

OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: EXODUS (English) OTEN 5204

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Biblical Studies Division –Fall 2015

Dr. Jim Parker, Professor of Biblical Interpretation

Office: Dr. Parker –Office Ph. 504-816-8592

- Cell 504-508-7554

E-Mail: jparker@nobts.edu

Office: Dodd 200

NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course.

NOBTS also has seven basic competencies that guide our masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency especially helping the student learn to interpret the bible accurately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to introduce the student to the study of the Old Testament. An understanding of the historical background, literary analysis, and theological message will be presented.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. To develop a basic understanding of the purpose of the Book of Exodus, specifically as it fits into the Old Testament
2. To understand the broad outline of the Book of Exodus
3. To relate historical events to the Old Testament chronology
4. To understand the basic meaning of the message of the Book of Exodus in light of its background
5. To see the Book of Exodus as the foundation upon which the New Testament developed

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. *Holy Bible*. In modern translation: HCSB, RSV, NRSV, NASV, NIV, GNB, NLT, or equivalent translations.
2. Stuart, Douglas K., *The New American Commentary: Exodus*, Broadman & Holman Publishing Group, Nashville, TN: 2006

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

- A. Lectures:** Because of the comprehensive nature of the course, it is necessary that some of the class material consist of lectures.

B. Assignments:

1. **Exams:** There will be a mid-term exam (**October 12th**) and a final exam (**December 14th**). Dates for the exams are also given on the class schedule below.
2. **Reading Quizzes:** A quiz will be given at the beginning of each class period over that day's assignment (Textbook and Bible).
3. **Journal Articles:** The student will read 2 journal articles from the list given below (or approved by the professor) on a subject of interest to the student and germane to the study of the Book of Exodus. The student will then prepare a three page, doubled spaced report for each journal article. The content of the reports will be the bibliographical information of the article, a summary of the content of the article, an analysis of the contents (the student's observations and interaction with the material) and a brief conclusion. The paper should include the student's name, however, a cover sheet is not required. The paper should be presented in Turabian style. The due dates are also given on the class schedule below. (**JA1 – Oct. 26th – JA2 – Nov.30th**).
4. **Topics:** Each student will be assigned a topic on which they will prepare a brief discussion paper (2 pages) that they will share with the class on the date the topic is scheduled (see the schedule below).
- 5.

C. Exegesis: The student will choose a passage from the Book of Exodus from a list that the professor will provide and will complete an exegetical paper on the chosen passage. The exegesis project is due on **December 7th**.

D. Grading:

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|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Exams | 40% (20% each x 2) |
| 2. Quizzes | 20% |
| 3. Student Led Discussion | 10% |
| 4. Journal Article Reports | 10% (5% each x 2) |
| 5. Exegesis | 20% |

E. Extra Credit: Up to 3 points on the final average can be earned by doing an extra credit project. The student can present a book review of a least 3 pages where the student is awarded 1 point per 150 pages read. The book must be germane to the study of the Old Testament and approved by the professor. The student can also prepare a research paper on a topic approved by the professor. The paper must be at least six pages in length, cite at least 10 sources, and be germane to the study of the Old Testament.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

- A. **Absences:** Due to the nature of the course (lectures) and the necessary fast pace of the class, unnecessary absences are discouraged. The NOBTS catalog guidelines regarding absences will be followed.

Old Testament Exegesis: Exodus (English)

Mondays 9:00 – 11:50 am

Date	Notes	Pages Stuart	Description
8/24	Review Syllabus		Introduction
		19-52	1:1-2:25
8/31		53-104	3:1-4:18
		105-143	4:19-7:7
9/7		143-182	7:8-9:7
		183-228	9:8-11:10
9/14		228-268	12:1-12:30
		269-293	12:31-13:16
9/21		293-318	13:17-15:21
		319-364	15:22-17:16
9/28		364-401	18:1-19:25
		438-473	20:1-20:26
10/5		473-540	21:1-23:19
		540-572	23:20-25:22
10/12	Mid-Term Exam		
		572-601	25:23-27:21
10/19	Fall Break		
10/26	Journal Article No. 1	601-642	28:1-30:21
		642-656	30:22-31:18
11/2		659-693	32:1-33:6
		693-749	33:7-35:3
11/9		750-764	35:4-37:16
		764-768	37:17-38:8
11/16		768-794	38:9-40:38
11/23	Thanksgiving		
11/30	Journal Article No. 2		Review for Exegesis
12/7			Exegesis
12/14	Final		

Student Led Topics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
8/29	Genocide – Ex. 1:15-22
9/12	Theophany – Ex. 3:1-12
9/19	The Nile as a God
10/3	Hardening of Pharaoh's heart
10/10	The 10 Plagues: Natural or Supernatural?
10/17	How Many Israelites Left Egypt?
10/31	What was the attraction to idolatry?
11/14	Lex Talionis (The law of the talon)
11/21	Urim & Thummim

The topics to discuss are given on the Discussion Board on Blackboard. Also some information is given in Course Information regarding the nature of your postings.

