Hebrew Exegesis
Dr. Mark D. Futato
Course Overview

Table of Contents:

Course Description  
Grades  
Required Textbooks  
Lessons  
Meet the Professor  
Student Learning Objectives

Course Description:

0OT5150 Hebrew Exegesis, 2 hours  
Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:  
Dr. Mark D. Futato

This course is designed to increase your skills in the science and art of Hebrew Exegesis. You will learn a model for interpreting the Hebrew text through reading two textbooks on exegesis. You will apply this model through a series of assignments and through writing an exegesis paper on a sub-text of 1 Kings 17-18. You will also increase your knowledge of biblical Hebrew for exegesis through your study of the text of Jonah, your use of an intermediate reference grammar, your learning of the Hebrew accent system, your study of Hebrew vocabulary, and your review of Hebrew verb forms.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course you will have:

• Know the Hebrew Bible better  
  o Having used *Biblia Hebraica Stutgartensia*

• Know Hebrew grammar better  
  o Having reviewed the morphology of the noun and verb and having advanced in the knowledge of Hebrew syntax  
  o Having learned how to use an intermediate reference grammar: *A Biblical Hebrew Reference Grammar*  
  o Having learned how to use a Hebrew lexicon such as *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* or *The Concise Classical Hebrew Dictionary*

• Know the exegetical method better  
  o Having studied the exegetical method in *Seeing the Text* and *Old Testament Exegesis*  
  o Having practiced the exegetical method on 1 Kings 17-18

• Know more about the message of the book of Jonah  
  o Having read the book in Hebrew  
  o Having studied the grammar and theology of the book  
  o Having examined your vision for God’s work in the world  
  o Having become more like God in compassion for those who are not like you
Required Textbooks:

Hebrew Bible (Both)

  [Available in Accordance and as Logos add-in ($50)]

Hebrew Reference Grammar

  [Available as Logos add-in ($50)]

Hebrew Lexicon

  [Available in BibleWorks and Logos]

Hebrew Vocabulary Cards


Exegetical Textbooks (Both)


Literary Structure


Hebrew Accents


Masoretic Text


Commentaries on Jonah

- Futato, Mark D. *Jonah: A Commentary* (Unpublished)
  [Available on the LMS]
For Extra Credit

Writing Style:
- Turabian Quick Guide

[These books may also be available in ebook format through various retailers]

Recommended Resources:
Word List in Logos: Word List is a feature of Logos that enables you to create word lists to aid you in the memorization of Hebrew and Greek vocabulary. Word List can be synchronized with a mobile app on your phone, so that you can review your vocabulary on the go. Go to Canvas > Modules > Course Information > Vocabulary & Reading the Bible in Hebrew for more information.

Read in Hebrew: There is a website to help you learn how to read/pronounce the Hebrew Bible. This is not a free site, but Dean Allen of the Orlando campus is funding use of this site for my Hebrew students for one year. Go to www.bibleinhebrew.com and click Play Demo. If you are interested in using this site, go to Canvas > Modules > Course Information > Vocabulary & Reading the Bible in Hebrew for more information.

Online Student Handbook:
The Online Student Handbook (can be downloaded here) has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual.

Summary of Requirements:
1. Complete 12 Notebook Assignments
2. Complete 1 Kings 17-18 Reading Reports
3. Complete Accent Exercises
4. Complete Faculty Interaction
5. Complete Student Interaction
6. Submit 12 Quizzes
7. Submit the Exegetical Paper
8. Submit Final Exam
9. Submit a Mentor Report or Course Application Paper
Dr. Mark Futato joined RTS Orlando in 1999 and serves as the Robert L. Maclellan Professor of Old Testament. He teaches core classes on Hebrew and Old Testament books. Dr. Futato served as Academic Dean of RTS Orlando from 2004 to 2012. Dr. Futato’s research interests include biblical Hebrew, the Book of Psalms and the role that elements of creation such as climate and geography play in scripture. Dr. Futato has published multiple books on the Psalms as well as an introduction to biblical Hebrew. He is currently finishing a commentary on Jonah. Dr. Futato served on the translation team for the Book of Psalms in the New Living Translation, contributed study notes for The ESV Study Bible and The Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible, and contributed to the New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis.

