



McMaster Divinity
College

Old Testament Spiritual Theology
OT 3P1200 (BS, PS)
OT 3P1530 (Preaching), Appendix A
OT 5P1180 (DPT), Appendix B

Winter Term 2027 | Wednesdays 4 p.m. - 5:50 p.m. | Room TBD
J. Gregory Davidson, Ph.D.
Assistant Affiliate Professor of Old Testament
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Office hours Wednesdays 3 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Teaching Philosophy:

To foster a theologically rich, text-centred environment based on the conviction that Scripture is God's living Word, speaking into the life of the Church today. To critically explore the Bible together as a unified account, focused on Christ and situated within God's redemptive mission.

Description:

"Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." Psalm 25: 4-5 (NIV, 2011). Old Testament Spiritual Theology explores life with God according to Israel's Scriptures, fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Spiritual theology is distinguished from spirituality and spiritual formation. Whereas the field of spirituality concerns the experiences and practices of life before God and spiritual formation deals with the shaping of people and communities, spiritual theology probes the scriptural basis and theological foundations that make such a life with God understandable and faithful. This course traces the spiritual theology of the Old Testament, as presented in the texts of Genesis to Malachi, with themes that include creation, worship, lament and renewal. The focus is a text-based encounter with God who ultimately reveals himself in the risen Christ. Elements within spirituality and spiritual formation such as personal piety and discipleship will be explored as outcomes of spiritual theology. Throughout will be discussions on a Christ-centred Old Testament spiritual theology.

Specializations:

Biblical Studies, Pastoral Studies

Objectives:



Knowing

- Explain the field of Old Testament spiritual theology and distinguish it from spirituality, spiritual formation, biblical theology, and Old Testament theology
- Identify major Old Testament themes for life with God
- Trace how the Old Testament reveals God's character and ways, with spiritual-theological familiarity with most books
- Articulate a Christ-centred reading of Old Testament spiritual theology, showing how Israel's Scriptures lead the church toward communion with the Father, through the Son, by the Spirit

Being

- Receive the Old Testament as Scripture for personal and communal life with God
- Grow in covenantal attentiveness to God, learning from Old Testament patterns of trust
- Cultivate humility before the God of Israel, especially where the Old Testament challenges modern assumptions about autonomy and obedience

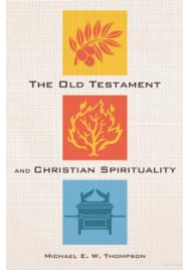
Doing

- Interpret selected Old Testament texts spiritually and theologically, attending to their literary, canonical, and Christ-centred significance
- Apply Old Testament spiritual theology to ministry contexts, including preaching, pastoral care, worship and communal formation
- Construct faithful practices of Christian life from Old Testament texts, showing how Scripture shapes our actions
- Teach or preach the Old Testament in ways that form the church

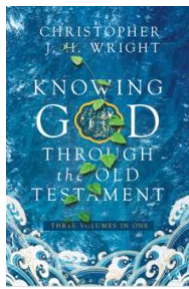
Course Resources:

Required Texts:

1. Thompson, Michael E.W. *The Old Testament and Christian Spirituality*. Eugene: OR: Pickwick Publications, 2019.



2. Wright, Christopher J. H. *Knowing God through the Old Testament: Three Volumes in One*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019.



3. The Course Reader, supplied in Avenue to Learn

Hurlburt Family Bookstore:

All required and recommended books for this class are available from the Hurlburt Family Bookstore located beside the entrance to the Nathaniel H. Parker Memorial Chapel of McMaster Divinity College. To purchase in advance, students may contact the bookstore manager, Bernice Quek, by phone at 416.620.2934 or 416.668.3434 (mobile); or by email at books@readon.ca. The Hurlburt Family Bookstore also carries other books and merchandise and is open throughout the academic year during posted hours.

