



OTEN6321 Old Testament Eschatology
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Spring 2020, Thursday 6:00–8:50 (CST)

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Spiritual Vitality. The NOBTS graduate catalog defines Spiritual Vitality as follows: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition and Christian Theological Heritage.

Course Description

This course studies the message of hope in the Old Testament in the light of the ancient Near Eastern world. Old Testament eschatology includes several areas of thought: death and afterlife, future hope, the (coming) kingdom of God, God's anointed, and God's redemptive plan. The focus of this class will be a modest introduction to the ANE contextual world of thought about the afterlife, along with a heavy emphasis upon what the Old Testament teaches about the kingdom of God and His anointed Messiah.

Student Learning Outcomes

The following student learning outcomes are employed to demonstrate the student's proficiency in each of these areas. The student must demonstrate accomplishment of each of the items described under the assessment area in order to pass this course. Upon completing the course, the student will have demonstrated an ability to:

- Discuss key biblical texts that develop the eschatological hopes of ancient Israel.
- Discuss contemporary approaches to the interpretation of Old Testament eschatology, especially noting the advocates, the strengths, and the weaknesses of each millennial position.

- Identify significant eschatological themes in the Old Testament.
- Write an exegetical paper on a selected passage regarding eschatological/messianic expectation in the Old Testament.
- Develop a teaching/preaching outline based on the exegetical analysis.

Textbooks

Darrell L. Bock, ed. *Three Views on the Millennium and Beyond*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999, 2010. 978-0310201434

Gerard Van Groningen. *Messianic Revelation in the Old Testament*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 1997. 1-57910-049-X

Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. *Preaching and Teaching the Last Things: Old Testament Eschatology for the Life of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011. 978-0801039270

J. Richard Middleton. *A New Heaven and a New Earth: Reclaiming Biblical Eschatology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014. 978-0801048685

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: lecture, textbook readings, independent research and writing.

Course Requirements

On-line Discussion:

Students are expected to **read** the weekly assignments, including the Old Testament texts as they are covered, and to **participate** on a regular, weekly basis in the on-line discussions on Blackboard. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty as reflected in the Grading Policies. While much of the work can be done independently, the on-line discussions on Blackboard will enable us to interact as a learning community. As a general protocol for the discussions, respect for others, considerate wording of posts, and Christian charity when good intentions are misunderstood are required. Remember, we are brothers and sisters in Christ seeking to know our Lord better and proclaim Him more faithfully, so let's enjoy the discussion, participate regularly, and exemplify Christ in how we do so. Thanks for being a part of this learning community.

Book Review: A two or three-page, single-spaced critique of J. Richard Middleton's *A New Heaven and a New Earth* is **due on Monday, February 17**. By submitting a critique, the student is affirming that he or she has read the entire book. The book will be discussed on Blackboard after the date on which the critique is due. The format of the paper must be two to three pages, single-spaced and typed in Times New Roman 12-point font with 1" margins. Keep in mind, meeting the two-page minimum means filling up 2 pages, not partially filling the second page (1.5 for example).

The content of the review should contain a **brief summary (a half-page to no more than one page)** and a more thorough **critique**. In your critique, state the **purpose** or the guiding argument (thesis) of the book. What did the author set out to do? Why did the author write this particular book? Also, discuss how well the author achieved his purpose. Most of your critique should be a discussion of the **strengths and weaknesses** of the book. Finally, you should include a statement of whether or not the author achieved his goal and why you think that he did or did not. Keep in mind, simply summarizing the book is not a critique and will not lead to the highest possible grade for this assignment. Students

should also provide two discussion questions based on the reading of the book that are not clearly answered (i.e., questions the book left unanswered).

Millennial Views Paper: Students will produce a three or four-page, single spaced paper outlining the key elements in each of the three major millennial views. The paper will include discussion of the hermeneutical significance of millennial views for understanding the OT texts, a brief summary and critique of the strengths and weaknesses of each of the major millennial views, and a final evaluation of which view you find most persuasive.

Exegetical Paper: Students will select a passage to exegete. The exegetical tasks required to complete the assignment will be conducted in stages and submitted throughout the semester. Here are the following stages:

1. Select passage for exegesis. Write out a translation of the text along with three (3) observations or impressions you have and three (3) questions that you have concerning the text.
2. Write a one-page single-spaced analysis of the literary features of the text with a paraphrase of the passage.
3. Write a two-page single-spaced discussion of literary forms/genre of the passage, sources used in the passage, if any, and an analysis of the broader literary context of the passage.
4. Write a two-page analysis of important theological words or themes.
5. Write a one-page single-spaced analysis of the historical context and a one-page single-spaced analysis of the sociocultural context.
6. Write a two-page single-spaced profile of the original audience and the message they would have heard, including a statement of the main thesis of the passage based on your analysis.

