



**OTEN5309 - Joshua**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Biblical Studies Division**  
**Israel Academic Workshop**  
**Israel Trip – December 29-January 7, 2023**

**Dr. Jim Parker – Professor of Biblical Interpretation and Archaeology**  
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**NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:**

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

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course gives special consideration to textual, grammatical, syntactical, literary, and historical issues through verse-by-verse and paragraph-by-paragraph analysis in a variety of genres. The course will emphasize proper methods for discovering the meaning of a text and applying it in teaching and preaching.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the conclusion of the semester, the students should be able to:

1. Discuss the shape and structure of the Book of Joshua.
2. Discuss selected critical issues related to the Book of Joshua.
3. Discuss the impact that the Book of Joshua exerts on the chronological debates about the "history of Israel," as well as its role as "history."
4. Identify and discuss (overview) the message and theology of the Book of Joshua. Apply the lessons of Joshua to the contemporary situation of local churches.

**TEXTBOOKS**

1. Howard, David M., Jr. *Joshua*. Vol. 5 in *The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman, 1998.
2. Provan, Iain, Philips Long, and Tremper Longman. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2003.
3. Any Bible translation such as NASB, etc.

**COURSE TEACHING METHODS:**

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, travel notes and journal. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

**REQUIREMENTS IN THE COURSE:**

**1. Book Reviews on Textbooks**

Each student will read the **textbooks**. Students are expected to complete reading Howard prior to the trip. A written review on the book is due by **December 23, 2022**. The book by

Provan, Long, & Longman may be read on or after the trip to Israel, with a written review due by **January 22, 2023**. The book reviews should be 2-3 single-spaced pages and include the following elements:

- 1) Bibliographic Entry
- 2) Statement of the Author's Purpose
- 3) Summary of the Author's Approach (can be in the same paragraph as #2, Purpose)
- 4) Summary of the Contents (selected portions only, such as special insights into passages that drew the student's attention)
- 5) An Evaluation of the book, including consideration of the most suitable readership, the scope of the book (comprehensive? or lacking in major areas), the viewpoints presented (multiple viewpoints when pertinent, or only one), and your overall evaluation of the book.

The summaries should be general in nature, covering the broad topics and several specific texts or topics as examples of the author's approach.

2. Each student will keep a **Travel Log (journal)** with notes on the sites, lectures, and personal impressions. This journal (or a copy) is to be submitted by **January 20, 2023**.
3. Each student will prepare a **Background Study** of their choice on a topic given below. See the Background Study Guide for instructions on writing the paper. The grading of the paper will be based on the following considerations: Form/Style/Grammar = 10%; Bibliography = 15%; Organization of the paper = 10%; Logic Flow = 15%; Content (coverage of viewpoints, details, solid analysis of the historical background, etc.) = 50%. **The Background Study is due on March 4, 2023 and should be submitted via e-mail to [jparker@nobts.edu](mailto:jparker@nobts.edu).**

### Background Study

Each student will prepare a **Background Study** on a Critical Issue or Major Theme from the Books of Joshua as given in the list below or a topic that is germane to Joshua and which interests the student.

A Background Study Guide is attached to the syllabus for your use. Follow the format for the Background Study that is given in the Study Guide. **The Background Study is due March 4, 2023.**

### Background Study Topics

1. Joshua
2. Hittites
3. The Chronology Joshua & Judges
4. Who was Manasseh and What Role Did They Play in Joshua
5. Jericho
6. Rahab
7. Ai
8. Who was Gibeon
9. The Jewish calendars (Religious and Secular)
10. Joshua 10:12-14
11. Hazor
12. Cities of Refuge
13. Levitical Cities
14. Tribes Beyond the Jordan
15. Land

16. Miracle (Josh 3-4)
17. Holy War/Genocide
18. Priesthood (Josh 21-22)
19. Origins of Israel
20. Prophet/Prophecy (Josh 1, 23-24)
21. Cursing and Blessing
22. Obedience/Holiness (Josh 5, 24)
23. Historiography
24. Sin (Josh 6, 9)
25. Community/Election (Josh 1, 5, 7)
26. Kingship (Josh 2, 5, 12)
27. ANE Deities (Josh 1, 7, 22)
28. Torah (Josh 1, 21, 23-24)
29. Covenant Renewal (Josh 24)
30. Promise (Josh 1, 5, 23-24)
31. Holy Days/Festivals (Josh 5)
32. Revelation (Josh 1, 3, 23-24)
33. Idols and sacred images (Josh 7)
34. Tabernacle (Josh 3, 6, 8, 9)

Other topics will be considered. Please present your alternative title to the Professor for approval.

## BACKGROUND STUDY GUIDE

Dr. Jim Parker

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### BACKGROUND STUDY REPORT

Minimum two pages, maximum five pages, stapled, left corner—NO COVERS (plastic, binders, etc.). Use 1-inch margins, 12-point type, headed with the following information. Use in text citations for notes, such as (Ferguson, 560). Provide a bibliography at the end (not part of total page count). Most background studies have at least ten (10) resources *at a minimum*.