Assignment Weights:

A.	Weekly reading, engagement in class, spiritual-theological portfolio	25%
B.	Articulation Paper	20%
C.	Exegetical Spiritual Theology Paper	30%
D.	Constructive Spiritual Theology Paper	<u>25%</u>
		100%

Course Assignments:

A. Weekly reading, engagement in class, spiritual-theological portfolio 25%

In addition to weekly reading and regular engagement in class discussions, write eight (8) short portfolio entries with the aim of reading the Old Testament with a view to the kind of spiritual theology it provides. Focus each entry on one Old Testament text from Weeks 2-10. Include four (4) areas of reflection on: the scriptural basis as the text reveals something of life with God; theological foundation presented about God, humanity, sin, hope etc; the spiritual-theological significance, that is how this makes a faithful life before God understandable; and a brief application to ministry or practice. Throughout also address Knowing, Being and Doing. What does this text reveal about God, and life with God? How does this text shape my own desire and hope? How can this text shape my current or future Christian practice? Evaluation is on the depth of textual attentiveness, engagement with corresponding readings and theological clarity in these 4 mains areas.

These are brief exercises in training to identify scriptural and theological foundations by which the Old Testament speaks of life with God. They need not be devotional in nature. Students will present at least one portfolio entry in-class, with the week to be assigned by the instructor. 500 words. Format to the MDC Style Guide. DUE DATE – first four (4) are due Week 6; submit all eight (8) Week 10. Write weekly.

B. Articulation Paper 20%

Define Old Testament Spiritual Theology as an area of study, and distinguish it from spirituality, spiritual formation, biblical theology, Old Testament theology, mysticism and from general human searches for higher meaning. Engage at least 5 sources published after 2005 as well as the readings from Week 1 and related readings. Make clear how Old Testament Spiritual Theology is more than spiritual reflections on a text. Explain why the Old Testament should be received as Christian Scripture today. Address the following: What is spiritual theology? What makes it specifically Old Testament spiritual theology? How is it related but not the same as biblical theology? What prevents spiritual theology from being reduced to formation or practice? In what ways must it be grounded in scripture and why? In what ways can we say that the Old Testament provides a spiritual-theological account of life before God? This will become a basis of approach for the next two papers. 1250 words including bibliography. Format to the MDC Style Guide. DUE Week 4.

Assessment matrix:

Criteria	Description	Weight
1. Clear structure and argument	Carried out as introduction with thesis, body with clear points, meaningful conclusion	15%
2. Engagement with scholarship	Clear awareness and critical interaction with scholarly voices	20%
3. Core Articulation	How well a spiritual theology of the Old Testament is presented	40%

4. Writing Quality	Academic in tone, free from grammar and spelling errors; Flows logically between sections	10%
5. Presentation	Follows MDC style guide	15%

C. Exegetical Spiritual Theology Paper

30%

Choose one Old Testament passage from the course outline and write an exegetical spiritual theology paper that interprets the passage in context and explains the scriptural and theological foundation it provides for spiritual theology.

Examples include:

- Genesis 1–3; creatureliness, image, estrangement
- Genesis 12, 15, 22; promise, testing, covenant
- Exodus 3 or 34; divine name, character of
- Leviticus 16 or 19; atonement, holiness
- Deuteronomy 6 or 30; heart, obedience, life
- 1 Kings 8; temple, prayer
- Isaiah 55; invitation, repentance
- Jeremiah 31 or Ezekiel 36; new covenant
- Psalm 13, 22, 51, 73, or 88; lament, confession
- Proverbs 1–9; fear of Yahweh and the place of wisdom
- Job 38–42; suffering, divine encounter

Cover the following areas: textual and literary aspects (what is the passage saying in context? key words? places?), canonical reflection (where does this text belong in Scripture and placed as part of fulfillment in Christ?), theological claims (what does text reveal about God, humanity?), spiritual-theological account (what emerges about life with God?) , implications for Christian life (short, pointing to ministry work this spiritual theology might ground). Emphasize areas 1-2 in this paper.

Engage with at least 8 sources published after 2005. Format to the MDC Style Guide. 2500 words including bibliography. DUE Week 9.