Prior to joining RTS, Dr. Futato served as a pastor for five years and taught for more than 10 years at Westminster Seminary California.

Students appreciate Dr. Futato’s passionate emphasis on God’s desire to bless all nations, his engaging communication style and his practical application of biblical texts to those who struggle, suffer and doubt. Dr. Futato and his wife, Adele, have four children: William, Evan, Mark Jr. and Annie. Follow Dr. Futato on Twitter: @mfutato

Publications by Dr. Futato:

*Jonah: A Commentary* (Evangelical Press, forthcoming)


*Psalms: Cornerstone Biblical Commentary* (Tyndale House Publishers, 2009)

*Contributor, The ESV Study Bible* (Crossway Bibles, 2008)


*Translator, New Living Translation of the Bible* (Tyndale House Publishers, 2006)


*Beginning Biblical Hebrew* (Eisenbrauns, 2003)

*Contributor, The NIV Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2003)


Grades

Notebook (19%):
There are 12 notebook assignments to be turned in weekly. The notebook assignments will give the student an opportunity to apply what they have learned in Seeing the Text and Old Testament Exegesis to 1 Kings 17-18. Consult “Notes for Seeing the Text” for explanatory and supplemental notes on Seeing the Text. This document is downloadable from the LMS. Consult the “Notebook Guide” for the details of each assignment. This document is downloadable from the LMS. Consult various examples of the steps in the exegetical process. These files are downloadable from the LMS. Each week’s Notebook is worth 8 points.

Submission:
- Upload each Notebook as a PDF at the appropriate Week at Modules on The LMS.
- In the top left corner of each Notebook document, put your name, the Notebook number, and the biblical reference, e.g.,
  Mark Futato
  Notebook 01
  1 Kings 1:1-7
- Use the following naming format for each electronic file:
  LastName_FirstName_Notebook_##
  E.g., Futato_Mark_Notebook_01

Quizzes (19%):
There are 12 quizzes to be taken weekly on the LMS. The quizzes cover:
- The assigned Hebrew text from Jonah (translation and parsing)
- The assigned Hebrew vocabulary from Van Pelt
- The assigned Hebrew verb forms
Consult the “Lessons” section of this syllabus for details of the weekly assignments. You may take each quiz 2 times. If you do not do well on the first attempt, you may restudy the material and retake the quiz. Canvas will record the higher of the 2 scores. Each quiz is worth 8 points.

Exegetical Paper (19%):
The paper will give the student the opportunity to apply what is learned from Seeing the Text, Old Testament Exegesis. Consult the “Paper Guidelines” for further details. This document is downloadable from the LMS. The paper is worth 100 points.

Submission:
- Upload the paper as a PDF at the appropriate Week at Modules on the LMS.
- Use the cover sheet template that is downloadable from the LMS.
- Use the following naming format for the electronic file:
  LastName_FirstName_Text
  E.g., Futato_Mark_1Kings17v2-7
Examination (Final 19%):

The final exam covers the material from:

- The Hebrew text of Jonah (translation and parsing)
- The quiz vocabulary and paradigms
- The material on the Hebrew Bible (see Study Guide for Van Pelt in Canvas > Modules > Course Resources),
- The material on the Hebrew accents (see Study Guide for Hebrew Accents in Canvas > Modules > Course Resources),
- The assigned material in BHRG (see Study Guide for BHRG in Canvas, > Modules > Course Resources).
- You may the final exam 2 times. If you do not do well on the first attempt, you may restudy the material and retake the final. Canvas will record the higher of the 2 scores.
- The exam is worth 100 points

Reading Reports (10%):

There are 11 reading report quizzes to be taken. Each quiz is T/F question “I read the assigned Hebrew text of 1 Kings 17-18.” Each reading report is worth 5 points.

