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## OT 611 Exegesis of Exodus

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**This is a rough draft and is subject to change in its specifics. The textbooks are correct.**

**Asbury Theological Seminary-Florida  
OT 611 Exegesis of Exodus  
Spring 2003**

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Prerequisites: IBS-1/OT501/OT520

**Exodus is a foundational book in the Christian Bible. In it, two of the Old Testament principal salvific events (Exodus and Sinai) are narrated. In light of these developments, a theological profile of Israel as the people of God is presented. We also will find a multi-faceted portrait of God as we enter into the narrative-world of Exodus.**

**As many of you know, Exodus as a whole and Exodus 15:1-21 in particular were the focus of much of my doctoral studies. I love the book of Exodus, and I look forward to studying it with you for next several months.**

**As described in the *Catalog*, students should expect to spend 2.5-3 hours outside of class for every hour in class. Thus, through the course of a semester, a student should average 7.5 – 9.0 hours per week *outside* of class time in preparation for this class. Please plan your schedules accordingly.**

### **I. Course description**

This course explores selected exegetical issues in the Book of Exodus and provides students with opportunities to apply original-language tools to the book's strategic passages. The focus will be on developing appropriate interpretive skills for the pastoral ministry.

### **II. Course objectives (Shared by OT department)**

Upon successful completion of this course, each participant will be able to:

- A. confirm and refine by recourse to the Hebrew text of Exodus literary analysis of longer units previously studied in translation,
- B. analyze the significance of the grammar and sentence structure of brief pericopes using primarily the Hebrew text,
- C. present the significance of key terms in a given passage by using basic original language word-study tools and techniques,

D. identify the function of a given, brief passage of Exodus in the framework of its immediate context, its function in the literary flow of the book and in the section of the canon within which it appears,

E. situate the thematic emphases of specific passages of Exodus in the context of the Old Testament's unfolding message and in the context of the Bible as a whole,

F. demonstrate the impact of representative exegetical methods on the study of Exodus, employing relevant scholarly literature, and situating one's own interpretation in the ongoing discussion of biblical interpretation,

G. illustrate the contribution of exegetical study of the Hebrew text to biblical exposition, instruction, theological reflection, and spiritual formation in order to construct an appropriation of the passage that is integrative and coherent.

### **III. Course procedures and requirements**

A. Class presentations will model direct study of Exodus, relying primarily on interpretive skills introduced in OT 501 and IBS-1. After a survey of the contents and issues in the interpretation of Exodus has been completed, class sessions will walk systematically through the units of Exodus, highlighting specific passages that make notable contributions to the meaning of each unit. Grammatical, linguistic, historical, literary, and theological details of selected passages will be highlighted in order to illustrate the chosen pericope's contribution to the message of the larger unit. Students will be required to read selected sections of Exodus in preparation for each class period. A short assignment will accompany each selection that highlights the use of a particular exegetical skill.

B. Students will prepare a critical book review of *Exodus and Revolution*. Specific directions will follow.

C. Students will write two exegetical papers on assigned texts from Exodus, utilizing the skills acquired in OT 501 and IBS-1. These papers should be double-spaced, typed, and no more than four pages (Times New Roman, 1" margin, 12 type) in length. The paper will essentially provide answers to the following questions: 1) What is the subject of this text?, 2) What is said about the subject?, 3) What is the purpose of what is said? (More specific instructions will be provided at the time of the assignments) The paper should present the student's observations of the text's components, including causal and temporal particles, connotations of the verbal derived stems and aspects, significance of word order, and where appropriate, implications of a specific word's usage elsewhere in the Old Testament. Also where appropriate to the specific pericope, students should show sensitivity to socio-historical, canonical, and theological issues arising from the text itself. **Students may turn as many of these projects as they wish. In such cases, I will "count" only the two highest scores.**

D. Students will write a final paper on a pericope to be chosen from the list that will be provided later in the term. The purpose of this paper is to provide the student an opportunity to synthesize his or her newly acquired skills by allowing a direct demonstration of them. Secondary sources may be consulted, beginning with the preliminary bibliography provided at the end of the syllabus. The paper should also conclude in a brief sermon outline or lesson plan based on the specific observations raised in the paper. These papers should be double-spaced, typed, and no more than ten pages (Times New Roman, 1" margins, 12 type) in length.

