



McMaster Divinity
College



OT 3XK3/6XK6
THE BOOK OF KINGS:
ISRAEL'S LIFE AFTER DAVID TO THE EXILE

Class Schedule: Wednesdays @ 8:30am-10:20am

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Course Description:

This course will provide a close reading of the biblical books of 1–2 Kings, exploring important historical, literary and theological issues raised by the text. We will examine the literary structure, authorial purpose, and historicity of the books of Kings, and explore literary and theological issues raised by the text. We will also focus on several questions throughout our study: in what way is the Law of Moses authoritative in Kings? What is the proper role of the monarchy in Israel's history? The course will also explore issues of historicity and the genre of historiography in the ancient world. The key role of David's example and God's promises to David will also be examined throughout our study of Kings, which will include a biblical theological exploration of the "son of David" in messianic expectation. This course will consider the nature of the biblical narrative and its theological importance in both its ancient context and for the modern Church today.

Specializations: Biblical Studies and Pastoral Studies

Doctor of Practical Theology students who wish to apply for this course as an Advanced Elective for their degree program must consult with the Program Director of the DPT and the course instructor in order to develop an Advanced Elective approach to the course that fulfills the specific elements required by the DPT program. Once the elements of the Advanced Elective have been agreed upon by the student, the Program Director, and the instructor, a formal application can be made for an Advanced Elective in connection with this course. Once the application is accepted, DPT students can proceed with the course as part of their degree program.

Course Objectives:

Knowing

- To gain in-depth knowledge of the contents and message of the books of 1-2 Kings
- To gain familiarity with the assumptions, methods and conclusions of modern critical scholarship on the Old Testament
- Understand how ancient Israel accounted for its history and how their methods of history writing compare with those of other history writers in the ancient world.

Being

- To embrace the contemporary relevance of these biblical books for the Church today
- To grow closer to God through study of his Word

Doing

- To be able to interpret 1-2 Kings in its original contexts
- To be able to apply the message of 1-2 Kings to contemporary audiences

Required Textbooks:

- Lissa Wray Beal. *1 and 2 Kings*. (Apollos Old Testament Commentary Series, 9) InterVarsity Press, 2014.
- V. Philips Long, *The Art of Biblical History*, vol. 5 in *Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994).

Textbook Purchase:

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, ON M9W 6H3: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Course Evaluation

The assignments and their weights are as follows:

20% - Readings Due date, Dec 13, 2017 ***no extensions.***

Each student is to read the biblical books of 1–2 Kings as well as the textbooks in their entirety. Each student must send an email stating to what extent they have completed their readings by the due date.

15% - Chapter Review of *The Art of Biblical History*. Due date, Oct 4, 2017 ***no extensions.***

Students must abstract and critically review either chapter 2 or 3 of this textbook. The review paper must be **no more than 3 pages** double-spaced. The paper must summarize the contents of the chapter and give critical interaction and evaluation of the chapter. See “Review Guidelines” below.

25% - Character Study: 8-10 pages Due date, Nov 1, 2017 ***no extensions.***

After reading handouts and articles on characterization in biblical narratives students will write a paper on the characterization of their chosen biblical character.

Possible topics: Solomom, Jeroboam, Rehoboam, Jehu, Ahab, Jezebel, Elijah, Elisha, Asa, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Huldah, Josiah, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, Jehoshaphat. *Choice of another biblical character must be approved by your professor*

40% - Major Assignment Due date, Dec 6, 2017 ***no extensions.***

A. Major Assignments for Biblical Studies Specializations:

There are two (2) options for Biblical Studies: Choose only one (1) of the following:

1. Research Paper: 12–15 pages This is especially recommended if you are planning to go on to a research degree or write a thesis in OT (or if you have a particular topic in mind that you wish to write on). The topic of this research must be related to 1–2 Kings and approved by the professor.

2. Exegetical Paper: 12–15 pages Students will write an exegetical paper on a chosen text from 1–2 Kings (your chosen text must be approved by your professor).

All Papers must be double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font (footnotes should be 10pt Times New Roman font and single spaced). The bibliography must contain 12 items of secondary sources (commentaries, theological dictionaries, monographs and at least 3 academic articles). Each item must be drawn on and cited in the paper. Students may supplement these 12 sources with 2 internet sources. Cf. “Paper Evaluation” below.