Faculty Interaction (6%):

Topical Discussion Questions:

There will be a topical discussion question for each week/unit. These questions will be answered in the Learning Management System (LMS). The topical discussion posts are worth 2 points each or 20 total points.

Student-to-Professor Forum:

There are 3 posts required to the Student-to-Professor Forum. These posts are initiated by the student. These posts are submitted at Modules > Forums > Student-to-Professor Forum. Each post is worth 1 points.

Personal Introduction Forum:

Please take a moment to introduce yourself to the professor and the rest of the class. These posts are submitted at Modules > Forums > Personal Introduction Forum. This post is worth 1 point.

Accent Exercises (2%):

There are 12 accents exercises. Each accent exercises is worth 12 points.

Student-to-Student Interaction (1%):

Student-to-Student Forum:

There are 4 posts required to the Student-to-Student Forum. These posts are initiated by the student. A post may be a question or comment or a reply to another student’s post. These posts are submitted at Modules > Forums > Student-to-Student Forum. Each post is worth 1 point.
Mentor Report OR Course Application Paper (5%):

If you are enrolled in an RTS Global degree program, you are required to submit a mentor report at the end of the course. Every portion of the form (goals, summaries, assessments, and signatures) should be filled out completely by both the student and the mentor to receive full credit. You can download the Mentor Report form in your Canvas classroom.

If you are receiving your degree through another RTS campus (Orlando, Jackson, Charlotte, et. al.), or are a certificate student, or special student (e.g. from another seminary), you are asked to write a 200-word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life. Course Application Papers (CAP) that fall well-short of 200 words will receive a grade deduction.

Bonus Points Quiz:


Assignments:

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

Contact Information:
Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education
2101 Carmel Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
(704) 900-1257
1-855-854-6920
FAX: (704) 366-9295
E-mail: dess@rts.edu
Web site: www.rts.edu/distance
# Hebrew Text of Jonah

For each Week:

- Be able to read the Hebrew text of Jonah out loud and to translate the text into English.
- Audio files of the Book of Jonah are available from the LMS:
  - Readings by Abraham Shmuelof
  - Readings by Mark Futato
- Study Estelle and Futato on the assigned text of Jonah.
- Study the assigned sections in BHRG.

## Before Week 1

### The Book of Jonah
- Futato, Introduction
- Futato, Accents, Chapter 1

### An Exegetical Model
- Schertz, Introduction
- Stuart, Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1: Reading</th>
<th>Week 1: Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Book of Jonah</strong></td>
<td><strong>Complete Quiz 01:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Hebrew text of Jonah 1:1-3</td>
<td>• Hebrew: Jonah 1:1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Futato, Accents, Ch. 2</td>
<td>• Vocabulary: Van Pelt 507-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Futato, Jonah 1:1-3</td>
<td>• Verbs: Qal Regular (BHRG §15 and §16.1-2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grammar**
- BHRG §§19.1

**An Exegetical Model: Reading the Text**
- Schertz, pp. 19-25
- 1 Kings 17-18
  - Hebrew: 1 Kings 17:1-6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2: Reading</th>
<th>Week 2: Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Book of Jonah</strong></td>
<td><strong>Complete Quiz 02:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Hebrew text of Jonah 1:4-6</td>
<td>• Hebrew: Jonah 1:4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Futato, Accents, Ch. 3</td>
<td>• Vocabulary: Van Pelt 519-530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Futato, Jonah 1:4-6</td>
<td>• Verbs: Niphal Regular (BHRG §16.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grammar**
- BHRG §§19.2

