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REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
GLOBAL

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ISAIAH - MALACHI  
DR. MICHAEL G. MCKELVEY

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# Course Overview

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## Course Description:

00OT5350 Isaiah - Malachi, 3 hours  
Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:  
Dr. Michael G. McKelvey

An expository study of the message and times of the prophets that emphasizes the themes day of the Lord, judgment, restoration, promise and fulfillment, Messiah, kingdom, and the new people of God.

## Course Objectives:

- To set the prophets in their historical setting in order to understand better the message of the prophets
- To be able to summarize the message of each prophetic book
- To become familiar with some of the issues related to the interpretation of prophecy
- To see how the prophets laid the groundwork for the coming of the Messiah

## Required Textbooks:

Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Christ of the Prophets: Abridged Edition*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2008.

VanGemeren, Willem A. *Interpreting the Prophetic Word*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.

Van Pelt, Miles V., ed. *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2016.

Williams, Michael J. *The Prophet and His Message*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2003.

English translation of the Holy Bible

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

### *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. Listen to all recorded [Lectures](#).
2. Complete all [Readings](#).
3. Participate in [Forum Discussions](#) (with other students and the professor).
4. Take [Midterm Exam](#).
5. Take [Final Exam](#).
6. Submit [Course Paper](#).
7. Submit [Reading Report](#) (will be on final exam).
8. Submit [Mentor Report/Course Application Paper](#).

# Meet the Professor

## *Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:*



[Dr. Michael G. McKelvey](#) is Associate Professor of Old Testament at RTS Jackson. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Aberdeen (2008), his M.Div. from RTS Jackson (2005), and his B.S. in Business Administration from Mississippi College (2001). While at Mississippi College, he played football and was team captain and defensive MVP in 2000.

McKelvey's special interests include the Psalms, the Prophets, and Biblical Theology. He has published the book, *Moses, David, and the High Kingship of Yahweh* (Gorgias Press, 2010), and a commentary on Amos (Crossway, 2018), and he is currently working on a commentary on the book of Psalms (Lexham Press).

Prior to coming to RTS Jackson in 2014, Mike served as a pastor for several years in both Pennsylvania and North Carolina while teaching Old Testament courses as an adjunct faculty member at RTS Jackson.

Because of his heart for the church, Mike's great focus and interest is the preaching of Jesus Christ. He and his wife, Mary Alice, have two children.

## *Publications by Dr. McKelvey:*

*Moses, David, and the High Kingship of Yahweh*, Gorgias Press, 2010.

# Grades

## *Forum Discussion (15%):*

The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:

1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
  - A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
  - B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student's answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question, therefore, requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts = 10 total posts).
  - C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)
  - A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

## *Examinations (Midterm 25%, Final 25%):*

There are two exams in this course: A Mid-Term Exam and a Final Exam. Each exam is worth 25% of the final course grade. The Mid-Term exam will cover lessons 1 through 5, and the Final Exam will be cumulative, but mainly cover material from lessons 6-17. Each exam consists of 10 short-answer questions, 2 short-essay questions, and 1 long-essay question. The time limit for each exam is 3 hours. The use of a Bible or any other material during the exams is prohibited.

All exams for this course are to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). Please note that you will need to have a proctor for your exams. Your proctor can be anyone except a relative or current RTS Student. After clicking on the exam link you, will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam.

## *Course Paper (20%):*

Write a paper (8-10 pages) on one of the problems of interpretation in the prophets (i.e., Authorship of Isaiah, Marriage of Hosea and Gomer, Date of the Book of Joel, etc.) or an exegesis paper on a specific passage from the prophets. Selections require approval by the professor. See section titled "[Research Paper Instructions](#)" in this syllabus.

### *Reading Report (10%):*

Read all biblical books in English and all the textbooks. These readings constitute 10% of the term grade. There will be a reading report section on the final exam where the student will indicate the percentage completed. (The student is encouraged to begin these readings as soon as possible, even before the course begins. **No audio books allowed.**)

### *Mentor Report OR Course Application Paper (5%):*

If you are enrolled in an **RTS Global** degree or certificate 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 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.

### *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](mailto:dess@rts.edu)  
Web site: [www.rts.edu/distance](http://www.rts.edu/distance)

# Lessons

|                                            |                              |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Lesson One<br>Introduction to the Prophets | Lesson Two<br>Isaiah         |
| Lesson Three<br>Jeremiah                   | Lesson Four<br>Ezekiel       |
| Lesson Five<br>Daniel                      | Lesson Six<br>Hosea          |
| Lesson Seven<br>Joel                       | Lesson Eight<br>Amos         |
| Lesson Nine<br>Obadiah                     | Lesson Ten<br>Jonah          |
| Lesson Eleven<br>Micah                     | Lesson Twelve<br>Nahum       |
| Lesson Thirteen<br>Habakkuk                | Lesson Fourteen<br>Zephaniah |
| Lesson Fifteen<br>Haggai                   | Lesson Sixteen<br>Zechariah  |
| Lesson Seventeen<br>Malachi                |                              |



# Research Paper Instructions

Write a paper (8-10 pages) on one of the problems of interpretation in the prophets (i.e. Authorship of Isaiah, Marriage of Hosea and Gomer, Date of the Book of Joel, etc.) or an exegesis paper on a specific passage from the prophets. The paper should use Turabian formatting, Times New Roman 12-point font, and double spacing. Be sure to include a title page and bibliography. Writing a paper that is shorter than 8 pages or longer than 10 pages can result in a grade penalty. Part of writing well involves being both detailed and concise.

Selections require approval by the professor. You may contact Dr. McKelvey in the Student-to-Professor forum or via the Canvas inbox for approval of potential paper topics.

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes  
With Mini-Justification**

Course: Isaiah-Malachi  
Professor: Dr. Michael G. McKelvey

| <b><u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u></b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b><u>Rubric</u></b><br>➤ Strong<br>➤ Moderate<br>➤ Minimal<br>➤ None | <b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>     | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.                                                                                                                                                               | Strong                                                                | Significant academic paper stresses clear writing, cogent thought, and concision.                                                                                                |
| <b>Scripture</b>                             | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Strong                                                                | 1. Significant exegetical work<br>2. Original languages used in assignments and paper, and<br>3. Emphasis in seeing and understanding the books in the light of the whole Bible. |
| <b>Reformed Theology</b>                     | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Moderate                                                              | Classically reformed approaches are brought to bare in the consideration of the texts                                                                                            |
| <b>Sanctification</b>                        | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Moderate                                                              | 1. Study of the text is part of sanctification<br>2. Exegetical work ends in application                                                                                         |
| <b>Desire for Worldview</b>                  | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Moderate                                                              | Applications to the different areas of life made from the biblical texts                                                                                                         |
| <b>Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic</b>      | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)                                                                                                       | Strong                                                                | Courteous, careful interaction with other scholarship is a part of the lectures, assigned reading, and writing                                                                   |
| <b>Preach</b>                                | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Moderate                                                              | The course focuses on bringing understanding of the text to the point where homiletical work can continue                                                                        |
| <b>Worship</b>                               | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Minimal                                                               | Interpretation and understanding of God's revelation leads to worship                                                                                                            |
| <b>Shepherd</b>                              | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.                                                                                                                                                                       | Moderate                                                              | Biblical knowledge and hermeneutical skill is vital in the area of church life                                                                                                   |
| <b>Church/World</b>                          | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Minimal                                                               | Understanding the whole Bible through biblical theology is necessary to communicating its message                                                                                |