

NEW TESTAMENT BACKGROUNDS READING COLLOQUIUM (NTSR9301)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
Dr. Craig Price
Dean of Online Learning
Associate Professor of NT and Greek
Fall Semester, 2009

Office: Hardin Student Center

E-Mail: cprice@nobts.edu

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 “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course.

The Ph.D. degree is an intensive program emphasizing specialization and research in the area of the degree major. This reading colloquium is a specialized study of the background to the New Testament.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Ph.D. reading colloquia in New Testament studies consist of assigned readings the faculty deems to be of special importance. Guided discussions of these works will comprise the bulk of class time.

This colloquium focuses on important works related to New Testament Backgrounds. Jewish literature of the Second Temple Period and to Greco-Roman history is emphasized. While students will read secondary sources, the colloquium will stress the importance of a careful reading of primary sources from the period.

OBJECTIVES:

Well-rounded New Testament scholars must be familiar with significant works in the field of New Testament studies even if these do not overlap with one’s area of specialization within the discipline. This breadth of knowledge is necessary to equip students for teaching at the university and seminary levels and prepares them to make important contributions through research and publication. In light of this overarching reality, the objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the various historical backgrounds & sources for the study of the NT
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how the study of the historical background and original sources relate to the field of NT studies
3. Students should acquire the ability to utilize and analyze the background data for both information and research purposes

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: group discussion, student papers and reviews, and student presentations.

READING LIST BOOKS: (Those covered in this colloquium are in bold print)

Logan, Alistair and A. J. M. Wedderburn, eds. *The New Testament and Gnosis*. London: T. & T. Clark, 2004.

Josephus, Flavius. *The Wars of the Jews*.

***The Old Testament Apocrypha*. (See the NRSV)**

Introductions to all Old Testament books from *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. (6 vols.) Doubleday, 1990. (Recommended)

Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars*, trans. Michael Grant, Penguin Classics, Viking Press, 1991.

Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*. Fortress, 1969.

Sanders, E. P. *Judaism: Practice and Belief, 63 BCE - 66 CE*. Trinity, 1992.

Vermes, Geza. *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. 5th ed., Penguin, 1998 (or most recent ed.).

Lightfoot, J. B. Edited and completed by J. R. Harmer. Edited by M. W. Holmes. *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations*. Revised Edition. Baker, 1999.

Schneemelcher, Wilhelm, Editor. R. M. Wilson, Translator. *New Testament Apocrypha: Gospels and Related Writings*. Vol. 1. Revised Ed. John Knox Press, 1991.

Schneemelcher, Wilhelm, Editor. R. M. Wilson, Translator. *New Testament Apocrypha: Writings Relating to the Apostles, Apocalypses, and Related Subjects*. Vol. 2. Revised Ed. John Knox Press, 1992 (or most recent ed.).

Carcopino, Jerome. *Daily Life in Ancient Rome*. New York: Yale University, 1968. (Rec.)

Helyer, Larry. *Exploring Jewish Literature of the Second Temple Period*. Downer's Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity, 2002.

Neusner, Jacob. *Mishnah: A New Translation*. New Haven: Yale University, 1988.

Evans, Craig A. *Noncanonical Writings and New Testament Interpretation*. Hendrickson, 1992. (Recommended)

Mason, Steven M. *Josephus and the New Testament*. Hendrickson, 2003. (Recommended)

DeSilva, David A. *Introducing the Apocrypha: Message, Context, and Significance*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

REQUIREMENTS AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

The colloquium will convene on the following dates with the assignments for individual students as well as group assignments noted on the table below. Each meeting is 2 ½ hours. The day of class will be Fridays on the dates listed below. Individual assignments will be designated on the first day of class.

Session One: August 21

We will have a brief organizational meeting in the Online Learning Center. This meeting will be a brief meeting in order to organize the materials for the semester. We will discuss paper format, make individual assignments, and answer general questions you may have about the course. During the semester we will meet on the first Friday of each month for our two hour session. Reading assignments and papers will be due on the day they are assigned. Late penalties will be assessed for work not turned in on time.