In its final product, exegetical papers should be 18–22 pages double spaced and should include the following:

1. Title page
2. Background issues
 - a. Historical context
 - b. Impact on the message/understanding of the text
3. A word study
 - a. Key word from the passage and,
 - b. Its importance for the message/understanding of the text
4. Literary analysis
 - a. Relevant literary features (prose/poetry, parallelism, chiasm, etc.)
 - b. How does this passage fit into the broader context of the book?
5. Detailed explanation of the text
 - a. Provide your own explanation (verse-by-verse, paragraph-by-paragraph, however you see fit)
 - b. Provide limited interaction with commentaries (be sure to note the eschatological perspectives of the authors you engage)
 - c. Significance of the passage for OT and biblical eschatology; main eschatological theme
6. Conclusion/Implications
 - a. Summation of your findings
 - b. Application for the modern Church

Teaching/Preaching Outline: Students will develop an outline for teaching or preaching the selected texts from the exegetical paper. The outline should include enough detail (points, sub-points, etc.) to demonstrate a well-organized, well-planned lesson/sermon including, but not limited to:

1. Statement of expected audience (e.g., Bible study class, youth group, entire church, etc.)
2. Text/Title
3. Teaching Aim/Main Point/Statement of Purpose
4. Outline
5. Key Exegetical Points (include an intro, sections, bullet points, and conclusion)
6. Application for Christian living

Extra Credit: Students may choose to do a second book review for up to three points extra credit on their final average. Extra credit must be submitted by the final class period.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Millennial Views Paper	20%
Book Review	15%
Exegetical Paper	35%
Teaching/Preaching Outline	15%
Discussion Board	15%

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Writing Style Guide

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>.

Course Schedule

Date	Unit Assignment	Assignment
Intro Week: 1/21–1/26	Introduction to OT Eschatology	Kaiser. <i>Last Things</i> . Introduction, Part 1
Week 1: 1/27–2/2	Unit 1: Concepts, Issues and Hermeneutics	Bock. <i>Three Views</i> . Summary Essay 277–310
Week 2: 2/3–2/9	Unit 2: Postmillennialism	Bock. Postmillennialism (11–80)
Book Review Due: <i>A New Heaven and a New Earth</i>, Monday, February 17		
Week 3: 2/10–2/16	Unit 3: Amillennialism	Bock. Amillennialism (81–154)
Task 1 Exegesis Paper Due: Submit Passage Selection, Translation, Impressions, Questions, Monday, February 24		
Week 4: 2/17–2/23	Unit 4: Premillennialism	Bock. Premillennialism (155–276)
Paper Due: Millennial Views, Monday, March 2		
Week 5: 2/24–3/1	Unit 5: Eschatological Themes; Ancient Near East	Groningen. Chapters 1, 2 (9–96)
Task 2 Exegesis Paper Due: Literary Features, Paraphrase, One-Page Summary, Monday, March 9		
Week 6: 3/2–3/8	Unit 6: Pentateuch	Groningen. Chapters 3, 5, 6 (97–115; 130–45)
Task 3 Exegesis Paper Due: Literary Forms/Genre, Source Analysis, Literary Context, Monday, March 23		
Week 7: 3/9–3/15	Unit 7: Pentateuch	Groningen. Chapters 7 and 8 (189–253) Kaiser. Part 2
Spring Break (March 16–22)		
Week 8: 3/23–3/29	Unit 8: Former Prophets	Groningen. Chapters 9 and 10 (257–323)
Task 4 Exegesis Paper Due: Words/Themes, Monday, April 6		
Week 9: 3/30–4/5	Unit 9: Poetic Books	Groningen. Chapters 11 and 12 (Sections on Psalms 2, 16, 22, 40; pages 371–404) Kaiser. Part 3
Week 10: 4/6–4/12	Unit 10: Latter Prophets (1): Elijah, Elisha, Joel, Jonah, Nahum, Obadiah, Amos, Hosea	Groningen. Chapters 13, 14 and 15 (408–489)