**An Exegetical Model: Reading the Text**
- Schertz, pp. 25-32
- 1 Kings 17-18
  - Hebrew: 1 Kings 17:7-12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complete Notebook 01</th>
<th>Complete Accents Exercise 1.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Reading Report 01</td>
<td>Complete Topical Discussion Question 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complete Notebook 02</th>
<th>Complete Accents Exercise 1.2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Reading Report 02</td>
<td>Complete Topical Discussion Question 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3: Reading</td>
<td>Week 3: Assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **The Book of Jonah**  
  - The Hebrew text of Jonah 1:7-9  
  - Futato, Accents, Ch. 4  
  - Futato, Jonah 1:7-9 | **Complete Quiz 03:**  
  - Hebrew: Jonah 1:7-9  
  - Vocabulary: Dillard 182-185, 654-660, 884-890  
  - Verbs: Piel Regular (BHRG §16.4) |
| **Grammar**  
  - BHRG §§19.3 | **Complete Notebook 03**  
  - Complete Accents Exercise 1.3  
  - Complete Reading Report 03  
  - Complete Topical Discussion Question 3 |
| **An Exegetical Model: Tabling the Text**  
  (Part 1): Lexical Analysis  
  - Schertz, pp. 33-40  
  1 Kings 17-18  
  - Hebrew: 1 Kings 17:13-18 |  
| **Week 4: Reading** | **Week 4: Assignments** |
| **The Book of Jonah**  
  - The Hebrew text of Jonah 1:10-13  
  - Futato, Jonah 1:10-13 | **Complete Quiz 04:**  
  - Hebrew: Jonah 1:10-13  
  - Vocabulary: Van Pelt 543-54  
  - Verbs: Hiphil Regular (BHRG §16.7) |
| **Grammar**  
  - BHRG §§19.4 | **Complete Notebook 04**  
  - Complete Accents Exercise 1.4  
  - Complete Reading Report 04  
  - Complete Topical Discussion Question 4 |
| **An Exegetical Model: Tabling the Text**  
  (Part 2): Textual Criticism  
  - Schertz, pp. 40-45  
  1 Kings 17-18  
  - Hebrew: 1 Kings 17:19-24 |  
| **Week 5: Reading** | **Week 5: Assignments** |
| **The Book of Jonah**  
  - The Hebrew text of Jonah 1:14-2:2  
  - Futato, Jonah 1:14-2:2 | **Complete Quiz 05:**  
  - Hebrew: Jonah 1:14-2:2  
  - Vocabulary: Van Pelt 555-566  
  - Verbs: I & II Guttural (BHRG §18.2) |
| **Grammar**  
  - BHRG §§20.1 | **Complete Notebook 05**  
  - Complete Accents Exercise 2.1  
  - Complete Reading Report 05  
  - Complete Topical Discussion Question 5 |
| **An Exegetical Model: Contouring the Text**  
  (Part 1): Semantic Patterns  
  - Schertz, pp. 46-56  
  1 Kings 17-18  
  - Hebrew: 1 Kings 18:1-6 |  

### Week 6: Reading
The Book of Jonah
- The Hebrew text of Jonah 2:3-7a
- Futato, Jonah 2:3-7a

Grammar
- BHRG §§20.2

An Exegetical Model: Contouring the Text (Part 2): Grammatical Patterns
- Schertz, pp. 57-65
- Hebrew: 1 Kings 18:7-12

### Week 6: Assignments
Complete Quiz 06:
- Hebrew: Jonah 2:3-7a
- Vocabulary: Van Plet 567-578
- Verbs: III Hey (BHRG §18.5)

Complete Notebook 06
Complete Accents Exercise 2.2
Complete Reading Report 06
Complete Topical Discussion Question 6

### Week 7: Reading
The Book of Jonah
- The Hebrew text of Jonah 2:7b-11
- Futato, Jonah 2:7b-11

Grammar
- BHRG §§20.3

An Exegetical Model: Plotting the Text (Part 1): Regions in the Text
- Schertz, pp. 66-77
- Hebrew: 1 Kings 18:13-18

### Week 7: Assignments
Complete Quiz 07:
- Hebrew: Jonah 2:7b-11
- Vocabulary: Dillard 199-202, 682-688, 911-917
- Verbs: I Nun (BHRG §18.6)

Complete Notebook 07
Complete Accents Exercise 2.3
Complete Reading Report 07
Complete Topical Discussion Question 7

