1-1-2002

OT 714 Exegesis of Isaiah

Sandra Richter

Follow this and additional works at: http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi

Recommended Citation
http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/2134

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.
OT 714 Exegesis of the Prophets

Spring 2002
Wednesdays 1-3:45 pm
M306

Instructor:
Dr. Sandy Richter
sandra_richter@asburyseminary.edu
SPO 1320
Office: BC336
     858-2032

Office Hours:
Wednesday 4-5:00 pm
Thursday 1-3:00 pm

Course Description:
This class is designed for advanced seminarians who have already laid a foundation in exegetical
method by means of IBS, basic Hebrew grammar, and an Introduction to the history and literature of
ancient Israel. Beginning with the larger historical, sociological, and canonical context of the prophet
and his oracles, and proceeding to selected passages within Isaiah’s book, this class will seek to guide
the student through the process of exegesis in the Writing Prophets. The end goal of this class is to
enable the student to develop the exegetical competence required for interpreting the Hebrew text,
and responsibly representing that text to a contemporary audience.

Course Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:
1) Understand the role of the biblical prophet in comparison to other divine intermediaries in the
   world of Ancient Israel.
2) Identify the life-setting of the divine intermediary, Isaiah, and by extension any of the Writing
   Prophets, such that his message may be better understood by his modern audience.
3) Analyze the theological and literary structure of the Book of Isaiah and, by extension, of any of the
   Writing Prophets.
4) Identify and assess the theological and literary structure of an individual oracle within the Book of
   Isaiah and, by extension, of any biblical oracle.
5) Confirm and refine, by recourse to the Hebrew text, the literary, syntactical, and grammatical
   structure of individual pericopes within these oracles.
6) Present the biblical-theological significance of key terms in a given passage by using basic Hebrew
   language word-study tools and techniques.
7) Distill from any given passage the message intended to its original audience, and interpret and
   articulate its present theological import for the Church.

Course Procedures & Requirements

Method of Instruction:
The format of the class will be quite varied. Lecture and discussion will augmented by in-class
Hebrew translation and syntactical analysis. Student discussion and presentation will play a major role
in the weekly class meetings. Hence, students will be expected to come to class prepared to
demonstrate and discuss the readings and exercises assigned.
Textbooks:

Previously Required


Either BDB (*A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*)


Presently Required


Recommended


Requirements:

10% - class participation
20% - cumulative weekly quizzes on basic Hebrew vocabulary and paradigms
10% - IBS-style Book Survey of Isaiah
10% - 2 syntactical analyses of assigned pericopes
15% - Word Study
35% - Final Exegetical Project on Isaiah

*As this is a seminar class, presence and preparedness are expected. One absence (or its equivalent) will be waived. Following absences will significantly affect student’s final evaluation.

Word Studies:
The student will select one of the following words for her/his study. Making use of the standard lexicons, concordances, and theological word books, the student will analyze the contextual range and theological significance of the word in question for the larger text and for Isaiah. Potential words/phrases include: אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה אִשָּׁי אֱמָנָה אֱנָחָה אַתָּה יַעֲנֵנִי אִשִּׁית בַּיְמֵי גּוּלְתִּי יְהוָה אֵל אָבִי יְהוָה יָמִית (7:14)

אָבִי בֶּן יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵל אָבִי יְהוָה יָמִית בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יָמִית (52:15)

Final Projects:
The student will select one of the following pericopes upon which to write a 10-12 page exegesis paper. The paper will show evidence of all of the exegetical skills learned during the course of the semester. The student may choose one of two forms of presentation in the writing of this paper: either an academic (technical) presentation or a sermon format. Both presentations will require
thorough citation, although the latter will necessarily involve more material in the footnotes. Potential pericopes include: 2:1-4; 9:1-7; 11:1-9(10); 53:4-9; 53:10-12
Class Meeting 1: The Task of Exegesis and An Introduction to the Life & Times of Isaiah
Kaiser, pp. 7-11, 17-47 (discussion questions will be posted)
Atlas, pp. 72-77
Oswalt, vol. 1, pp. 3-31
Recommended: Theodore Mullen, “Divine Assembly” ABD 2:214-17; (1 Kgs 22:1-40; Isa 6; Jer 23:18, 22; Amos 3:7, 8; Malachi 3:1)

Class Meeting 2: The Role of the Prophet in Israel and the ANE
Deuteronomy chapters 1-18 (emphasis on chptrs 13 & 18)
Robert Wilson, Prophecy and Society in Ancient Israel, pp. 89-134
John Huehnergard, "On the Etymology and Meaning of Hebrew מָמֵא/מָטֶה/מָטֶה" Eretz-Israel 26
ANET packet
Recommended: Martti Nissinen, Prophecy in Its Ancient Near Eastern Context, pp. 47-114

Class Meeting 3: The Book of Isaiah
Childs, pp. 1-10
Oswalt, pp. 31-64
Kaiser, pp. 48-66

Class Meeting 4: First Isaiah: The Lawsuit
Isaiah 1:1-4:6
Translate Isaiah 1:1-6
Kaiser, pp. 69-104, 165-81
Oswalt on Isaiah 1, pp. 79-111
Childs on Isaiah 1, pp. 11-23
Recommended: Blenkinsopp, 16-48; 98-121 (55)

Class Meeting 5: First Isaiah: The Litigator
Translate 6:1-8
Kaiser, 105-129 (Syntactical Analysis; cf. Traina pp. 34-58)
Oswalt on Isaiah 5 & 6, pp. 149-191
Childs on Isaiah 5 & 6, pp. 37-60

Class Meeting 6: First Isaiah: Ahaz vs. Hezekiah
Translate Isaiah 7:10-19 (read all the text critical notes associated with v. 14; cf. Mt. 1:23)
Atlas, pp. 78-83
Oswalt on Isaiah 7-9:6, pp. 192-248
Scott, pp. 18-24; cf. 61-87
Wurthwein, pp. 3-17, 42-57, 103-119 (112)
Recommended: Childs on Isaiah 7, pp. 60-69

Class Meeting 7: First Isaiah: Oracles Against the Nations
Isaiah 13:1-23:18  
Translate Isa 14:10-17
Kaiser, 127-146 (Word Studies)
Jacob Milgrom, “The Nature and Extant of Idolatry in Eighth-Seventh Century Judah,”  
Childs, pp. 113-170

Class Meeting 8: “The Little Apocalypse”  
Isaiah 24:1-27:13
Childs, pp. 171-198  57+
Recommended: Oswalt, pp. 437-501

Reading Week

Class Meeting 9: Hezekiah vs. Ahaz  
Isaiah 36-39
Translate Isa 37:21-29, 33-38
Oswalt, pp. 627-698
Atlas,

Class Meeting 10: Introduction to “Second” Isaiah (the Neo-Babylonian Era)
Isaiah 40-43:21
Translate Isaiah 40:1-5; 43:1-7
Atlas, pp. 84-89
Childs, 289-337 (48)

Class Meeting 11: The Servant
Isaiah 43:22-53:12
Translate 42:1-7 (Servant Song #1); cf. Matt 11:1-5
Translate 52:13-15 (Servant Song #4)
Childs, pp. 337-423 (86)

Class Meeting 12: and the Idol
Isaiah 44
Translate Isa 44:1-2, 6-7, 9-11
Kaufemann, chptr 2?

Class Meeting 13: “Second” Isaiah Concludes
Isaiah 54:1-57:13
Childs, 424-467 (43)
Class Meeting 14: “Third” Isaiah & Post-Exilic Era
Translate Isa 61:1-9
Childs, pp. 526-547

Final Projects due