

Penn West Academy for Ministry
Course: Old Testament 2021-2022



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Welcome! to the study of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible! Who wrote the Old Testament? Why was it written? How should we read the Old Testament? Is the Old Testament true? Does it matter in today's world?

Objective: The following will be achieved over a 4-year journey as a student with the Penn West Academy

1. The student will obtain tools to answer the above questions and gain knowledge in the history and literature of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible within its ancient Near Eastern context. Accordingly special care will be taken throughout the course in understanding other cultures, views and the diversity of God's created order.
2. The student will learn the ability to argue why the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible is important for the formation of theology as well as seeing its importance in justice work and ministry.
3. The student will develop an understanding of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible in how it gives increased knowledge to better comprehend the New Testament. Learning that it is through the lens of the Old that we are able to better understand the New.
4. The student will gain the ability to apply proper exegesis to an Old Testament passage for practical use and application in a modern context including sermon writing.

Required Texts:

Harold Attridge, ed. NRSV, *The Harper Collins Study Bible*, ISBN: 978-0-06-257004-8 (Kindle) \$15.99 ISBN: 9780060786854 (hard copy) \$24.49

Gordon Whenham *Exploring the Old Testament; A Guide to the Pentateuch*, 2003.
ISBN: 978-0-8308-5309-0 (Paperback) \$23.99 (Kindle) \$22.49

Jacqueline E. Lapsley, *Whispering the Word Hearing Women's Stories in the Old Testament*, 2005, ISBN: 0664224350 (Paperback) \$20.25 (Kindle) \$9.99

Recommended:

- Michael Coogan *The Old Testament; A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*. 4th ed. 2018, ISBN: 978-0-19-060865-1
- *A Handbook to Old Testament Exegesis* by William Brown, 2017 ISBN: 9780664259938

2021 September 10-11

- Art and Science of Biblical Interpretation & Introduction to the Pentateuch (LAW)
Assignment due in October: 5-8 pages: 12 point font; Times New Roman; 1 inch margins

Read: Whenham, Introduction & Chapters 1 -2, Genesis 1:1-2:25

In this paper there are 2 parts:

Part 1, Describe your own process of understanding an Old Testament passage.

Part 2: Compare and contrast the 2 creation stories; Write an outline of both, then explain what differences you see, what do they communicate to you? What would be your focus and teaching to others from these texts?

2021 October 8-9

- Genesis & Exodus (Further work in outlining a text and interpretation)

**Read: Lapsley: Chapter 1 & 4,
Whenham, Chapters 3 & 4,
Book of Exodus 1-4**

Assignment TBD

2022 March 11-12

- Leviticus & Numbers (importance of proper hermeneutics and what happens when they fail= misuse of the text and causing harm)

2022 May 13-14

- Deuteronomy & Introduction to English Exegesis

Year 2: The Historical books of the Old Testament: Joshua through Esther (English Exegesis cont'd)

Year 3: The Wisdom/Poetry Books: Job through Song of Solomon (Intro: OT Sermon Writing)

Year 4: Major Prophets: Isaiah - Daniel; and Minor Prophets: Hosea – Malachi (Final/Graduate project learning to exegete, write, give and critique OT Sermons)