Exegetical Topics and Texts

Israel in Egypt

<u>Description</u>	<u>Passage(s)</u>
Reversal of Fortune: The New Dynasty	1:1-14
The Pharaoh's Genocide	1:15-22
Birth of a Deliverer: Moses	2:1-10
Adulthood, Revolt & Flight	2:11-15
Moses Finds a Home	2:16-22
A Postscript on the Oppression	2:23-25

Moses' Call

Theophany and Call	3:1-12
The Name of God and It's Meaning	3:13-22
The Signs of Moses' Authority	4:1-9
Moses Goes to Egypt - Leadership Challenged	4:24-26
The Genealogy of Aaron & Moses	6:14-27
Moses and Aaron: The Mission	6:28-7:7
	7:14-11:10 & 12:29-
	36
The Plagues: Spiritual Warfare (Use The Nile Turned to Blood as Example)	7:14-24

Israel In The Wilderness - 13:17-18:27

Unleavened Bread and the Firstborn	13:1-16
The Route of the Exodus	13:17-14:4
The Parting of the Sea	14:13-31
The Testing of Yahweh & Moses	17:1-7
The Battle with Amalek	17:8-16
The Necessity of Leadership and the Beginning of the Israelite Legal System	18:13-27

Israel at Sinai - 19:1-40:38

Israel Prepares for Yahweh's Coming	19:1-15
Yahweh Comes to Israel at Sinai	19:16-25
Yahweh's Principles for Life in Covenant	20:1-17
Israel Response to Yahweh's Coming	20:18-21
The Making of the Covenant: The People and Their Leaders	24:1-18
The Tabernacle	25:1-31:18
(Especially the Altar of Incense ["Most Holy"])	30:1-10
Israel's Sin with the Golden Calf	32:1-6
Moses' Anger & Yahweh's Judgment	32:7-35
The Command to Leave Sinai	33:1-6
The Tent of Meeting	33:7-11
Moses' Plea for Mercy and Yahweh's Answer	33:12-34:9
The Renewal of the Covenant	34:10-28
Moses' Shining Face	34:29-35

Acceptable Journals

AUSS	<i>Andrews University Seminary Studies</i>
BA	<i>Biblical Archaeologist</i>
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BSac	<i>Bibliotheca Sacra</i>
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CurTM	<i>Currents in Theology and Mission</i>
EvQ	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
ExpTim	<i>Expository Times</i> (Students should only consult issues prior to 1980)
HDivB	<i>Harvard Divinity Bulletin</i>
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
IEJ	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>

JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JETS	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JR	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSS	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
RB	<i>Revue Biblique</i>
RQ	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
Sem	<i>Semeia</i>
USQR	<i>Union Seminary Quarterly Review</i>
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
WTJ	<i>Westminster Theological Journal</i>
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>

GUIDELINES FOR THE EXEGETICAL PROJECT:

Stage One

This paper assignment contains the primary steps to be taken in a full-blown exegesis of a Biblical passage. When it is completed, you should be ready to add the homiletical components of sermon preparation and then to preach the sermon. The paper *must* follow the following steps, *in order*. In your paper, please give each heading and then do the work asked for. This paper is *not* a typical term paper in the sense of having an ordered introduction, statement of purpose, development of thought, and conclusion. These are not needed. You should begin on the first page with the “Text” section and proceed through the paper according to the outline below. The final product will be a collection of the separate sections below, but they are all ordered in a logical sequence that should help in sermon preparation. (For more instructions on the mechanics of producing the paper, see the last page.) Note that the work going into this paper will undoubtedly be more than you will have available to you week-by-week for sermon preparation. However, in doing this in-depth exercise, you should learn the essential steps for a proper exegesis. The more you do this, the easier it will become and the more it will be second nature to you. Enjoy!

1. **Text**. Write out the text of the passage chosen, *single-spaced*, including verse numbers *and* indications of your own paragraph divisions, from one of the following translations: KJV, NKJV, ASV, NASB, RSV, NRSV, NIV, NJPSV, REB, RAB, NLT. (1/2–1 page). NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED.

