
- Biblical-Theology
- Application

IX SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY (Books marked with * strongly recommended)

Anderson, G. W. *Tradition and Interpretation: Essays by Members of Society for Old Testament Study* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1979).

Bible. *The Old Testament Books of Poetry from 26 Translations*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Bible Publishers, 1973).

Bible. *The Septuagint Version of the Old Testament: Greek and English*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1971).

Briggs, Charles Augustus. *The International Critical Commentary: A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Book of Psalms*. Vol. 1 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1906).

Briggs, Charles Augustus and Emilie Grace Briggs. *The International Critical Commentary: A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Book of Psalms*. Vol. 2. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1917).

*Bullock, C. Hassel. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books: The Wisdom and Songs of Israel*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1979).

*Craigie, Peter C. *Word Biblical Commentary: Psalms 1-50*. Vol. 19. (Waco: Word Book Publishers, 1983).

Cross, Frank Moore. *Studies in Ancient Yahwistic Poetry*. (Missoula: Scholars Press, 1975).

Dahood, Mitchell. *Proverbs and Northwest Semitic Philology*. (Roma: Pontificum Institutum Biblicum, 1963).

Dahood, Mitchell. *The Anchor Bible: Psalms I, 1-50*. (Garden City: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1966).

Dahood, Mitchell. *The Anchor Bible: Psalms II, 51-100*. (Garden City: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1968).

Dahood, Mitchell. *The Anchor Bible: Psalms II, 101-150*. (Garden City: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1970).

Delitzsch, Franz. *Clarks's Foreign Theological Library: Biblical Commentary on Psalms*. 2nd ed. Vols. 1-3 (Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark, 1884).

- Gordis, Robert. *Kohelet--The Man and His World*. (Philadelphia: Maurice Jacoby Inc., 1951).
- Gottwald, Norman K. *Studies in Biblical Theology: Studies in the Book of Lamentations*. Vol. 14. (Longbank Works: Robert Cunningham and Sons Ltd., 1954).
- *Gray, George Buchanan. *The Forms of Hebrew Poetry*. (USA: KTAV Publishing House Inc., 1972).
- Grossfeld, Bernard. *The Targum to the 5 Megilloth*. (New York: Hermon Press, 1973).
- Gunkel, Herman. *The Psalms*. (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969).
- Jacob, Edmond. *Theology of the Old Testament*. (New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1958).
- Kaiser, Walter C. *Classical Evangelical Essays in Old Testament Interpretation*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1973).
- Keach, Benjamin. *Preaching From the Types and Metaphors of the Bible*. (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1972).
- *Kidner, Derek. *Psalms 1-72*. (Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1975).
- *Kidner, Derek. *Psalms 73-150*. (Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1975).
- Kirkpatrick, A. F. *The Book of Psalms*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1982).
- Klein, Ralph W. *Textual Criticism of the Old Testament: The Septuagint after Qumran*. (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978).
- Kline, Meredith G. *Images of the Spirit*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980).
- Kline, Meredith G. *Kingdom Prologue*. (GCTS, 1989).
- Leupold, Herbert Carl. *Expositions of the Psalms*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1972).
- Lord, Albert B. *The Singer of Tales*. (New York: Atheneum Printing, 1976).
- Lorets, Oswald. *Das althebraische Liebelied*. (Herstellung: Butzon and Bercker Kevelaer, 1971).
- Mowinckel, Sigmund. *The Psalms in Israel's Worship*. Vol. 1. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1962).

- Mowinckel, Sigmund. *The Psalms in Israel's Worship*. Vol. 2. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1962).
- Myers, Jacob M. *The Anchor Bible: II Chronicles*. (Garden City: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1965).
- Pope, Marvin H. *The Anchor Bible: Job*. (Garden City: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1965).
- Prichard, James B. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950).
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- Robertson, David A. *Linguistic Evidence in Dating Early Hebrew Poetry*. (Missoula: University of Montana Press, 1972).
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- *Stuart, Douglas K. *Studies in Early Hebrew Meter*. (Missoula: Scholars Press, 1976).
- Thompson, John Mark. *The Form and Function of Proverbs in Ancient Israel*. (The Hague: Mouton and Company N. V., Publishers, 1974).
- Watters, William R. *Formula Criticism and the Poetry of the Old Testament*. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1976).
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Wright, Alexander. *The Psalms of David and the Higher Criticism*. (Edinburgh: Oliphant Anderson and Ferrier, 1900).

Whybray, R. N. *Wisdom in Proverbs*. (Chatham: W. and J. MacKay and Company, Ltd., 1965).

*Young, D. W., "Notes on the Root נָתַן in Biblical Hebrew," *VT* 10 (1960), pp. 457-459.

READING REPORT**OT 770****NAME**.....**DATE**.....

	Assigned:	Read:
Anderson, B., <i>Out of the Depths</i>	pp. 13-233
Craigie, Peter C., <i>Psalms 1-50</i>	pp. 25-367
Garrett, Duane, <i>Proverbs, etc.</i>	pp. 19-432
Lawson, Steve, <i>Preaching the Psalms</i>	pp. 1-371
TOTAL	pp. 1246