#### **IV. Textbooks**

A. Required specifically for OT 611.

John I. Durham. *Exodus*. WBC. Waco: Word, 1987.

Terrence E. Fretheim. *Exodus*. Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1991.

Michael Walzer. *Exodus and Revolution*

B. Required in previous courses (OT 501).

Arnold, Bill and John Choi. "*Guide for the Perplexed*": *Hebrew Syntax for Pastors and Students*. Unpublished text. **Copies will be available for student use.**

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77.

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament Based upon the Lexical Work of Ludwig Koehler and Walter Baumgartner*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1971.

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkley, Calif.: BIBAL, 1987.

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

C. Recommended:

BibleWorks 4.0 or 5.0 (*Hermeneutika*)

D. Recommended Commentaries and Studies:

See attached bibliography

#### **V. Student evaluation**

A. Short Assignments	20%
B. Book Review of <i>Exodus and Revolution</i>	15%
C. Exegetical Papers (two highest grades)	25%
D. Final paper	40%

Selected Passages for final paper: TBA – but may be negotiated with instructor.

Students who submit all work on time and attend every class (no exceptions) will receive an increase of one grade level (i.e., B+ → A-).

## VI. Outline of Unit Topics

The course is divided into 13 units, each of which will occupy about a week of class time. Students will be required to read the assigned sections of the biblical text, complete a brief assignment (except for the five class meetings on which the exegetical papers are due), and read the relevant portions of the commentaries in preparation for each class period.

1. Introduction to the Study of the Exodus. Complete Reading of articles in *ABD* and introductions in the two assigned commentaries.
2. Exodus 1-2 Demonstration of Exegetical Method
3. Exodus 3-6 (Grammatical Analysis of Exod 6:2-9 Due)
4. Exodus 7-11 (Abbreviated Word Study Due – Pharaoh’s Hard Heart)
5. Exodus 12:1-13:16 (Narrative as Liturgy)
6. Exodus 13:17-15:1-21 (Compositional Criticism)
7. Exodus 15:22-18:27 (17:1-17)
8. Exodus 19 (Exegesis Paper 1 Due: Exod 19:3-6)
9. Exodus 20 (Exegesis Paper 2 Due: 20:8-11)
10. Exodus 21-24 (Exegesis Paper 3 Due: 21:1-11)
11. Exodus 32-34 (Exegesis Paper 4 Due: Exod 32:7-14)
12. Exodus 25-31, 35-40 (Exegesis Paper 5 Due)
13. Exodus in Tradition (Overview of OT and NT appropriation)

### Select Bibliography

\*Highly recommend

Bernhard W. Anderson, “The Song of Miriam Poetically and Theologically Considered” in *Directions in Biblical Hebrew Poetry*, ed. Elaine D. Follis, JSOTSS 46, 285-296. Sheffield: JSOT, 1987.

Batto, Bernard F. *Slaying the Dragon: Mythmaking in the Biblical Tradition*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1992.

Beer, Georg. *Exodus*. HZAT, 3. Mit einem Beitrag von Kurt Galling. Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr, 1937.

