

Old Testament Survey – Online

Syllabus

Free Methodist Church of North America

Acts 12:24 Churches

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Maryland Extension of the Ministry Education Center of Metro NY/NJ

Course # Acts12:24 1004

Old Testament Survey

Attribute/s of Outcome Based Ordination this course addresses

Exhibit Biblical understanding. They possess holistic biblical knowledge, have a Wesleyan hermeneutic that accepts the authority of Scripture, and demonstrate their ability to root their Wesleyan worldview in the Bible.

Expected Outcomes

Cognitive

- 1) Demonstrate the ability to identify the purpose and themes of the books of the OT"
- 2) Become familiar with the broad outline of the historical and geographical context in which the OT was written (able to recognize/identify key people, places, events, and dates, as well as some key worldview differences between ancient times and today)
- 3) Understand the message, structure, and content of each OT book

Behavioral

- 4) Articulate the basic content of the OT as well as its message, theology, and teaching

General Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the literature of the Old Testament. Written over a span of more than one thousand years by numerous authors, the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament were written in a variety of literary genres and provide the reader with a clear description of who God is through his dealings with humanity and the nation of Israel.

Course Texts:

Hill, Andrew E. and John H. Walton. A Survey of the Old Testament. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Grading Scale:

90-100 %- A
80-90 % -B
70-80 % - C
70 % and below – F

Assignments and grading:

1. Do all assigned readings and submit signed acknowledgement – 40%
2. Personal Reflection Assignments – Much of this course will focus on your personal interactions with the assigned readings ideas. You will submit several 1-3 paragraph reflections throughout this course. The purpose of these assignments is to focus you on engaging the readings for your ministry in the 21st Century – 30%
3. Final Assignment - Read Acts 7:1-51, after reading Stephen's defense of his faith, prepare a 3-4 page (Times New Roman, 12pt, Double Spaced) reflection paper. Your paper should include reflections on the following: — 20%
 - What has been the most impactful lesson I learned in this course?
 - Why is it important for Christians to study the Old Testament?
 - How does a thorough understanding of the Old Testament inform our Christian ministries in the 21st Century?
4. Get a notebook or start a file on your computer and create a Biblical Resource Journal or file for each Old Testament book. The file or journal should be organized by book. For example, you should have a section on Genesis another on Joshua, etc. Write down any questions or insights you receive as you read each book.

You will email this to me at the end of the course. It will **not** be graded for content, but as a "pass/fail" assignment if completed. All content in the journal will be kept confidential by me as a pastor leading this training course. If you opt for a hand-written journal, you can scan the pages to send me an electronic copy at the end of the course. — 10%

Assigned Readings before each Class Session:

0. Preface

- Read Part I (Chapters 1-2) of the Survey of the Old Testament.

1. Pentateuch

The Pentateuch consists of the first 5 books of the bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy).

- Read these 5 books in their entirety and record your insights in your journal.
- Read chapter 1 of the Course Handbook
- Read Part II (Chapters 3-9) of the Survey of the Old Testament

As you read this section, have these questions in mind:

- What do you learn about God's character?
- God called Abraham to leave His home and to follow Him. How has God called you? Is He calling you now to follow Him? Are you willing even if you don't know where you are ultimately going?
- The laws in Leviticus set the Israelites apart from the other peoples of the land. How do God's laws set you and your church apart from the people of your culture?
- What does it mean to be holy?

2. Historical Books

The Historical Books consists of the Old Testament stories of the people of Israel (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther).

- Read these 12 books in their entirety and record your insights in your journal.
- Read chapter 2 of the Course Handbook
- Read Part III (Chapters 10-19) of the Survey of the Old Testament

As you read this section, have these questions in mind:

- How do God's people fail?
- Are there any influences from your culture or the other religions of your culture or family that may be hindering you or your church from fully serving and following God?
- What is your plan to grow in your knowledge of the Word of God?
- How can you help the people in your church to hear and know the word of God?
- What words of hope could you bring them from the life of David or from the testimony of the exiles who returned from Babylon?
- If you had to rate yourself in those three areas (Study, Obedience, & Teaching), how would you do?

3. Poetry, Prayer, & Wisdom

The Poetry, Prayer, & Wisdom Books consists of the Old Testament wisdom and worship guide of the people of Israel (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, & Song of Songs).

- Read these 5 books in their entirety and record your insights in your journal.
- Read chapter 3 of the Course Handbook
- Read Part IV (Chapters 20-26) of the Survey of the Old Testament

As you read this section, have these questions in mind:

- How can you counsel those who are experiencing suffering which is clearly not the result of any sin or error on their part?
- What is the difference between wisdom and intelligence?
- How could you use Proverbs in your teaching ministry?
- Which needs from your community does the book of Proverbs address?
- What could you say to encourage people that feel life is meaningless and show them God's purpose and plan?
- What is the concept of marital fidelity in your community?

4. Major Prophets

The Major Prophets are the longer prophetic books of the Old Testament (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, & Daniel).

- Read these 5 books in their entirety and record your insights in your journal.
- Read chapter 4 of the Course Handbook
- Read some of Part V (Chapters 27-32) of the Survey of the Old Testament

As you read this section, have these questions in mind:

- How were the Old Testament prophets the same as a preacher or evangelist? How were they different?
- Think about your call to ministry. Are there any areas of sin, doubt, or fear that you need to bring to God?
- What are some of the challenges that you face in your ministry today?
- What lessons can you learn from the prophets? What do you need to remember about God?
- What does it mean to have a heart of flesh as opposed to a heart of stone?
- What are the conditions of the hearts of the people to whom you are ministering and where you live?
- What bondages keep them from wholehearted love for God?
- What is the new covenant?
- What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- How is a Spirit-filled person enabled to be especially obedient to God?

5. Pastoral Personal Care

The Minor Prophets are the 12 short prophetic books of the Old Testament (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, & Malachi).

- Read these 12 books in their entirety and record your insights in your journal.
- Read chapter 5 of the Course Handbook
- Read some of Part V (Chapters 33-44) of the Survey of the Old Testament

As you read this section, have these questions in mind:

- Have you experienced wholehearted, sincere repentance personally or in your church? If not, what may be hindering the obedience to that call? Are you preaching it to your people?
- Are you in any way trying to run away from the call of God on your life?
- Has God sent you to a people that are difficult for you to love?
- What promises of God give you hope for today and tomorrow? What promise are you sharing with the people to whom you minister?
- Does all that you do bring glory to God?
- Are the hearts of the people in the church divided in their loyalties?
- Do you live a Christlike life in every area of your life – finances, family, sexuality, etc.?