B. Major Assignments for Pastoral Specializations:

There are three (3) options for Pastoral Specializations: Choose only one (1) of the following:

- 1. Exegetical Paper: 12–15 pages** Students will write an exegetical paper on a chosen text from the 1–2 Kings (your chosen text must be approved by your professor).

Paper must be double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font (footnotes should be 10pt Times New Roman font). The bibliography must contain 12 items of secondary sources (commentaries, theological dictionaries, monographs and at least 3 academic articles). Each item must be drawn on and cited in the paper. Students may supplement these 12 sources with 2 internet resources. See “Paper Evaluation” below.

- 2. Sermon on a passage from 1–2 Kings (oral presentation). 25-30 minute video-taped sermon** submitted on CD/DVD/USB drive or uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo.

Beginning with the text of 1-2 Kings this sermon will expound a passage, applying it to the contemporary context. The sermon will be delivered orally but include a written paper with an outline. The paper may be a combination of sentence, bullets/point form, paragraphs (it need not be a complete essay of the words you preach). This paper should be grammatically correct and include appropriate citation of sources employed. The bibliography must contain 12 items of secondary sources (commentaries, theological dictionaries, monographs and at least 3 academic articles). Each item must be drawn on and cited in the paper. Students may supplement these 12 sources with 2 internet resources. See “Paper Evaluation” below.

- 3. Sermon on a passage from 1–2 Kings (written). 10 pages double-spaced.** Beginning with the text of 1–2 Kings this sermon will expound a passage, applying it to the contemporary context.

The sermon will be an original written composition but written with an aim to oral delivery. The submitted text should include an outline. The sermon must be written as it would be spoken and must *not* be in point form etc. but be a full written manuscript. It is expected it will conform to MDC style guide and be grammatically correct and acknowledge its sources appropriately (using Endnotes—not footnotes). The bibliography must contain 12 items of secondary sources (commentaries, theological dictionaries, monographs and at least 3 academic articles). Each item must be drawn on and cited in the paper. Students may supplement these 12 sources with 2 internet resources. See “Paper Evaluation” below.

DATE	CLASS SCHEDULE
Sept 13	Introduction to Kings
Sept 20	1 Kgs 1-2 the Death of David and Installation of Solomon
Sept 27	1 Kgs 3-5 Solomon in all his glory 1
Oct 4	1 Kgs 6-10 Solomon in all his glory 2
Oct 11	1 Kgs 11-14 – The Kingdom Splits
Oct 18	1 Kgs 15-16 – Early kings of Israel and Judah
Oct 25	1 Kgs 17-19 - Elijah
Nov 1	1 Kgs 20-22 – Ahab and Jehoshaphat
Nov 8	2 Kgs 1-10 – Elisha to Jehu
Nov 15	2 Kgs 14-16 – Uzziah to Ahaz
Nov 22	NO CLASSES (ETS CONFERENCE)
Nov 29	2 Kgs 17-20 – The Fall of Samaria and the Reign of Hezekiah
Dec 6	2 Kgs 21-23 – Manasseh and Josiah
Dec 13	2 Kgs 24-25 – The Fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Exile

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 Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses.

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

All papers to be submitted in electronic format only (a pdf file)—no hardcopies! Email to pevans@mcmaster.ca. Include your last name in the file name of your attachment (e.g., evans.researchpaper.pdf).

Policy Concerning Late Papers

Extensions for papers will not be given except in very exceptional circumstances. (serious illness, family crises, etc.). Busy-ness, computer problems etc. are not legitimate reasons to grant extensions and in the interests of fairness any request for extensions will take into account the entire class. Late assignments will be docked at the rate of 2% per day for the first 7 days (including weekends) and 4% per day after that. All assignments must be received by the last day of class (Dec 13, 2017) in order to avoid a failing grade in the class. To avoid late marks papers must be received by 11:59pm on which they are due. Late assignments receive no critical feedback.

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for

understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

Gender Inclusive Language:

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

PAPER EVALUATION

I. The following items are rated according to this scale: 1 = inadequate; 2 = adequate;
3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = superior.