Task 5 Exegesis Paper Due: Historical and Sociocultural Context, Monday, April 20		
Week 11: 4/13–4/19	Unit 11: Latter Prophets (2): Micah, Isaiah: Son of the Virgin; The Ruling Son	Groningen. Chapters 16, 17 and 18 (490–570) Kaiser. Part 4
Task 6 Exegesis Paper Due: Profile Original Audience and Message, Thesis, April 27		
Week 12: 4/20–4/26	Unit 12: Latter Prophets (3): Isaiah: The Servant Son; The Suffering and Ministering Son	Groningen. Chapters 19 and 20 (571–666) Kaiser. Part 6
Exegetical Paper Due: Monday, May 4		
Week 13: 4/27–5/3	Unit 13: Latter Prophets (4): Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel	Groningen. Chapters 21, 22, and 23 (667–846) Kaiser. Part 5.
Week 14: 5/4–5/10	Unit 14: Latter Prophets (5): Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	Groningen. Chapters 24, 25, and 26 (847–940)
Teaching Outline Due: Thursday, May 14		

Selected Bibliography

Alan J. Avery-Peck and Jacob Neusner, eds. *Judaism in Late Antiquity: Death, Life-After-Death, Resurrection and the World-To-Come in the Judaisms of Antiquity*. Boston: Brill, 1999.

Gregory K. Beale and Mitchell Kim. *God Dwells Among Us: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the Earth*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

James H. Charlesworth, et al. *Resurrection: The Origin And Future of a Biblical Doctrine*. New York: T&T Clark, 2006.

Andrew Chester. *Future Hope and Present Reality*. Vol.1 *Eschatology and Transformation in the Hebrew Bible*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2012.

Christopher Cone, ed. *Dispensationalism: Tomorrow and Beyond, A Theological Collection in Honor of Charles C. Ryrie*. Forth Worth: Tyndale Seminary Press, 2008.

J. Harold Ellens, ed. *Heaven, Hell, and the Afterlife: Eternity in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. Oxford: Praeger, 2013.

Craig A. Evans, ed. *Eschatology, Messianism, and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Edward Fudge, *The Fire that Consumes: A Biblical and Historical Study of the Doctrine of Final Punishment*, 3rd ed. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2011.

Donald Gowan. *Eschatology in the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986.

- Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. *The Messiah in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.
- Richard S. Hess and M. Daniel Carroll R. eds. *Israel's Messiah in the Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2003.
- Antti Laato. *The Historical Development of the Old Testament Royal Ideology and the Rise of the Jewish Messianic Expectations*. Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1997.
- Jon D. Levenson and Kevin Madigan. *Resurrection: The Power of God for Christians and Jews*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008.
- Jon D. Levenson. *Resurrection and the restoration of Israel: The ultimate victory of the God of life*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008
- _____. "The Fact of Death and the Promise of Life in Israelite Religion." In *Papers of the Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology* Vol 6. 139-54. Pittsburgh: Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. 2003.
- Richard W. Medina. "Life and Death Viewed as Physical and Lived Spaces: Some Preliminary Thoughts from Proverbs" *ZAW* 122 (2010): 199-211.
- George E. Mendenhall. "From Witchcraft to Justice: Death and Afterlife in the Old Testament." 67-?. In *Death and Afterlife: Perspectives of World Religions*. Hiroshi Obayashi, ed. New York: Praeger, 1992.
- Trygve N. D. Mettinger. *King and Messiah: The Civil and Sacral Legitimation of the Israelite Kings*.
- Christopher W. Morgan and Robert A. Peterson. *The Kingdom of God*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2012.
- Stanley E. Porter. Ed. *The Messiah in the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2007.
- Henning G. Reventlow. *Eschatology in the Bible and in Jewish and Christian Tradition*. New York: T&T Clark, 1997.
- Philip E. Satterthwaite, Richard S. Hess, and Gordon J. Wenham. *The Lord's Anointed: Interpretation of Old Testament Messianic Texts*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995.
- Eckhard Schnabel. *40 Questions about the End Times*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2012.
- Janet K. Smith, *Dust or Dew: Immortality in the Ancient Near East and in Psalm 49*. Cambridge: James Clark & Co., 2012.
- Klass Spronk. *Beatific afterlife in ancient Israel and in the ancient Near East*. Neukirchener Verlag, 1986.
- Nicholas J. Tromp, *Primitive Conceptions of Death and the Netherworld in the Old Testament*. Biblica et Orientalia 21 Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1969.