Session Two September 4

Reading Assignment: **All Students**

- *OT Apocrypha (desilva = d)*
- Helyer's *Exploring Jewish Literature of the Second Temple Period* (Helyer = H)

Writing Assignment:

- Write a one-page single-spaced overview of the assigned books of the Apocrypha & the corresponding chapter in DeSilva, *Introducing the Apocrypha*
- Write a 2-3 page single-spaced summary of the assigned chapters in Helyer's

Session Three October 2

Reading Assignment:

- Sanders' *Judaism: Practice and Belief* (Sanders = S)
- Jeremias' *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus* (assigned sections) (Jeremias = Jer)
- Josephus' *Wars of Jews* (Josephus = Jo)
- Vermes' *Dead Sea Scrolls in English* (assigned sections) (Vermes = V)
- *Shabbath, Gittin, Sanhedrin, Aboth, and Yadaim* tractates of the *Mishnah* (Mishnah = M)

Writing Assignment:

- Prepare a critical review of Sanders' work (2-3 pages single-spaced)
- Write a one-page single-spaced overview of an assigned book from *Wars of the Jews* or assigned document(s) from the *Dead Sea Scrolls*
- Prepare to discuss the significance of the study of the *Mishnah* for NT studies

Session Four November 6

Reading Assignment:

- Suetonius' *The Twelve Emperors*
- Logan and Wedderburn's *New Testament and Gnosis*

Writing Assignments:

- Write a one-page single-spaced overview of each assigned emperor's life.
- Write a one-page single-spaced discussion of the contribution that Suetonius' chronicle makes to New Testament studies
- Based on Logan and Wedderburn's *New Testament and Gnosis*, write a 2-3 page summary of the background and development of Gnosticism.

Session Five December 4

Reading Assignments:

- Holmes' *Apostolic Fathers*
- Assigned books of the NT Apocrypha

Writing Assignments:

- Write a 2 page single-spaced analysis of the significance of the Apostolic Fathers for NT study
- Write a one-page single-spaced overview of each assigned document from the NT Apocrypha

Individual Writing Assignments

Student	Session One	Two	Three	Four
Jeongseop Ahn	Tobit & Judith d: chs 3 & 4 H: Intro & ch14	Jewish Wars I Jer: I, Jewish Wars V II	Julius Caesar	Gospel of the Nazareans; Epistle to the Laodiceans
Philip Caples	Additions to Esther d: ch 5 H: chs 2-3	Jewish Wars II Jer: III, IV, V	Wisdom of Ben Sirach d: ch 7 Augustus	Gospel of the Hebrews; Acts of John
David Champagne	Wisdom of Solomon d: ch 6 H: ch 4-5	Jewish Wars III Jer Jer: VIII: VI, VII	Tiberius	Gospel of Philip; Acts of Paul
Yohan Cho	Baruch d: ch 8 H: ch 7	Jewish Wars IV	Gaius	Gospel of Thomas; Acts of Thomas
Drew Dabbs				
Delio Delrio	Letter of Jeremiah, Additions to Daniel d: chs 9-10 H: ch 1	Jewish Wars VI Jer: IX, X, XI	Nero	Protevangelium of James; Acts of Andrew
Ken Irvin	1-2 Maccabees d: chs 11, 12 H: ch 8-9	Jewish Wars VII Jer: XII, XIII	Galba	Gospel of Nicodemus, Acts of Pilate; Gospel of Peter;
Dae Suk Kim	1 Esdras, Prayer of Manasseh d: chs 13, 14 H: ch 14	1QS; 1QapGen H: ch 6 Jer: XIV, XV	Otho & Vitellius	Apocalypse of Paul Infancy Story of Acts of Peter Thomas;
Justin Langford	Psalms 151 3 Maccabees d: chs 15-16 H: chs 10-11	1QSa, 1QM, Jer: XVI, XVII, XVIII	Vespasian & Titus	Apocalypse of Thomas Gospel of the Egyptians;
Grant Stegall	2 Esdras, 4 Maccabees d: chs 17, 18 H: 12-13	CD; 4Q174-175 4QM; 1QpHab	Claudius Domitian	Apocalypse of Peter Apocryphon of John;