Criteria	Description	Weight
1. Clear structure and argument	Carried out as introduction with thesis, body with clear points, meaningful conclusion	15%
2. Engagement with scholarship	Clear awareness and critical interaction with scholarly voices	20%
3. Core Areas listed above	How well and with what depth each area is presented, especially areas 1-2	40%
4. Writing Quality	Academic in tone, free from grammar and spelling errors; Flows logically between sections	10%
5. Presentation	Follows MDC style guide	15%

D. Constructive Spiritual Theology Paper

25%

Write a constructive paper on one major theme in Old Testament spiritual theology. Trace the scriptural basis and theological foundations of the theme across selected Old Testament texts or books. Explain how this theme grounds or informs Christian life or ministry. Topics may include:

Creation and creatureliness as the basis of life with God, Covenant as core language of Old Testament spiritual life, the name and character of Yahweh as the foundation of prayer, holiness and nearness to God in Leviticus, Deuteronomy and whole person covenant response the temple as a theology of presence and communion, lament as theologically grounded speech before God, the fear of Yahweh as the foundation of wisdom and its place in the canon, Suffering and human limitations in Job, prophetic repentance and renewal of the heart, exile and faithful identity before God, restoration and temple spirituality in Chronicles/Ezra-Nehemiah/Daniel, Old Testament spiritual theology as Christ-centred theology

Cover the following areas: scriptural basis (what are the main texts or books important for understanding this element?), theological foundation (what do these texts or books teach about God, humanity, and life as given?), canonical integration (how is this theme received as Christian Scripture?), implications for ministry and formation (how does this spiritual theology impact preaching, prayer, communal formation, worship etc.?). The final element should have an Appendix to your paper that is a series of prayers, a short sermon or a Bible study informed by the theme.

Engage with at least 8 sources published after 2005. Format to the MDC Style Guide. Paper is 2500 words including bibliography and Appendix is 500 words. DUE Week 11.

Criteria	Description	Weight
1. Clear structure and argument	Carried out as introduction with thesis, body with clear points, meaningful conclusion	15%
2. Engagement with scholarship	Clear awareness and critical interaction with scholarly voices	20%
3. Core Areas listed above	How well and with what depth each area is presented	30%
4. Appendix	Usefulness in ministry context, informed by core areas above	10%
5. Writing Quality & Presentation	Academic in tone, free from grammar and spelling errors; Flows logically between sections Follows MDC style guide	25%

course Schedule (subject to change):

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Work Due
1 Old Testament Spiritual Theology	Jan. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course introduction, aims • What is Spiritual Theology, field of? vs. Spirituality? vs. Spiritual formation? vs. Biblical theology • In the Old Testament? Life with God according to Israel's Scriptures • Representative texts: Ps 1, Ps 25, Deut 6, Mic 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thompson, "Introduction" - Readings in A to L 	A
2 Gen 1-11: created for life with God but fractured	Jan. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: creation, image, care of, intimacy, estrangement, creation covenant • Spiritual theology of embodied creaturely communion with God • Texts: Gen 1-3, 4:1-26, 6-9, 11 • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thompson, ch 1 - Readings in A to L 	A
3 Gen 12-50: redemptive community that walks by promise	Jan. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Abraham/Sarah, promise, faith and struggle, covenant initiation, altars, wrestling, Joseph/providence • Spiritual theology of divine initiative and human response, living between call and fulfilment • Texts: Gen 12, 15, 17, 18, 22, 28, 32, 35, 50. • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thompson, ch 2 - Readings in A to L 	A, STP 1:
4 Exodus: God delivers in order to dwell with his people	Feb. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: name of God, suffering, deliverance, law, God's location, calf and mercy, character of Yahweh • Spiritual theology of God's presence, place of worship • Texts: Exod 3, 6, 12-15, 19-20, 24, 32-24, 40 • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thompson, ch 3 - Readings in A to L 	A-B STP 2:
5 Leviticus and Numbers: holiness as an ordered life near the presence of God	Feb. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: sacrifice, atonement, holy/common, blessing, priestliness, nurturing relationship with God • Spiritual theology of communion, wilderness, fragmentation, repair and formation • Texts: Lev. 1-7, 10, 16, 19, 26; Num 6, 11-14, 21 • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thompson, ch 4 - Readings in A to L 	A STP 3:
		MDC Reading Week		

6 Deuteronomy: covenant spirituality requires the whole person	Feb. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: love of Yahweh, fear of, clinging to, renewal, blessings/curses, life/death, the heart, memory, and pedagogy • Spiritual theology of response; external obedience and inwardness, covenant loyalty • Text: Deut. 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 26, 28-30, 32 • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thompson, ch 5 - Readings in A to L 	A first half due STP 4:
7 Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings: spiritual life in settled places; testing faithfulness to God	Mar. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: torah, choices, deconstruction struggle (gods, high places, pagan practices), leading/being led, David's promise, Solomon's prayer, Elijah and God's voice, failure • Spiritual theology of leadership • Texts: Josh. 1, 24; Judg 2; 1 Sam 3, 8, 12; 2 Sam 7, 1 Kgs 8, 17-19, 2 Kgs 17, 25 • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thompson, ch 6 - Readings in A to L 	A STP 5:
8 Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel: prophetic spiritual theology	Mar. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: prophetic call, holiness, idolatry, repentance, God's glory, the new heart, hope after judgment • Spiritual theology of true/false living, need for internal work of Spirit • Texts: Isa. 6, 30, 40, 55; Jer. 1, 2, 7, 20, 31; Ezek. 1-3, 11, 36-37 • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thompson, ch 7 - Readings in A to L 	A STP 6: Preaching Option students: sermons due
9 The Book of the Twelve: God's ongoing work, call of return	Mar. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: covenant, justice, mercy, repentance, lament, divine compassion • Spiritual theology of God's consistent call for response and place of divine discipline • Texts: Hos. 2, 6, 11; Amos 6; Jonah 2-4; Mic. 6-7; Hab. 1-3, Zech. 1; Mal. 3-4 • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thompson, ch 8 - Readings in A to L 	A STP 7: C.
10 Psalms: words for life before God	Mar. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: confession, praise, protest, silence, waiting, pilgrimage, imprecation • Spiritual theology of voicing human experience before God • Texts: Ps 1-2, 13, 22, 23, 32, 42-43, 51, 73, 88, 103, 120-134, 145 • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thompson, ch 9 - Readings in Course Reader 	A STP 8:

11 Wisdom: fear of Yahweh in ordinary living	Mar. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: ‘fear’ place and role, formation of desire, purposefulness, speech, money, sex, work, decisions, innocent human suffering • Spiritual theology of ‘rest of the week’ • Texts: Prov. 1-9, selected proverbs Prov. 10-31; Job 1-2, 28, 38-42; Eccl. 1-3, 11-12; Song 2, 8 • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wright, Book 1 parts 1-2 - Readings in A to L 	A, D
12 Chronicles, Ezra-Neh, Esther, Daniel: repentance and faithful identity after catastrophe	Apr. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: reordering of worship, music, Levite life, seeking God, Scripture reading, restored community, faithfulness and identity while in new contexts • Spiritual theology of restoration and a ‘temple spirituality’ • Texts: 1 Chron 16, 22-29; 2 Chron 6-7, 20, 30, 34; Ezra 1-6, 9; Neh 1, 8-9; Esther 4; Dan 1, 6, 9 • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wright, Book 1 parts 3-4 - Readings in Course Reader 	A
13 Old Testament Spiritual Theology for Ministry	Apr. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: how should the Old Testament shape preaching, discipleship, and formation? • Topic 2: what does it mean to say the Old Testament Spiritual Theology is Christ-centered? • Texts: Luke 24, Rom. 8, 1 Cor. 10; 2 Cor. 3, Heb. 12; 1 Pet. 2 • Knowing, Being, Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Readings in A to L, esp. sections by Wright 	A

Course Policies:

The best way to reach me is email. Give me 2 weekdays to respond. If you leave a voicemail, then email me to say so.

Avenue 2 Learn will be used. Make sure you log in after 11:59 p.m. the Friday before each class to check announcements and any readings updates.

Office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus.

Attendance is mandatory unless there is a big crisis, such as illness or loss. Please let me know by email what is going on. Keep an eye on the syllabus, Avenue 2 Learn, or talk to peers to catch up on material missed. Marks towards assignment A are only deferred if formal medical notice given in writing.

