

Ezekiel

McMaster Divinity College
Winter 2017



Matthäus Merian (1670)

Course Designation

OT3XE3

Specializations

Biblical Studies
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.

August H. Konkell (Ph.D.), Professor of Old Testament
konkela@mcmaster.ca; 905 525 9140 x23505
mcmasterdivinity.ca/faculty/core/august-h-konkel

Schedule

Class will convene from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays:

January 21
February 11
March 18
April 8

Course Description

This course is a study of the Book of Ezekiel as part of the Hebrew prophets, the Biblical canon, and Biblical theology. The course will examine significant and representative sections of every part of Ezekiel, showing how the whole composition is structured and its message developed. Attention will be given to the many unique aspects of this prophet and his work, many of which tend to make this book among the least read and cited of the Hebrew prophets. The course will show how this book is not only spiritual in its depiction of the experiences of the prophet, but inspires spirituality and hope in those that read it.

Course Objectives

Knowing

- The historical and cultural situation of the prophet Ezekiel
- The content and structure of the book of Ezekiel
- The function of Ezekiel in the life of Israel
- The theological objectives of the composition of Ezekiel

Being

- Understanding the prophet's sense of individual responsibility and culpability
- Having a sense of hope in circumstances that are personally and culturally devastating
- Recognizing the import of the refrain "*I am Yahweh*" in covenant life

Doing

- Learn to confront corrupt behavior and call violators to account
- Inspire a trust in God when judgment is harsh and inescapable
- Express hope in a way that can effect confidence and life change

Course Texts

Common Text

Samuel A. Meier, *Themes and Transformations in Old Testament Prophecy*, Downers Grove, IVP Academic, 2009.

Biblical Studies Text

Daniel I. Block, *The Book of Ezekiel*, 2 vols., William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997–98.

Pastoral Studies Text

Iain M. Duguid, *Ezekiel*, NIV Application Commentary, Zondervan, 1999.

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 Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3 : phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Course Lectures*January 21*

1. Times of Ezekiel
2. Composition of Ezekiel
3. Inaugural Vision
4. Commissioning of Ezekiel

February 11

5. Dramatizing the Fall of Jerusalem
6. Envisioning the Departure of Yahweh
7. Oracles Against Israel
8. Adulterous Wife

March 18

9. Images of Destruction (Vine and Boiling Pot)
10. Death of Ezekiel's Wife
11. Judgements Against the Nations
12. End of an Era

April 8

13. Salvation of the Flock
14. Resurrection of the People
15. Defeat of Gog
16. New Temple and City

Course Requirements*Reading (10%)*

The respective commentary for each specialization must be read for each session and a reading report provided. For full marks this reading should be done before the class session meets and reported at the session.

January 21: Introduction and Ezekiel 1–3

February 11: Ezekiel 4–16

March 18: Ezekiel 17–24; 29–33

April 8: Ezekiel 34–43; 11: 47–48

The Prophet Ezekiel (20%)

Prophets in ancient Israel were a diverse group; among them, Ezekiel stands out as unusual. Prophecy itself was a changing phenomenon until its eventual cessation (1 Macc 9:27; 14:41). In a study of about 1500 words, delineate and evaluate the distinctions of Ezekiel. Critique the criteria used by Meier in the course text to explain your own understanding of Ezekiel within the history of prophecy. Use the

introductions of the commentaries and a minimum of 5–10 other resources to show how Ezekiel is unique among pre-exilic, exilic, and post-exilic prophets. Due February 11.

The Function of Temple (30%)

Temple was important during the entire history of Israel, though temple structure, practice, and conception changed radically over time. In a study paper of 2000–2500 words using a minimum of 10–15 bibliographic resources, examine the role of temple from the Bronze Age (time of Moses) to the depiction of John in the book of Revelation. Describe the dimensions and confessional significance of Canaanite temples, the temple of Solomon, and the restored temple of Ezra. Compare and contrast these with the conceptual temples of Ezekiel, the Temple Scroll in Qumran (11Q19–20), and the temple as portrayed by John in Revelation. Due March 18.

The Message of Ezekiel (40%)

A. Biblical Studies Specialization

This assignment is a research paper of a minimum of 3000 words on a topic that will make a significant contribution to the Biblical knowledge of the student. This paper can be an exegesis of a carefully selected passage or a theological topic in Ezekiel. This paper must include careful examination of a text or related texts of Ezekiel. It will include genre analysis, will show how the passage or passages contribute to the message of the book and to Biblical theology more comprehensively. Due April 8.

B. Pastoral Studies Specialization

This assignment is a paper of a minimum of 3000 words that will demonstrate an ability to use the book of Ezekiel in some aspect of pastoral work such as Bible exposition or preaching, teaching some aspect of Christian theology, or using the book of Ezekiel to provide warning, encouragement, or hope. The study must be a carefully selected passage or topic in Ezekiel which follows the format of the commentary, namely a well articulated understanding of the text of Ezekiel, an integration of the text in the Biblical canon, and a demonstration of how the text is significant in contemporary context. Due April 8.

Course Policies

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.

Style

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.

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