### Week 8: Reading
The Book of Jonah
- The Hebrew text of Jonah 3:1-5
- Futato, Jonah 3:1-5

Grammar
- BHRG §21.2

An Exegetical Model: Plotting the Text (Part 2): Flow of the Text
- Schertz, pp. 78-88
- Hebrew: 1 Kings 18:19-25

### Week 8: Assignments
Complete Quiz 08:
- Hebrew: Jonah 3:1-5
- Vocabulary: Van Plet 591-602
- Verbs: I Yod (BHRG §18.7)

Complete Notebook 08
Complete Accents Exercise 2.4
Complete Reading Report 08
Complete Topical Discussion Question 8
Week 9: Reading
The Book of Jonah
  • The Hebrew text of Jonah 3:6-9
  • Futato, Jonah 3:6-9

Grammar
  • BHRG §46

An Exegetical Model: Studying the Historical Context: Place in History
  • Stuart, 1.7, 2.7, 3.4
  1 Kings 17-18
    • Hebrew: 1 Kings 18:26-31

Week 9: Assignments
Complete Quiz 09:
  • Hebrew: Jonah 3:6-9
  • Vocabulary: Van Pelt 603 - 616
  • Verbs: Synopsis of Hollow and Geminate (BHRG §18.8-9)

Complete Notebook 09
Complete Accents Exercise 2.5
Complete Reading Report 09
Complete Topical Discussion Question 9

Week 10: Reading
The Book of Jonah
  • The Hebrew text of Jonah 3:10-4:3
  • Futato, Jonah 3:10-4:3

Grammar
  • BHRG §47

An Exegetical Model: Studying the Literary Context: Place in Book and Genre
  • Stuart, 1.8, 2.8, 3.4
  1 Kings 17-18
    • Hebrew: 1 Kings 18:32-37

Week 10: Assignments
Complete Quiz 10:
  • Hebrew: Jonah 3:10-4:3
  • Vocabulary: Van Pelt 617-628
  • Verbs: Perfect: Qal, Niphal, Piel, Hiphil

Complete Notebook 10
Complete Accents Exercise 2.6
Complete Reading Report 10
Complete Topical Discussion Question 10

Week 11: Reading
The Book of Jonah
  • The Hebrew text of Jonah 4:4-7
  • Futato, Jonah 4:4-7

Grammar
  • BHRG §25.1-3

An Exegetical Model: Studying the Canonical Context: Place in Canon
  • Stuart, 1.9, 1.10, 2.9, 2.10, 3.5
  1 Kings 17-18
    • Hebrew: 1 Kings 18:38-42

Week 11: Assignments
Complete Quiz 11:
  • Hebrew: Jonah 4:4-7
  • Vocabulary: Van Pelt 629-642
  • Verbs: Imperfect: Qal, Niphal, Piel, Hiphil

Complete Notebook 11
Complete Accents Exercise 2.7
Complete Reading Report 11
Complete Topical Discussion Question 11
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 12: Reading</th>
<th>Week 12: Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Book of Jonah</strong></td>
<td><strong>Complete Quiz 12:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Hebrew text of Jonah 4:8-11</td>
<td>• Hebrew: Jonah 4:8-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Futato, Jonah 4: 8-11</td>
<td>• Vocabulary: All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grammar</strong></td>
<td>• Verbs: All Verbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• BHRG §25.4</td>
<td><strong>Complete Notebook 12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>An Exegetical Model: Integrating the Text and Life: Application</strong></td>
<td><strong>Complete Accents Exercise 2.8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Stuart, 1.11, 2.11, 3.6</td>
<td><strong>Complete Reading Report 12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Kings 17-18</td>
<td><strong>Complete Topical Discussion Question 12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hebrew: 1 Kings 18:43-46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Hebrew Exegesis  
**Professor:** Futato

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students write seven reflection papers on the text of the book of Jonah and they write a partial exegetical paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Teaches the skills to research further into the original meaning of Scripture, including Hebrew grammar and computer technology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Reflects on the immutability of God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Focuses on likeness to God in his compassion for others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Uses key texts from the Old Testament in the practice exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Discussion forums are moderated to ensure that students communicate winsomely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*