Fall Semester Bible Reading Plan
September 1, 2009 – December 19, 2009

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Genesis 1:1-2:25, Matthew 1:1-25, Psalm 1:1-6, Proverbs 1:1-4
- 2 Genesis 3:1-4:26, Matthew 2:1-23, Psalm 2:1-6, Proverbs 1:5-6
- 3 **Genesis 5:1-6:2**, Matthew 3:1-17, Psalm 2:7-12, Proverbs 1:7
- 4 Genesis 7:1-9:7, Matthew 4:1-20, Psalms 3:1-8, Proverbs 1:8-9
- 5 Genesis 9:8-10:32, Matthew 4:21-5:12, Psalm 4:1-8, Proverbs 1:10-14
- 6 **Genesis 11:1-12:20**, Matthew 5:13-32, Psalm 5:1-6, Proverbs 1:15-16
- 7 **Genesis 13:1-15:6**, Matthew 5:33-6:4, Psalm 5:7-12, Proverbs 1:17-19
- 8 Genesis 15:7-17:27, Matthew 6:5-24, Psalm 6:1-5, Proverbs 1:20-23
- 9 Genesis 18:1-19:22, Matthew 6:25-7:12, Psalm 6:6-10, Proverbs 1:24-27
- 10 Genesis 19:23-21:21, Matthew 7:13-8:4, Psalm 7:1-8, Proverbs 1:28-31
- 11 Genesis 21:22-23:20, Matthew 8:5-27, Psalm 7:9-17, Proverbs 1:32-33
- 12 Genesis 24:1-54, Matthew 8:28-9:17, Psalm 8:1-9, Proverbs 2:1-5
- 13 Genesis 24:55-26:11, Matthew 9:18-38, Psalm 9:1-6, Proverbs 2:6-8
- 14 Genesis 26:12-27:29, Matthew 10:1-20, Psalm 9:7-12, Proverbs 2:9-10
- 15 Genesis 27:30-29:12, Matthew 10:21-42, Psalm 9:13-20, Proverbs 2:11-15
- 16 Genesis 29:13-30:43, Matthew 11:1-19, Psalm 10:1-6, Proverbs 2:16-19
- 17 Genesis 31:1-55, Matthew 11:20-12:8, Psalm 10:7-12, Proverbs 2:20-22
- 18 Genesis 32:1-33:20, Matthew 12:9-37, Psalm 10:13-18, Proverbs 3:1-2
- 19 Genesis 34:1-35:29, Matthew 12:38-13:9, Psalm 11:1-3, Proverbs 3:3-4
- 20 Genesis 36:1-43, Matthew 13:10-35, Psalm 11:4-7, Proverbs 3:5-6
- 21 Genesis 37:1-38:30, Matthew 13:36-58, Psalm 12:1-5, Proverbs 3:7-8
- 22 Genesis 39:1-41:7, Matthew 14:1-21, Psalm 12:6-8, Proverbs 3:9-10
- 23 Genesis 41:8-42:4, Matthew 14:22-15:9, Psalm 13:1-6, Proverbs 3:11-12
- 24 Genesis 42:5-43:14, Matthew 15:10-39, Psalm 14:1-7, Proverbs 3:13-14
- 25 Genesis 43:15-44:34, Matthew 16:1-20, Psalm 15:1-5, Proverbs 3:15-16
- 26 Genesis 45:1-46:27, Matthew 16:21-17:13, Psalm 16:1-6, Proverbs 3:17-18
- 27 Genesis 46:28-48:22, Matthew 17:14-18:9, Psalm 16:7-11, Proverbs 3:19-20
- 28 Genesis 49:1-50:26, Matthew 18:10-35, Psalm 17:1-5, Proverbs 3:21-24
- 29 Exodus 1:1-2:25, Matthew 19:1-22, Psalm 17:6-12, Proverbs 3:25-26
- 30 Exodus 3:1-4:31, Matthew 19:23-20:19, Psalm 17:13-15, Proverbs 27-28

OCTOBER

- 1 Exodus 5:1-6:30, Matthew 20:20-21:11, Psalm 18:1-6, Proverbs 3:29-32
- 2 Exodus 7:1-8:32, Matthew 21:12-27, Psalm 18:7-12, Proverbs 3:33-35
- 3 Exodus 9:1-10:20, Matthew 21:28-46, Psalm 18:13-19, Proverbs 4:1-2
- 4 Exodus 10:21-12:36, Matthew 22:1-22, Psalm 18:20-24, Proverbs 4:3-4
- 5 Exodus 12:37-14:20, Matthew 22:23-46, Psalm 18:25-29, Proverbs 4:5-6
- 6 Exodus 14:21-16:20, Matthew 23:1-22, Psalm 18:30-36, Proverbs 4:7-9
- 7 Exodus 16:21-18:27, Matthew 23:23-39, Psalm 18:37-42, Proverbs 4:10-13
- 8 Exodus 19:1-20:26, Matthew 24:1-14, Psalm 18:43-50, Proverbs 4:14-17
- 9 Exodus 21:1-22:20, Matthew 24:15-35, Psalm 19:1-6, Proverbs 4:18-19

- 10 Exodus 22:21-24:18, Matthew 24:36-51, Psalm 19:7-14, Proverbs 4:20-22
 11 Exodus 25:1-26:14, Matthew 25:1-13, Psalm 20:1-9, Proverbs 4:23-24
 12 Exodus 26:15-28:14, Matthew 25:14-30, Psalm 21:1-7, Proverbs 4:25-27
 13 Exodus 28:15-29:25, Matthew 25:31-26:5, Psalm 21:8-13, Proverbs 5:1-2
 14 Exodus 29:26-30:38, Matthew 26:6-25, Psalm 22:1-5, Proverbs 5:3-6
 15 Exodus 31:1-32:35, Matthew 26:26-50, Psalm 22:6-10, Proverbs 5:7-8
 16 Exodus 33:1-34:35, Matthew 26:51-75, Psalm 22:11-15, Proverbs 5:9-10
 17 Exodus 35:1-36:19, Matthew 27:1-23, Psalm 22:16-21, Proverbs 5:11-14
 18 Exodus 36:20-37:29, Matthew 27:24-44, Psalm 22:22-26, Proverbs 5:15-17
 19 Exodus 38:1-39:31, Matthew 27:45-66, Psalm 22:27-31, Proverbs 5:18-20
 20 Exodus 39:32-40:38, Matthew 28:1-20, Psalm 23:1-6, Proverbs 5:21-23
 21 Leviticus 1:1-3:17, Mark 1:1-20, Psalm 24:1-10, Proverbs 6:1-3
 22 Leviticus 4:1-5:19, Mark 1:21-45, Psalm 25:1-7, Proverbs 6:4-5
 23 Leviticus 6:1-7:21, Mark 2:1-22, Psalm 25:8-15, Proverbs 6:6-8
 24 Leviticus 7:22-8:36, Mark 2:23-3:12, Psalm 25:16-22, Proverbs 6:9-11
 25 Leviticus 9:1-11:12, Mark 3:13-35, Psalm 26:1-7, Proverbs 6:12-15
 26 Leviticus 11:13-13:17, Mark 4:1-20, Psalm 26:8-12, Proverbs 6:16-19
 27 Leviticus 13:18-14:14, Mark 4:21-41, Psalm Ps 27:1-6, Proverbs 6:20-22
 28 Leviticus 14:15-15:12, Mark 5:1-20, Psalm 27:7-14, Proverbs 6:23-26
 29 Leviticus 15:13-16:34, Mark 5:21-43, Psalm 28:1-5, Proverbs 6:27-29
 30 Leviticus 17:1-19:10, Mark 6:1-20, Psalm 28:6-9, Proverbs 6:30-31
 31 Leviticus 19:11-20:27, Mark 6:21-46, Psalm 29:1-6, Proverbs 6:32-33

NOVEMBER

- 1 Leviticus 21:1-22:33, Mark 6:47-7:16, Psalm 29:7-11, Proverbs 6:34-35
 2 Leviticus 23:1-24:23, Mark 7:17-37, Psalm 30:1-6, Proverbs 7:1-3
 3 Leviticus 25:1-55, Mark 8:1-21, Psalm 30:7-12, Proverbs 7:4-5
 4 Leviticus 26:1-46, Mark 8:22-9:1, Psalm 31:1-8, Proverbs 7:6-8
 5 Leviticus 27:1-34, Mark 9:2-29, Psalm 31:9-18, Proverbs 7:9-12
 6 Numbers 1:1-54, Mark 9:30-50, Psalm 31:19-24, Proverbs 7:13-17
 7 Numbers 2:1-3:16, Mark 10:1-22, Psalm 32:1-7, Proverbs 7:18-21
 8 Numbers 3:17-4:20, Mark 10:23-45, Psalm 32:8-11, Proverbs 7:22-23
 9 Numbers 4:21-5:31, Mark 10:46-11:11, Psalm 33:1-9, Proverbs 7:24-27
 10 Numbers 6:1-7:29, Mark 11:12-33, Psalm 33:10-17, Proverbs 8:1-3
 11 Numbers 7:30-89, Mark 12:1-27, Psalm 33:18-22, Proverbs 8:4-5
 12 Numbers 8:1-10:10, Mark 12:28-44, Psalm 34:1-7, Proverbs 8:6-7
 13 Numbers 10:11-11:35, Mark 13:1-20, Psalm 34:8-14, Proverbs 8:8-9
 14 Numbers 12:1-14:4, Mark 13:21-37, Psalm 34:15-22, Proverbs 8:10-13
 15 Numbers 14:5-45, Mark 14:1-21, Psalm 35:1-10, Proverbs 8:14-17
 16 Numbers 15:1-41, Mark 14:22-42, Psalm 35:11-16, Proverbs 8:18-19
 17 Numbers 16:1-50, Mark 14:43-72, Psalm 35:17-21, Proverbs 8:20-21
 18 Numbers 17:1-19:8, Mark 15:1-21, Psalm 35:22-28, Proverbs 8:22-24
 19 Numbers 19:9-21:9, Mark 15:22-47, Psalm 36:1-6, Proverbs 8:25-26
 20 Numbers 21:10-22:41, Mark 16:1-20, Psalm 36:7-12, Proverbs 8:27-29
 21 Numbers 23:1-24:25, Luke 1:1-23, Psalm 37:1-6, Proverbs 8:30-31

- 22 Numbers 25:1-26:22, Luke 1:24-56, Psalm 37:7-13, Proverbs 8:32-33
- 23 Numbers 26:23-65, Luke 1:57-80, Psalm 37:14-20, Proverbs 8:34-36
- 24 Numbers 27:1-28:31, Luke 2:1-20, Psalm 37:21-26, Proverbs 9:1-2
- 25 Numbers 29:1-30:16, Luke 2:21-38, Psalm 37:27-33, Proverbs 9:3-6
- 26 Numbers 31:1-54, Luke 2:39-52, Psalm 37:34-40, Proverbs 9:7-9
- 27 Numbers 32:1-42, Luke 3:1-20, Psalm 38:1-8, Proverbs 9:10-12
- 28 Numbers 33:1-56, Luke 3:21-38, Psalm 38:9-14, Proverbs 9:13-15
- 29 Numbers 34:1-35:34, Luke 4:1-21, Psalm 38:15-22, Proverbs 9:16-18
- 30 Numbers 36:1- Deuteronomy 1:46, Luke 4:22-44, Psalm 39:1-6, Proverbs 10:1-2

DECEMBER

- 1 Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29, Luke 5:1-20, Psalm 39:7-13, Proverbs 10:3-5
- 2 Deuteronomy 4:1-49, Luke 5:21-6:11, Psalm 40:1-5, Proverbs 10:6-8
- 3 Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25, Luke 6:12-36, Psalm 40:6-10, Proverbs 10:9-11
- 4 Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20, Luke 6:37-7:10, Psalm 40:11-17, Proverbs 10:12-14
- 5 Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22, Luke 7:11-35, Psalm 41:1-6, Proverbs 10:15-17
- 6 Deuteronomy 11:1-12:19, Luke 7:36-8:3, Psalm 41:7-13, Proverbs 10:18-21
- 7 Deuteronomy 12:20-14:21, Luke 8:4-25, Psalm 42:1-11, Proverbs 10:22-25
- 8 Deuteronomy 14:22-16:22, Luke 8:26-56, Psalm 43:1-5, Proverbs 10: 26-27
- 9 Deuteronomy 17:1-19:13, Luke 9:1-22, Psalm 44:1-8, Proverbs 10:28-30
- 10 Deuteronomy 19:14-21:23, Luke 9:23-45, Psalm 44:9-16, Proverbs 10:31-32
- 11 Deuteronomy 22:1-23:25, Luke 9:46-62, Psalm 44:17-26, Proverbs 11:1-4
- 12 Deuteronomy 24:1-26:19, Luke 10:1-24, Psalm 45:1-5, Proverbs 11:5-6
- 13 Deuteronomy 27:1-28:14, Luke 10:25-11:4, Psalm 45:6-12, Proverbs 11:7-8
- 14 Deuteronomy 28:15-68, Luke 11:5-28, Psalm 45:13-17, Proverbs 11:9-11
- 15 Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20, Luke 11:29-54, Psalm 46:1-11, Proverbs 11:12-13
- 16 Deuteronomy 31:1-29, Luke 12:1-21, Psalm 47:1-9, Proverbs 11:14-15
- 17 Deuteronomy 31:30-32:52, Luke 12:22-40, Psalm 48:1-7, Proverbs 11:16-18
- 18 Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12, Luke 12:41-59, Psalm 48:8-14, Proverbs 11:19-21
- 19 Joshua 1:1-3:17, Luke 13:1-21, Psalm 49:1-9, Proverbs 11:22-23