



## BI512 – The Prophets

### Short Syllabus

**Instructor: Timothy D. Finlay, Ph.D.**

### Course description

This course studies the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Canon, the Former and Latter Prophets in order to grasp the foundation and formation of the kingdom of God. We will seek to apprehend the establishment and development of the monarchy with ancient Israel as moved by the renewal of the biblical covenant relationship that we are taught by the prophets.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 150 hours, or about 12 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

### Required textbooks

Bible. The Former and Latter Prophets, assigned Psalms and Proverbs. (Now would be a good time to read them again afresh.)

Gowan, Donald E. *Theology of the Prophetic Books: The Death and Resurrection of Israel*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1998. ISBN: 978-0664256890. For about \$17\*.

Kaiser, Walter. *A History of Israel: From the Bronze Age Through the Jewish Wars*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1998. 978-0805431223. Out of print. Very good used copies available for about \$7\*.

Monson, J. *Regions on the Run*. Rice Lake, WI: Biblical Backgrounds, Inc., 1998. For about \$20\*. Also available for \$20 from [http://www.bibback.com/historical\\_land.html](http://www.bibback.com/historical_land.html).

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com).

## Requirements and assignments

1. **Read the lessons.** Lessons will be posted each Monday for the first ten weeks.
2. **Participate.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. This counts for 40 percent of the final grade.
3. **Read the textbooks.** They total about 645 pages, or about 65 pages each week.
4. **Midterm reflection paper.** This counts for 15 percent of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 13 hours to work on this paper.
5. **Final Integrative paper.** This counts for 45 percent of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 45 hours to work on this paper.

## Course Requirements

1. Each week, responses to the units of study as they are presented in the course schedule. Due by the end of Thursday of each week. These are very important – totaling to 30% of the grade!
2. Comment on at least one other student's forum posting, to contribute to a discussion. Due by the end of each Sunday. 10% of the grade.
3. An outline (about 1 page single-spaced) of the assigned books of the Bible. In total, they are 20 percent of your grade. There should be one page each for Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and two pages total for all the minor prophets.
4. An exam on the geography of ancient Israel 5%.
5. An exam on the history of ancient Israel 10%.

6. A 5-8 page paper on some aspect of the theology of one or more of the latter prophets, as long as it is cleared by the professor as a suitable topic. This paper must involve research, include a bibliography, and conform to standards set by scholarly customs. 25%