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**Name**  
**Biblical Hermeneutics**  
**Professor Name**

**Background Study**  
**Old or New Testament**  
**(Date Due)**

**Topic: (your topic here)**  
**Text: (your text here)**

#### 1. General Historical Background

[your discussion here]

## 2. Immediate Background of Book

[your discussion here]

## 3. Social and Cultural Background

[your discussion here]

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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

1. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/)- Email for general technical questions/support requests.
2. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu)- Email technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) or [My.nobts.edu](http://My.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, Faculty portal, etc.)
3. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to [Canvas.nobts.edu](http://Canvas.nobts.edu) / [nobts.instructure.com](http://nobts.instructure.com).
4. [Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu](mailto:Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu) - Email technical questions/support requests with Bluejeans and NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus).
5. [TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu)- Email technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Nextiva Phone system.  
[504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time).

### 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

See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

### COURSE EVALUATION AND DUE DATES:

Book Reviews	30%	January 22, 2023 – 2 x 15%
Travel Journal	30%	January 22, 2023
Background Study	40%	March 4, 2023

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Intensive Classes: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the intensive, students who miss any portion of the class may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Bibliography of Books for Suggested Reading

#### **Who were the Israelites and where did they come from?**

William Dever, *Who Where the Israelites and Where Did They Come From?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.

Hess, Richard S., Gerald A. Klingbeil, and Paul J. Ray Jr., eds. *Critical Issues in Early Israelite History*. Bulletin for Biblical Research Supplement 3. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2008.

#### **What are the minimalist and maximalist views of history in the Book of Joshua?**

Davies, Philip, *Memories of Ancient Israel: An Introduction to Biblical History*. Louisville: Westminster, 2008.

Block, Daniel I., Bryan H. Cribb, and Gregory S. Smith, eds. *Israel: Ancient Kingdom or Late Invention?* B&H Academic, 2008.

Long, V. Philips, David W. Baker, and Gordon J. Wenham, eds. *Windows into Old Testament History: Evidence, Argument and the Crisis of "Biblical Israel."* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

#### **Theology, miracle, and canon issues in the Book of Joshua**

Gundry, Stanley, ed. *Show Them No Mercy: 4 Views on God and Canaanite Genocide*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Habel, Norman C. *The Land is Mine: Six Biblical Land Ideologies*. Overtures to Biblical Theology, Philadelphia: Fortress, 1995.

Choose from and read the following articles, along with an additional 100 pages on the theology of Joshua from commentaries, books, and articles.

Butler, Trent C., "The Theology of Joshua." *Review & Expositor* 95 (1998): 203-25.

DeClaissé, Walford, Nancy L., "Covenant in the Book of Joshua," *Review & Expositor* 95 (1998): 227-34.

Ellis, Robert R., "The Theological Boundaries of Inclusion and Exclusion in the Book of Joshua," *Review & Expositor* 95 (1998): 235-50.

House, Paul, "Joshua," pages 197-213 in *Old Testament Theology*, Grand Rapids: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Miller, Patrick D., "Gift of God: Deuteronomistic Theology of the Land," *Interpretation* 23 (1969): 451-65.

Taylor, Larry M., "Theological Themes in the Book of Joshua," *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 41 (1998): 70-85.

Wenham, Gordon J., "Deuteronomistic Theology of the Book of Joshua," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 90 (1971): 140-48.

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Histories of Israel

Ahlström, Gösta W. *The History of Ancient Palestine from the Palaeolithic Period to Alexander's Conquest*. With a contribution by G. O. Rollefson. Edited by D. Edelman. JSOT Supplement Series 146. Sheffield Academic Press, 1993.

Bright, J. *A History of Israel*. 3rd ed. Westminster, 1981.

Dever, William G. *What Did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did They Know It? What Archaeology Can Tell Us about the Reality of Ancient Israel*. Eerdmans, 2001.

Liverani, Mario. *Israel's History and the History of Israel*. Trans. C. Peri and P. R. Davies. Equinox, 2005.

Mathews, Victor H. *A Brief History of Ancient Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.  
Moderately critical review of major issues regarding the study of the history of Israel.

Merrill, Eugene. *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*. Baker, 1987.

Miller, J. Maxwell and John H. Hayes. *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah*. Second edition. Westminster John Knox, 2006.

Provan, Iain, V. Philips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Westminster John Knox, 2003.

Rainey, Anson F. and R. Steven Notley. *The Sacred Bridge. Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Carta, 2006.

Shanks, Hershel, ed. *Ancient Israel. From Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*. Revised edition. Biblical Archaeology Society, 1999

Soggin, J. Alberto, *A History of Ancient Israel: From Beginnings to the Bar Kochba Revolt, A.D. 135*. Westminster, 1985.

## **Commentaries**

### Joshua

Boling, R. and G. E. Wright *Joshua. A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. AB. Doubleday, 1982.

Butler, T. *Joshua*. WBC. Word, 1983.

Hess, R. S. *Joshua: An Introduction and Commentary*. TOTC. IVP, 1996.

Howard, David M., Jr. *Joshua*. NAC 5. Broadman, 1998.

Nelson, Richard D. *Joshua*. OTL. Westminster John Knox, 1997.

Woudstra, M. *The Book of Joshua*. NICOT. Eerdmans, 1981.