If a class is cancelled, perhaps due to inclement weather, then check Avenue 2 Learn at the start time of that class for instructions. Class activities may be moved there in asynchronous format. This will help to ensure that we stay on target in the course.

Lectures will use the NIV (2011) translation of the Bible, which I prefer for all assignments.

Make every attempt to use excellent, written English. Read over your assignments multiple times before submitting them. Short sentences often speak more clearly than long ones. Review *The Elements of Style by Strunk and White* (4th ed., 2000).

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the **McMaster Divinity College Press Style Guide** <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>
Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

Submit all assignments in PDF format via Avenue 2 Learn. Extensions are rarely granted, so plan to finish ahead of schedule in case the unexpected arises. Late work is deducted at a rate of 2% per day. Assignments submitted after the last class will be not counted.

Explore the Digital Theological Library for fast and wide-reaching access to over 1.5M commentaries, monographs and scholarly articles.

Academic Standing and Grades:

Percent Grade	Letter Grade	Grade point (12pts)	Grade point (4pts)	Grade Guideline
90-100	A+	12	4	for work displaying mastery of the subject-matter, creativity and individualized integration of insights and their relationship
85-89	A	11		
80-84	A-	10		
77-79	B+	9	3	for work displaying a good level of competence and comprehension
73-76	B	8		
70-72	B-	7		

Note: Letter grades are given for all courses. Plus and minus signs indicate work of higher or lower quality within the guidelines for each letter grade.

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresenting the authorship or ownership of written work through deception or other fraudulent means. In an academic setting this may include copying or using unauthorized aids during tests or examinations; plagiarism, that is, presenting another person's (or generative AI's) words, ideas, data, or creative work as one's own without appropriate acknowledgement and citation; or submitting work for credit in more than one course without instructor permission.

A special note about Generative AI: Students are expected to do their own thinking and write their own papers and assignments. Generative AI is not to be used to do this work. The use of AI to produce content that is then submitted as though it were the student's own work constitutes plagiarism and is a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy. While AI tools may be used to

correct errors in English grammar, usage, and mechanics, Generative AI must not be used to translate assignments from a student's native language into English. All degree programs at MDC are taught in the English language. Students are expected to be sufficiently proficient in English to engage fully in academic discourse in these programs.

AODA:

In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), McMaster Divinity College (MDC) is committed to supporting a learning environment that is inclusive and accessible to all students, including those with disabilities. Students who require academic accommodations to participate fully in this course must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (<https://sas.mcmaster.ca/>) of McMaster University. SAS will work directly with the MDC Registrar to ensure reasonably appropriate accommodations are in place. Students with accommodations must use the SAS portal to activate the accommodations relevant to each course at the start of each term in which they are enrolled. Please note that accommodations must be requested in advance to allow sufficient time for implementation. Accommodations are not retroactive and will not be applied to coursework or activities that have already concluded.

Contact Information:

- **Student Accessibility Services General Inquiries:** sas@mcmaster.ca
- **Roksana Sobota (SAS Representative for MDC):** sobotar@mcmaster.ca
- **MDC Registrar:** mdcreg@mcmaster.ca

College Style for Submission of Written Work:

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the **McMaster Divinity College Press Style Guide** <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>

Disclaimer:

The course content outside the official MDC syllabus language is the intellectual property of the Professor. This syllabus may change up to and including the first day of class.

Selected Bibliography:

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APPENDIX A - OT 3P1530 (Preaching)

Required Text: Kent, Grenville J. R., Paul J. Kissling, and Laurence A. Turner, eds. *Reclaiming the Old Testament for Christian Preaching*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010. See also preaching resources from the recent syllabus on *Preaching Difficult Texts*.

