Joshua-Kings (Former Prophets)  
1OT510- 3 hours  
RTS Jackson  
Fall 2014

Instructor  
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mvanpelt@rts.edu

Course Description  
The class is an exegetical, expositional study of the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, 1-2 Samuel, and 1-2 Kings) with the presupposition that this portion of the Bible is to be understood as the Gospel promised beforehand (Romans 1:1-3). Class time is reserved for developing the skills necessary for handling the biblical text with humility, accuracy, and passion in a Christ-centered manner. At its core, this class is intended to prepare pastors for regular expository preaching from the Former Prophets. As such, participation at the M.Div. level requires Hebrew 1, Hebrew 2, and Hebrew Exegesis. Non-M.Div. students are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Ministry never occurs in a vacuum. If you are a youth minister, a missionary, a church leader, or a university scholar, your work occurs within the context of community. Our class will attempt to reflect this reality by placing a high priority on working together. While you will be graded solely on your individual effort, much of your work will be completed in a group setting. We will practice translating, understanding, and applying biblical passages together.

Course Protocols  
1. Grading Schedule. The letter grading scale is stipulated by the institutional catalogue and is summarized below.  
   
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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>94-96%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>86-87%</td>
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<td>83-85%</td>
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<td>80-82%</td>
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<td>78-79%</td>
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<td>75-77%</td>
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<td>72-74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-71%</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>0-69%</td>
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2. Attendance and Late Assignments. Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class session. Due to the intensive nature of the class’s modular schedule, late assignments cannot be accepted.

3. Electronics. Computers are not permitted in class. Voice recorders are not permitted in class. Please silence all cell phones during class.

4. Special Needs. In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.
5. **Disclaimer.** This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the term, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that occur during the semester.

**Textbooks**

**MDiv Required** (in addition to a standard Hebrew Bible and English Bible)


**Non-MDiv Required** (in addition to a standard English Bible)


**Suggested**


Course Assignments – MDIV and Language Students

1. **Primary Literature: Hebrew** – Translate and phrase the Hebrew text given for each meeting. In addition to translation and phrasing, students must create an outline based upon the Hebrew text, and then summarize the basic meaning of the passage (one paragraph). This material is to be turned in at the end of class each meeting. This portion of the course constitutes 30% of the final grade.

2. **Primary Literature: English** – Read Joshua through Kings in a standard English translation. There will be four English Bible quizzes during the course of the semester to test the student’s knowledge of basic Bible content. See course schedule for dates. This portion of the course constitutes 25% of the final grade.

3. **Secondary Literature: English** – Students will read *A Biblical History of Israel* by Provan, Long, and Longman – pages 107–304. You must take notes on this material and submit those notes for a grade. See course schedule for due date. In terms of content, imagine that you have been asked to teach a course on Old Testament history for a semester in your church’s adult Sunday School program. This portion of the course constitutes 10% of the final grade.

4. **Course Lectures** – Students will listen to and take notes on Professor Richard Belcher’s lectures on Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. Professor Belcher is Professor of Old Testament at RTS Charlotte and his lectures may be obtained without charge through iTunes U (16 lectures). Students will turn in their own hand-written notes for a grade Friday, November 12. It is recommended that this course activity be done in the context of a small group, not individually. This portion of the course constitutes 10% of the final grade.

5. **Major Exegesis Paper or Final** – MDIV/Language Students will have the option of either writing a major exegesis paper or taking a written final exam. If the former is chosen, the student will select one passage/pericope from Joshua through Kings and write a major exegesis paper (15-20 pages). The selected passage may not be a text covered in class and all selections will require the approval of the professor. Conversely, the final exam will be comprised of translation and interpretation questions taken from the material covered during the course. This portion of the course constitutes 25% of the final grade.

**Summary**

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<tr>
<td>Translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Bible Quizzes</td>
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<td>Exegetical Assignments</td>
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<td>Lectures with Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exegesis Paper/Final</td>
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Course Assignments – Non-MDIV and Non-Language Students

1. **Secondary Literature: Commentary Work** – Students will select and read at least three different commentaries for the biblical text assigned each week in the course schedule. A one half page summary (single spaced) will be written and turned in (for each source) at the end of each class. This portion of the course constitutes 25% of the final grade.

2. **Primary Literature: English** – Read Joshua through Kings in a standard English translation. There will be four English Bible quizzes during the course of the semester to test a student's knowledge of basic Bible content. See course schedule for quiz dates. This portion of the course constitutes 30% of the final grade.

3. **Secondary Literature: English** – Students will read *A Biblical History of Israel* by Provan, Long, and Longman – pages 107–304. You must take notes on this material and submit those notes for a grade. See course schedule for due date. In terms of content, imagine that you have been asked to teach a course on Old Testament history for a semester in your church’s adult Sunday School program. This portion of the course constitutes 10% of the final grade.

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5. **Secondary Literature: Book review of He Gave Us Stories** – Students will read Richard Pratt’s work on biblical narrative and write a 3-page summary and review. Roughly two-thirds of the review (2 pages) should be summary and one-third of the review (1 page) should be analysis. This portion of the course constitutes 10% of the final grade.

6. **Major Exegesis Paper** – Each student will select one passage/pericope from Joshua through Kings and write a major exegesis paper (15-20 pages). The selected passage may not be a text covered in class and all selections will require the approval of the professor. Paper requirements will be discussed on the first day of class. This portion of the course constitutes 25% of the final grade.

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<tr>
<td>Commentary Work</td>
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<td>Lectures with Notes</td>
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<td>Book Review</td>
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<td>Exegesis Paper</td>
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Course Schedule

*Weekly translation assignments will be handed out on the first day of class.

August
20  Introduction and Syllabus
27  A Biblical Theology of Biblical History

September
3   Joshua: Holy Land and Holy War
     English Bible Quiz: Joshua
10  Joshua: Covenant Renewal and the People of God
17  Judges: Introduction and Conclusions
     English Bible Quiz: Judges
24  Judges: The Judges

October
1   Judges: Samson
8   Reading Week
15  Samuel: Hannah and Samuel
    English Bible Quiz: Samuel
    A Biblical History of Israel Reading Notes Due
22  Samuel: The Reign of Saul
29  Samuel: The Reign of David
    Book Review Due on He Gave Us Stories (English Bible Track only)

November
5   Kings: The Reign of Solomon
    English Bible Quiz: Kings
12  Kings: The Divided Kingdom
    Belcher Lecture Notes Due
19  No Class – ETS/SBL
26  No Class – Thanksgiving Vacation

December
4   Kings: Elijah and Elisha
    Exegesis Papers Due

Extra Credit

Read and write a 5-8 page review on the following book: