



OTSR9302: Reading Colloquium in OT Historiography and Biblical Archaeology

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Biblical Studies
Fall 2017

Dr. R. Dennis Cole
Professor of Old Testament Hebrew and Archaeology
Dodd Faculty Building 201
504-282-4455 ext 3248
rdcole@nobts.edu

I. 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.

II. NOBTS Core Values

1. **Doctrinal Integrity**
2. **Spiritual Vitality**
3. **Mission Focus**
4. **Characteristic Excellence**
5. **Servant Leadership**

The core value focus for 2017-18 is **Servant Leadership**. We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Course Core Values

1. Doctrinal Integrity - Understanding the Biblical World in order to better read and comprehend the content and meaning of God's Word.
2. Characteristic Excellence - Development of excellent skills in knowledge and discernment for interpreting Scripture rightly in its original contexts and communicating those truths with the Church.

III. Curriculum Competencies

All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, and Disciple Making.

IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Ph.D. reading colloquia in Old Testament expose students to various readings in the field of Old Testament. This colloquium centers on readings in the areas of Biblical Archaeology and the History of Israel. Besides one preliminary meeting at the beginning of the semester, the colloquium will meet once a month during the semester for discussion periods (4 times). The meetings will focus on the discussion of key concepts and critical issues of entire books as well as shorter selections from other related works. Key articles read by all colloquium members and the presentation and discussion by all colloquium members will be expected at each meeting.

V. Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will comprehend the larger scope of OT studies in the areas covered by the readings as an augment to the material covered in the OT seminars.
2. Students will value the contributions and viewpoints of a wide number of scholars in Old Testament and Archaeological studies for their own understanding of God's Word.
3. Students will utilize their research skills in preparing and presenting the results of their Studies. By this larger exposure to the field students will be better prepared for teaching and researching across the breadth of the discipline of Biblical Studies.

IV. TEXTBOOKS:

The texts for the colloquium are listed below. Colloquium members should note the meeting assignments with regard to which books will be covered at which stage of the semester.

1. *A History of Israel* by John Bright. Philadelphia: Westminster Press (4rd Edition), 1981.
2. *A Biblical History of Israel* by Iain Provan, V. Philips Long, Tremper Longman III. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2003 (ISBN 0-664-22090-8).
3. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* by K.A. Kitchen. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003 (ISBN 0-8028-4960-1).
4. *Near Eastern Archaeology: A Reader* edited by Suzanne Richard. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2003 (ISBN 1-57506-083-3).
5. *In Search of History: Historiography in the Ancient World and the Origins of Biblical History.* John van Seters
6. *Windows into Old Testament History: Evidence, Argument and the Crisis of Biblical Israel.* V. Philips Long and David W. Baker

V. REQUIREMENTS:

A. All colloquium members are to read the required texts as stipulated in the schedule of meetings below. For one book per meeting, a brief review of the text should be brought to class as per the class assignments below. Normally the review should include the following items: bibliographic data, a clear statement of the purpose and thesis of the book, a summary of the development of the book, and a reaction/criticism of the book. In addition, a listing of at least 3 reviews of the book in academic journals should be included. (4-5 typed pages, single spaced)

B. Colloquium members are expected to participate actively in the discussions of the readings. Failure to participate will greatly affect the final grade for the colloquium.

C. Due to the nature of the colloquium, absences are not generally allowed. Work is still due on the day of the assignment as per the schedule of meetings below even if the student is absent from the meeting.

VI. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

Aug Introduction and Assignments – VIA EMAIL

Discussion of the format and assignments.

Discussion Questions:

What is Biblical Archaeology? Is it a science or biblical studies?

Why Study Historiography?

Recent Trends in the Writing of Histories of Israel

Part A History & Historiography of Ancient Israel

SEPTEMBER

A History of Israel, John Bright

A Biblical History of Israel, Iain Provan, V. Philips Long, Tremper Longman

Windows into Old Testament History: Evidence, Argument and the Crisis of

Biblical Israel. V. Philips Long and David W. Baker

In Search of History: Historiography in the Ancient World and the Origins of Biblical History. John van Seters

Philosophy and Writing History in Ancient Israel. Megan Bishop Moore

1. All members read the books. A review is required (see above under course requirements for the format and content of the review). Students should be prepared to discuss the entire work plus give input from the reviews that they consulted on the work.
2. Be prepared to discuss the major period of OT History and major issues of debate and interpretation within each period.
3. Discussion Questions:
 - § Why is History important to Old Testament Studies? Theology?
 - § What is the relationship between archaeology and biblical studies?
 - § What are the strengths and weaknesses of Bright's book?
 - § Are issues of historiography important to ministry? Preaching? Teaching?
 - § Do you still think the "Albrightian/Historical-Critical Method" is a relevant approach to Old Testament Studies?
 - § What is the relationship between historical approaches to the text versus literary analyses?

4. All members read the book. A review is required (see above under course requirements for the format and content of the review).
5. Students should be prepared to discuss the entire work, although discussion will be focused on Part I: Issues in Historiography.
6. Discussion Questions:
 - § What is your reaction to the approaches of Soggin and Miller/Hayes as presented in Provan, et. al.?
 - § Compare and contrast Provan et. al. with Bright's *History of Israel*?
 - § What are the strengths and weaknesses of Provan et. al.?

Part B Current Issues in Historiography of Ancient Israel:

OCTOBER

A History of Israel in the Context of the ANE:

On the Reliability of the Old Testament, Kenneth Kitchen

Israel in Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus

Tradition. + Sinai (2 SHORT BOOKS) James K. Hoffmeier

The Land Before the Kingdom of Israel: A History of the Southern Levant and the People Who Populated It. Brendon C. Benz

****New Book****

Reconsidering Israel and Judah: Recent Studies on the Deuteronomistic History, Knoppers, Gary B, and J. Gordon McConville, Eds.

1. All members read the books. Students should be prepared to discuss the work in the context of an evangelical response to Revisionist Trends.
2. Students should be able to discuss the following topics.
 - § Biblical History in the Context of World History
 - § The Biblical text as historical narrative vs. sacred history
 - § Apologetic approaches to the use of history
 - § Compare and Contrast Kitchen's approach vs. Provan et. al.
 - § Which evangelical history of Israel is better?

NOVEMBER

BIBLE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Near Eastern Archaeology: A Reader, S. Richard (ed.)

Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, A. Mazar

Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, Vol. II. The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Periods (732-332 BCE). Ephraim Stern. Doubleday, 2001.

Egypt, Canaan, & Israel in Ancient Times. Donald B. Redford

1. All members read the books. Students should be prepared to discuss the books, particularly the section on Method and Theory in NEA.
2. Students should read pages 1-412 in NEA

Students should be able to discuss the following topics.

- § Archaeological Method and Theory
- § Archaeological Data and Theory vs. Textual Data
- § Can a History of Israel be written only with archaeological data?
- § Methodological paradigms: Compare and Contrast the research design of archaeologists vs. Biblicists

DECEMBER Critical Questions in Biblical Archaeology

Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did They Come From?

William G. Dever

The Quest for the Historical Israel: Debating Archaeology and the History of Early Israel. Israel Finkelstein, Amihai Mazar, Brian Schmidt.

The Archaeology of Israel: Constructing the Past, Interpreting the Present. N. Silberman and D. Small. Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

The Forgotten Kingdom: The Archaeology and History of the Northern Kingdom. Israel Finkelstein

Who was Ancient Israel?

How & When did Israel emerge as a nation?

Issues and Debates

OLD TESTAMENT READING LIST

OTSR 9302 Supervised Reading Colloquium: Biblical Archaeology and History

Biblical Backgrounds and ANE History

- Brisco, Thomas. *Holman Bible Atlas*. Broadman & Holman, 1998
- Hallo, William W., and William Kelly Simpson. *The Ancient Near East: A History*. 2nd ed. Holt Rinehart and Winston, 1997.
- Hoffmeier, James K. *Israel in Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition*. Oxford, 1997.
- King, Philip and Stager, Lawrence E. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Westminster John Knox, 2001.
- Knoppers, Gary B, and J. Gordon McConville, Eds. *Reconsidering Israel and Judah: Recent Studies on the Deuteronomistic History*. Sources for Biblical and Theological Study Old Testament Series. Eisenbrauns, 2000,
- Long, V. Philips and David W. Baker, *Windows into Old Testament History: Evidence, Argument and the Crisis of Biblical Israel*. Eerdmans, 2002.
- Long, V. Philips, *The Art of Biblical History*. Foundations in Biblical Interpretation. Zondervan 1994.
- Long, V. Philips. *Israel's Past in Present Research: Essays on Ancient Israelite Historiography*. Sources for Biblical and Theological Study Old Testament Series. Eisenbrauns, Eisenbrauns, 2009.
- Moore, Megan Bishop. *Philosophy and Writing History in Ancient Israel*. Library of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies . T & T Clark, 2002.
- Redford, Donald B. *Egypt, Canaan, & Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton Univ., 1992.
- Seters, John van. *In Search of History: Historiography in the Ancient World and the Origins of Biblical History*.

Reference: Anson Rainey & R. Steven Notley. *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World - An overview of the Ancient Levant*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2006.

Reference: Hallo, William W. and K. Larson Younger, eds. *The Context of Scripture: Volumes I-III*. Brill, 1997, 2000, 2003.

Biblical Archaeology

- Benz, Brendon C. *The Land Before the Kingdom of Israel: A History of the Southern Levant and the People Who Populated It*. HACL 7. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2017.
- Dever, William G. *Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did They Come From?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Levy, Thomas, ed. *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*. Facts on File, 1995.
- Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000-586 BCE*. New York: Doubleday, 1990.
- Richard, Suzanne, ed. *Near Eastern Archaeology: A Reader*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003.

Stern, Ephraim. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, Vol. II. The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Periods (732-332 BCE)*. Doubleday, 2001.

History and Historiography

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 4th ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 2000.

Kitchen, K. A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Provan, Iain, V. Phillips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Westminster, 2003. Selections: First four chapters

V. ADDITIONAL SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

General Overviews

Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. Yale University Press, 1992.

Hoerth, Alfred. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Baker 1998.

Levy, Thomas E., ed. *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*. Facts on File, 1995.

Mazar, A. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: 10,000 – 586 B.C.E.* Doubleday, 1990.

Moorey, P.R.S., *A Century of Biblical Archaeology*. Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.

Method and Theory

Aviram Biram and Joseph Aviram (eds.). *Biblical Archaeology Today, 1990*. Israel Exploration Society, 1993.

K.R. Dark. *Theoretical Archaeology*. Cornell University Press, 1995.

Ellis, Linda, ed. *Archaeological Method and Theory: An Encyclopedia*. Garland Publishing, 2000.

Leo G. Perdue, Lawrence E. Toombs, Gary Lance Johnson (eds.). *Archaeology and Biblical Interpretation*. John Knox Press, 1987.

Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn. *Archaeology: Theories Methods and Practice*. Thames and Hudson, 1996.

Critical and Current Issues

Neil Asher Silberman and David Small, eds. *The Archaeology of Israel: Constructing the Past, Interpreting the Present*. Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.