

WSBM 110 Old Testament Panorama

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With Willingdon Pastoral Staff
Winter 2024

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Thursdays, 7 – 9 PM

*Equipping the people of God – head, heart and hands – through the Word of God,
helping them know Jesus personally and carry on his mission.*

Course Description

One of the core courses at Willingdon School of the Bible, *Old Testament Panorama* surveys the biblical narrative from Genesis to Malachi. In addition, we will overview each of the four main OT sections (Pentateuch, History, Writings and Prophets), explain the various literary genres, and identify key themes emerging from the biblical text. This course will take a bird's eye view of the larger narrative, while paying special to how God reveals himself and His salvation plan through Israel's story.

Course Objectives

1. **To learn** the big picture of the Old Testament story, the role of the various OT sections within that story and the ways in which God has chosen to make himself and his salvation plan known through the story.
2. **To be** shaped as worshipers of God and followers of Christ through making the story our own.
3. **To practice** the life of faith as outlined in the Old Testament: to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

Required Reading

- *The Holy Bible* (in any quality translation – ESV, NIV, NRSV, NLT).
- Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Old Testament in Seven Sentences: A Small Introduction to a Vast Topic*. IVP Academic, 2019.

Recommended Reading

- Bauckham, Richard K. *Who is God? Key Moments in Biblical Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020.
- Fee, Gordon D. Fee & Stewart, Douglas. *How to Read The Bible Book by Book*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

- Wright, Christopher J.H. *Knowing Jesus through the Old Testament*, 2nd ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2014.
- *Bible Project OT Book Videos*, <https://bibleproject.com/explore/book-overviews/?type=old>.

Course Outline

Session One: Introduction to the Old Testament

Session Two: First Stories (Genesis)

Session Three: The Formation of God's People (Exodus – Deuteronomy)

Session Four: The Settling of God's People (Joshua- Ruth)

Session Five: The Kingdom of God's People (Samuel – Chronicles)

Session Six: The Exile and Return of God's People (Ezra – Esther)

Session Seven: The Prophetic Message for God's People (Isaiah – Malachi)

Session Eight: Wisdom, Prayer and Poetry (Job to Song of Solomon)

Student Projects & Grading

Old Testament Reading and Reflections (40%)

Students will read selected portions from the Old Testament in the language of their choice during the time of the course. For each passage, provide a short title describing the content or an important lesson. See the Drama of the Old Testament Reading Guide on the class website.

Due: Upload to the class site on or before one week after the last class – **April 4, 2024**.

Jesus in the OT Chart (10%)

Complete the “Jesus through the Old Testament” chart which is attached to the end of the syllabus, and also available on the Moodle course site.

Due: Upload to the class site on or before **February 29, 2024**.

Book Review (20%)

Write a 500-700 word review of *The Old Testament in Seven Sentences*. The review should summarize the author's main points (300-400 words), and then include some personal responses to the book (200-300 words). Consider the following questions: How is this book useful or not useful? Would you recommend this book? How has the material in the book most affected you?

Due: Upload to the class site on or before **March 21, 2024**.

Mini quizzes (4 X 5%= 20%)

Four short quizzes will be held in class. Ten minutes will be allotted for each short quiz.

Personal Application Project (10%)

Students are asked to do an application project that comes out of their time studying the Old Testament. It should involve at least 1-2 hours of work (plus writing out the report). Students could memorize a key section of the Old Testament (6-7 verses minimum – for example, Dt 6:4-9 or Psalm 19) and practice that until you can recite that successfully in front of at least 3 friends/family. Students could pursue a reconciliation project with a person with whom they are in conflict. Students could pursue a project to clean up a local playground or do something to honour God's creation. *The Personal Application Project should not be something the student is already doing.* Students will hand in a **150-word summary** of what they did, why they chose to do that (are there any Old Testament Bible verses that supported what you did?), what surprising things (if any) came out of their project, and what they learned from their project.

Due: Upload to the class site on and before **March 28, 2024.**

Jesus Through the Old Testament

In the chart below, complete the sentence “Jesus is...” using 15 words or less that summarizes how the coming Ruler and Redeemer is described.

Reference	Jesus is...
Genesis 3:15	The seed of the woman who will completely defeat the enemy. (Example)
Genesis 12:3	
Genesis 49:10	
Deut 18:15	
Josh 5:13-15	
2 Sam 7:16	
Psalms 22	
Isaiah 7:14	
Isaiah 9:6-7	
Isaiah 11:1-12	
Jeremiah 23:1-8	
Ezekiel 21:24-27	
Daniel 2:44-45	
Daniel 7:13-14	
Micah 5:2	
Habakkuk 2:14	
Zechariah 9:9-10	