Bibliographic consciousness	1 2 3 4 5
Range and Use of Sources	1 2 3 4 5
Clarity in Defining Issues	1 2 3 4 5
Strength of Argument	1 2 3 4 5
Awareness of Exegetical Issues	1 2 3 4 5
Accuracy of Data and Assertions	1 2 3 4 5
Analysis /Critical Thinking	1 2 3 4 5
Introduction (Thesis Statement /Clear Issue)	1 2 3 4 5
Development of Thesis (focus)	1 2 3 4 5
Literary Style (awkward, wordy, repetitive)	1 2 3 4 5
Organization/coherence of ideas	1 2 3 4 5
Grammar/Spelling	1 2 3 4 5
Neatness/Presentation	1 2 3 4 5

§ Note: this is a simple evaluation tool to assist in paper assessment. The categories are not weighted equally, and thus are not added together or averaged to calculate your grade.

II. The following need attention if so indicated

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use inclusive language
<input type="checkbox"/> Write a unified essay
<input type="checkbox"/> Line spacing, Font size, Margins, Page numbers etc. need attention
<input type="checkbox"/> Cite primary resources correctly/consistently (e.g., Gen 1:26; Genesis 1; etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> The paper is too long/too short
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit your paper more thoroughly
<input type="checkbox"/> The paper needs balance
<input type="checkbox"/> Cite secondary resources correctly/consistently |
|---|--|

III. Comments

CHAPTER REVIEW GUIDELINES

I. The chapter review from V. Phillips Long. *The Art of Biblical History* should roughly follow this format:

Summary of Content: ½ - 1½ Page
 Critique of Content ½ - 1½ Page
Personal Reflection ½ - 1 Page

Total=*no more* than 3 pages per review! Pages 4ff *will not* be read

The following items are rated according to the following scale:

1 = poor/inadequate; 2 = adequate; 3 = good/more than adequate; 4 = very good;
 5 = excellent/superior.

Summary of Content (noted key concepts etc.)	1 2 3 4 5
Quality of Critique (evidence of critical thought)	1 2 3 4 5
Reflective Thought (theological depth, sensitivity)	1 2 3 4 5
Literary Style (awkward, wordy, repetitive)	1 2 3 4 5
Grammar/Spelling	1 2 3 4 5
Neatness/Presentation	1 2 3 4 5

§ Note: this is a simple evaluation tool to assist in paper assessment. The categories are not weighted equally, and thus are not added together or averaged to calculate your grade.

II. The following need attention if checked

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use inclusive language
<input type="checkbox"/> Write a unified review
<input type="checkbox"/> Line spacing, Font size, Margins, Page numbers etc. need attention
<input type="checkbox"/> Cite primary resources correctly/consistently (e.g., Gen 1:26) | <input type="checkbox"/> The paper is too long/too short
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit your paper more thoroughly
<input type="checkbox"/> The paper needs balance
<input type="checkbox"/> Cite secondary resources correctly/consistently |
|--|--|

III. Comments

Bibliography

Further readings will be recommended; the following list may aid in research paper preparation.

- Avioz, Michael. "Josiah's Death in the Book of Kings : A New Solution to an Old Theological Conundrum." *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* 83 (2007): 359-366.
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- Becking, Bob, *From David to Gedaliah: The Book of Kings as Story and History*. Orbis Biblicus Et Orientalis 228. Fribourg, Switzerland: Academic Press, 2007.
- Bright, John, *A History of Israel*. 4th ed. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2000.
- Brueggemann, Walter, *1 & 2 Kings*. Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary. Macon, Ga.: Smyth & Helwys, 2000.
- Carroll, R P. "The Elijah-Elisha Sagas: Some Remarks on Prophetic Succession in Ancient Israel." *Vetus testamentum* 19 (1969): 400-415.
- Childs, Brevard S., *Isaiah and the Assyrian Crisis*. Vol. 3, Studies in Biblical Theology. London: SCM, 1967.
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- Cogan, Mordechai and Hayim Tadmor, *II Kings*. AB, 11. Garden City: Doubleday, 1988.
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- Grabbe, Lester L. ed. *Good Kings and Bad Kings*. *JSOTSup*, 393; *ESHM*, 5. New York: T&T Clark, 2005.
- Grabbe, Lester L. "The Kingdom of Judah from Sennacherib's Invasion to the Fall of Jerusalem: If We Had Only the Bible..." Pages 78-122 in *Good Kings and Bad Kings*. Edited by Lester L. Grabbe. *JSOTSup*, 393; *ESHM*, 5. New York: T&T Clark, 2005.
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