2. **Historical Background**. Focus here is on information not directly gathered from the text itself or its literary contexts (i.e., things such as dates, international situation, etc.). Include here the major results of your sample historical background study. Also remember that you will need to do more general background study for the larger project, as well as other specific historical,

cultural topical studies. Outside sources (such as Bible commentaries, dictionaries, encyclopedias, or histories) *should* be used here. (1–1.5 pages)

3. **Literary Context.** (1) Discuss the *placement* of the passage in its immediate and larger contexts within the book, and (2) justify the paragraph divisions you have provided above. Look for clues in the immediately preceding and following contexts (the surrounding paragraphs and chapters) that show how the passage you are considering fits into its context (i.e., why it is where it is). NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (1 page)

4. **Paragraph Analysis.** Identify the theme of each paragraph in one sentence per paragraph. The theme may be a key sentence taken directly from the text *or* a statement in your own words. *Justify your judgment in each case (i.e., give your reasons for it).* NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (1 page)

5. **Verse Analysis.** Comment here on important features of individual verses. (In a longer passage, focus on each paragraph instead of each verse.) *Do not* merely summarize each verse (or paragraph) or re-state the obvious. *Do* comment on the flow of the argument or story-line from verse to verse (or paragraph to paragraph), including addressing why certain things may be stated in a particular way, why certain statements are included where they are, why omissions of expected materials occur, etc. Comment as needed on important theological words or ideas. Notice where else in the book or in other biblical books certain words or ideas are found. You may use concordances or theological wordbooks here, including any cross-referencing guide you like (such as that found within most Bibles themselves), *but*, you may *not* use a commentary here. Do your own work here. NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (2–3 pages)

6. **Theme.** Based upon the various stages of your detailed analysis above, and especially building upon your statements of theme for each paragraph, provide a one-sentence statement of the theme of the entire text (i.e., what is the author's main point in this section?). Explain the basis for your decision. NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (1/2 page)

7. **Word Study.** Include here the major results of your sample word study (not the raw data you presented earlier). Also remember that you probably will need to do other word studies for this larger project. (1 page)

8. **Outline.** Present an “exegetical” (“historical”) outline of the text, reflecting the theme. NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (1/3–1/2 page)

9. **Homiletical (Sermon or Teaching) Outline.** This outline should derive from the exegetical outline. Also include a one-sentence re-statement of the theme (point “6.” above), a desired audience response, and a concluding challenge. NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (1/2 page)

10. **Commentary Comparison.** Include here any additional essential insights gleaned from three exegetical commentaries. *These must be insights that you did not already uncover in your own work.* You may include these insights into the body of your work in Stage Two of your paper, but here, be sure to do the work asked for *in the order requested.* (1 page)

Note 1: The use of commentaries is to be limited to the specific instructions for the Project; the only points at which you are to use them are in the Historical Background step and in Step 10 of Stage One. The reason for this restriction is to help you to see how commentaries can be most helpful to you in your work, rather than becoming an unhealthy crutch and a hindrance to developing your own spiritual insight.

Note 2: Page numbers here are suggested guides only. The major concern is that you accomplish the required work. However, the final product should be no less than ten (10) and no more than twelve (12) pages, double-spaced.

Stage Two

The last stage is a polished paper presenting the information gathered in the first stage in ready-to-deliver form. The purpose of this stage is to synthesize the data you have gathered in the first stage into a well-written presentation. The paper may take one of two forms: 1. A sermon manuscript, i.e., written out word-for-word, ready to deliver orally, or 2. A teaching paper and plan, fully developed. In either case, this stage should have an interesting introduction, a developed body, and a conclusion that ties the paper together. Thus, this stage contrasts with the first stage in that the first stage is merely a step-by-step distillation of your findings. The second stage is a finished and polished work. Be sure to consider your audience in choosing the format of the paper and in shaping the material for presentation. (5-6 pages, double-spaced)

Style and Formatting Guidelines for Papers

The papers are to be neatly typed, *doubled-spaced* (except for the “Text” section, which is to be single-spaced), using no larger than a 12-point font (if a computer printer is used); dot-matrix printers are acceptable, provided a dark ribbon and “letter-quality” print mode are used. Please number the pages, use a “ragged right” margin (i.e., not justified right), and *staple* the pages together (upper left corner; *no covers*). Any standard scheme of footnotes, end notes, or text notes found in Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers* is acceptable; but it must be used consistently, and full and proper documentation must be provided for any sources used (listings should be by author and title of book, commentary, or article [*not* editor!], with series name and editor appearing at the appropriate place), including a separate bibliography appended to the paper.

Standard academic writing procedures must be followed, including writing in your own words, giving proper credit when quoting or referring to material from another work, and writing in good English. Students who may have trouble with writing of English are expected to have their papers proofread by someone conversant in English writing skills *prior to* production of the papers.

Select Bibliography

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- Motyer, J.A. *Exodus*, The Bible Speaks Today, Intervarsity Press, 2005
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- Sarna, Nahum M. *Exodus*, The JPS Torah Commentary, Philadelphia & New York: The Jewish Publication Society, 1991
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