Assignments:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| A. Same as B. in 3P1200 syllabus above, with reflection for preaching | 35% |
| B. Same as C. in 3P1200 syllabus above, with extended application to preaching | 30% |
| C. Two Sermons, preached in class | 35% |
- Prepare and preach two sermons from Old Testament texts chosen from the course outline with the instructor. Demonstrate careful attention to the Old Testament text, with a clear spiritual-theological claim, responsible Christ-centred interpretation, and faithful proclamation for the church today. Submit written manuscript at the time sermon is preached. Open with an introduction to your preaching context, how the sermon relies on Old Testament spiritual theology, and say how you understand preaching the Old Testament as preaching Christian Scripture. See matrix for assessment in Appendix C. DUE WEEK 8.

APPENDIX B - OT 5P1180 (DPT)

Required Texts: OT 3P1200 syllabus above

Assignments:

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|---|-----|
| A Same as A. in 3P1200 syllabus above. | 35% |
| B Same as B. in 3P1200 syllabus above. | 20% |
| C Constructive Paper on Old Testament Spiritual Theology and Ministry | 45% |

Write a constructive paper that brings Old Testament spiritual theology into conversation with a concrete ministry context. Demonstrate how selected Old Testament texts provide the scriptural basis and theological foundations for life with God, and how those foundations may faithfully ground preaching, pastoral care, communal formation, or mission. Keep the paper on the level of more than a ministry strategy reflection and take time to develop a coherent paper that moves clearly from a) the Old Testament text(s), b) to an identifiable spiritual-theological account, c) to a ministry implication. Include the following areas: ministry context and need for this work (what is the pastoral concern or problem being addressed, what is at stake and why is an Old Testament spiritual theology approach needed?); scriptural basis (literary context, canonical setting, close textual reading and what text witnesses to), the spiritual theology developed (what emerges from the text about God, humanity, restoration?), explanation of how this relates and points to Christ, constructive ministry proposal (detailed reflection on how this addresses preaching, discipleship, prayer,

pastoral care, leadership), identification of limitations of proposal and how the Old Testament text could be misused.

Engage with at least 12 sources published after 2005, including two major commentaries and two monographs on an area of practical theology. Format to the MDC Style Guide. Due Week 10. See assessment matrix under D. in main syllabus. Topics for the paper may include:

Lament as a theological foundation for pastoral care, The fear of Yahweh and discipleship in a culture of autonomy, Exile and faithful identity in contemporary ministry, Holiness and nearness to God as foundations for worship, The Psalms as theological grammar for prayer, Job and the spiritual theology of suffering, Deuteronomy and whole-person covenant response, The temple as a theology of divine presence and communion, Prophetic renewal and the need for inward transformation, Wisdom and ordinary life before God, Old Testament hope and Christian ministry after loss, Christ-centred Old Testament spiritual theology for preaching

APPENDIX C – Sermon Assessment Guide

1. Faithfulness to the Biblical Text

Does the sermon demonstrate accurate handling of the assigned passage, with close attention to its wording, structure, literary features, and immediate context? Does it preach the text itself rather than drift into general themes, moral lessons, or unrelated tangents?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (excellent)

2. Exegetical and Theological Depth

Does the sermon show serious engagement with the meaning of the passage and its theological significance? Does it reflect thoughtful interpretation and awareness of the major themes and tensions of the text?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (excellent)

3. Sensitivity to Literary and Canonical Context

Does the sermon locate the passage well within the flow of passage with the book and within the wider witness of Scripture? Does it show awareness of genre, narrative development, and the place of the passage within the canon?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (excellent)

4. Clarity of Sermon Structure and Main Claim

Is the sermon well organized and easy to follow? Is there a clear central claim or burden, and do the sermon's parts serve that purpose with unity and proportion?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (excellent)

5. Pastoral and Contemporary Application

Does the sermon apply the text meaningfully and wisely to the life of the church today? Does it move beyond explanation to address hearers with appropriate pastoral clarity and relevance?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (excellent)

6. Delivery and Communication

Is the sermon communicated clearly and in engaging fashion for oral proclamation? This includes pace, tone, clarity of speech, listener awareness, and overall effectiveness in delivery.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (excellent)

7. Christ-Centeredness and Christian Proclamation

Does the sermon ultimately preach the text as Christian Scripture and move appropriately toward Christ and the gospel? Does it do so in a way that is faithful, theologically responsible, and organically connected to the passage rather than forced or artificial?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (excellent)