- Birch, Bruce C., Walter Brueggemann, Terence E. Fretheim, and David L. Petersen. *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.
- Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *The Pentateuch: An Introduction to the First Five Books of the Bible*. Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1981.
- Brueggemann, Walter. "The Book of Exodus" in *New Interpreter's Bible*, vol. 1. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.
- Bush, George. *Notes, Critical, and Practical on the Book of Exodus*. vol. I. New York: Ivison, Phinney, Blakeman; 1867.
- \*Calvin, John. *Commentaries on the Four Last Books of Moses, Arranged in the Form of a Harmony*. Vol. 1. Edinburgh: Calvin Translation Society, 1843.
- Campbell, Antony F. and Mark A. O'Brien. *Sources of the Pentateuch: Texts, Introductions, Annotations*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.
- Cassuto, U. *A Commentary on the Book of Exodus*. Translated by Israel Abrahams. Jerusalem: Magnes, 1967.
- \*\*Childs, Brevard S. *The Book of Exodus: A Critical and Theological Commentary*. OTL. Louisville: Westminster, 1974.
- Cross, Frank Moore. *From Epic to Canon: History and Literature in Ancient Israel*. Baltimore and London: The John Hopkins University Press, 1998.
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- Dozeman, Thomas B. "The Song of the Sea and Salvation History" in *On the Way to Nineveh: Studies in Honor of George M. Landes*. Stephen L. Cook and S. C. Winter, eds. ASOR Books, 4. Atlanta: Scholars, 1999. 94-113.
- Driver, S.R. *The Book of Exodus*. Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. Cambridge: University Press, 1911.
- Fishbane, Michael. *Biblical Interpretation in Ancient Israel*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1985.
- Fox, Everett. *Now These Are the Names: A New English Rendition of the Book of Exodus*. New York: Schocken, 1986.

- \*Gowan, Donald E. *Theology in Exodus: Biblical Theology in the Form of a Commentary*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1994.
- Houtman, Cornelis. *Exodus*. Historical Commentary on the Old Testament. 3 vols. Translated by Sierd Woudstra. Kampen: Kok Publishing House, 1993.
- Hyatt, J. Philip. *Commentary on Exodus*. NCB. Greenwood: Attic, 1971.
- Janzen, J. Gerald. "Song of Moses, Song of Miriam: Who is Seconding Whom?" *CBQ* 54 (1992): 211-20.
- \*Janzen, Waldemar. *Exodus*. Believers Church Bible Commentary, Waterloo, Ontario and Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 2000.
- Johnstone, W. *Exodus*. Old Testament Guides. Sheffield: Sheffield; 1990, 1995.
- Keil, C.F. "The Second Book of Moses (Exodus)" in C.F. Keil and F. Delitzsch. *Commentary on the Old Testament in Ten Volumes*. Vol. 1. Translated by James Martin. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981 (reprint).
- Knight, George A.F. *Theology as Narration: A Commentary on the Book of Exodus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.
- Levenson, Jon D. *Sinai & Zion: An Entry into the Jewish Bible*. New York: Harper Collins, 1985.
- Lockshin, Martin I. *Rashbam's Commentary on Exodus: An Annotated Translation*. Illustrations by Channa Lockshin. Atlanta: Scholars, 1996.
- Loewenstamm, Samuel E. *The Evolution of the Exodus Tradition*. Translated by Baruch J. Schwartz. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, The Hebrew University; 1992.
- Lohfink, Norbert. *The Christian Meaning of the Old Testament*. Translated by R.A. Wilson. Milwaukee: Bruce, 1968.
- Mann, Thomas W. *The Book of the Torah: The Narrative Integrity of the Pentateuch*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1988.
- \*McBride, S. Dean, Jr. "Perspective and Context in the Study of Pentateuchal Legislation" in *Old Testament Interpretation: Past Present and Future: Essays in Honor of Gene M. Tucker*, eds. James Luther Mays, David L. Petersen, and Kent Harold Richards. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995, 47-59.
- \*McBride, S. Dean, Jr. "Transcendent Authority: The Role of Moses in Old Testament Traditions" *Interpretation* 44 (1990): 229-39.

- Nevin, Alfred. *Notes, Exegetical, Practical and Devotional on the Book of Exodus, for the Pulpit, Family and Sabbath-School*. Philadelphia: Claxton, Ramson, and Haffelfinger; 1874.
- Noth, Martin. *Exodus: A Commentary*. OTL. Translated by J.S. Bowden. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1962.
- Noth, Martin. *A History of the Pentateuchal Traditions*. Translation with an introduction by Bernhard W. Anderson. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1972.
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- Plastaras, James. *The God of the Exodus: The Theology of the Exodus Narrative*. Milwaukee: Bruce, 1966.
- \*\*Propp, William H. C. *Exodus 1-18: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. The Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1999.
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- \*Smith, Mark. *The Pilgrimage Pattern in Exodus*. JSOTSS 239. Sheffield: JSOT, 1997.
- Whybray, R. N. *Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.