

I. Catalog Description

A study of the historical period, the character, and the message of Ezekiel, with special attention to the nature and concerns of the prophetic movement in ancient Israel and Judah.

II. Course Rationale

The faculty of NTS views the Bible as foundational, informing all the life of the church. We believe this view accords with historic Christianity, as well as with the direction of God found in the Bible itself.

Ezekiel prophesied at a critical time in the life of God's ancient people, when the southern kingdom of Judah lost its national existence. Ezekiel advised those already exiled (as Jeremiah did those still remaining in Judah and Jerusalem) that God's decision to punish Judah for her lusting after other gods and for her institutionalized, systemic injustice was irrevocable. But that was not the end of the story; God would restore Judah in an unprecedented work of deliverance that ultimately would reflect the glory of God throughout the world.

Ezekiel is a book of profound depth, insight, and emotional intensity. Its imagery has been deemed difficult. But Ezekiel richly rewards those willing to expend time and effort to understand its patterns and its message. Ezekiel is a mine of hidden treasure; wealthy, indeed, is the one who explores its depths.

III. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- A. Express, orally and/or in writing, the structure of the book of Ezekiel;
- B. Identify the major characters, places, events, oracles, and themes of the book of Ezekiel;
- C. Formulate an appropriate understanding of Ezekiel's theology;
- D. Bring the book of Ezekiel into your own spiritual formation, and into your ministry theology and praxis.

IV. Required Texts

- A. Block, Daniel I. *The Book of Ezekiel* (two volumes). Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publ. Co, 1997, 1998.
- B. A good Bible atlas.

V. Student Evaluation

Your course grade will be determined by the following:

- A. Absence from one class session may or may not affect your course grade; two or more will lower it.
- B. A number of short exegetical projects and readings will be assigned during the two weeks of class sessions. On issues of mechanics, NTS follows Turabian's guide.
- C. An end-of-semester exegetical project on a single passage from Ezekiel will be assigned. Expectations for this project will be discussed during the two weeks of class sessions in January.

VI. Course Schedule

- Jan. 22 – Introduction: The shape and shaping of Ezekiel; Ezekiel 1-3
- 23 – Ezekiel 4-11
- 24 – Ezekiel 12-15, 17-22
- 25 – Ezekiel 16, 23-24
  
- 28 – Ezekiel 25-28
- 29 – Ezekiel 29-32
- 30 – Ezekiel 33-37
- 31 – Ezekiel 38-39
- Feb. 1 – Ezekiel 40-48
  
- April 26 – Final exegetical project due