

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Continuing Education Session at Valley Forge Christian College**  
**Phoenixville, PA**  
**September 12-13, October 3-4, November 7-8, December 5-6, 2003**

**BTHB 538 The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament**  
**(3 Credits)**

**Malcolm R. Brubaker**

**Fall 2003**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR**

OFFICE HOURS: M/W/F 9:15-10:15 am; 3:10-4:00 pm; T/Th 9:00-10:15 am; 2:30-4:00 pm.  
Office #210; extension #1458. Home phone: 610-913-6973. Email: mrbrubaker@vfcc.edu.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An exegetical and biblical theological study of all the major references to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament with emphasis on the various aspects of the work of the Spirit in the lives of God's people. It will also show how these themes provide foundational support for Pentecostal experience and doctrine.

The instructor envisions this course as a basically self-directed study of key Old Testament passages that deal with the Holy Spirit. Each week particular passages will be inductively examined; that is, the student is expected to make his/her own observations on texts that deal with the Holy Spirit. Knowledge and use of basic study tools will be assumed (concordances, Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias, English/Hebrew lexicons). Class-time will emphasize discussion and student participation with the instructor's guidance and instruction.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To gain first-hand knowledge of major Old Testament teachings on the Holy Spirit.
2. To read a wide variety of written studies on the course topic.
3. To develop inductive study skills through weekly assignments.
4. To improve oral communicative skills through class inter-action.
5. To be spiritually stimulated by exposure to the Word of God.

**COURSE TEXTS**

*The Bible.* The primary text will be the Word of God itself. Nothing replaces an inductive investigation of the Bible.

A concordance (printed or electronic) of all the references to **ruah** in the Old Testament. This is the primary tool you will use to generate the field of data for the class.

Hildebrandt, Wilf. *An Old Testament Theology of the Spirit of God*. Hendrickson, 1995.  
A helpful survey of the lexical field of *ruah* and its synonyms by an evangelical scholar.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Attend class. By the very nature of the schedule each weekend of classes is very important. Each hour attended is 2.27 points (the Saturday lunch hours are included in the total) for a total of 100 points.
2. Complete ten weekly written observations on the scheduled passages (200 points total). Email an electronic copy or turn a printed copy to the instructor by each scheduled Saturday. These assignments should be typed, double-spaced, and well composed. Follow this methodology:
  - (a) Copy all the references to *ruah* in the books you are surveying.
  - (b) Decide if each occurrence is referring to the Holy Spirit, human spirit, or natural wind. If it refers to the Holy Spirit, proceed with your study.
  - (c) Compare different translations (3-4) for differences. Try to find out the reasons why there may be significant differences.
  - (d) Concentrate on main phrases using *ruah* and note key words (pick 1-3 to study more thoroughly using concordances, lexicons, theological dictionaries).
  - (e) Consult secondary works such as commentaries and systematic theologies to verify your own ideas or search for new perspectives.
  - (f) Summarize what the passage teaches implicitly or explicitly on the work and person of the Holy Spirit in light of previous or later revelation. Each study is worth 20 points. No late work will be accepted. Grading is based on thoroughness of detail and use of a smooth, literary style.
3. Complete a reading report from the bibliography (80 points): No more than 30 pages per work (60 pages for graduate students) to count toward the total. The following ratio applies: for undergraduates 300 pages; for graduate students 600 pages. Discuss the depth of coverage of our topic in the work, any new or interesting ideas, value, and strengths.
4. Read the textbook by the Thanksgiving (40 pts). Give the instructor a signed statement that you have completed the reading. This can be completed prior to the deadline.
5. Write a summary paper (80 points). This is viewed as a synthesis of the material learned in the course: What does the Old Testament teach about the person and work of the Holy Spirit? This will be a ten-page paper. This is viewed primarily as an inductive study; any

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secondary works used should be cited with bibliography at the end of the paper (use MLA).

### **COURSE GRADING**

The final grade will be based on the following proportion (approximate): attendance (100 points) 20 %; weekly inductive studies (200 pts) 40%; reading report (80 pts) 16%; summary paper (80 pts) 16%; reading the textbook (40 pts) 8 %.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

#### **September 12-13 Syllabus; Course Introduction; *Ruah* in the Pentateuch**

Week of September 15-20: Inductive Study of *Ruah* in Joshua, Judges, and Ruth.

**Due Saturday, September 20.**

Week of September 22-27: Inductive Study of *Ruah* in the Davidic Period: I and II Samuel.

**Due Saturday, September 27.**

Week of September 29-October 4: Inductive Study of *Ruah* in 1-2 Kings.

**Due Saturday, October 4.**

#### **October 3-4 Summary of *Ruah* in the Early Historical Period**

Week of October 6-11: No Inductive Studies due. Fall Break from October 9-13.

Week of October 13-18: Inductive Study of *Ruah* in the Later Historical Writings: I Chronicles to Esther.

**Due Saturday, October 18.**

Week of October 20-25: Inductive Study of *Ruah* in the Wisdom Literature: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon.

**Due Saturday, October 25.**

Week of October 27-November 1: Inductive Study of *Ruah* in the heart of OT piety: Psalms.

**Due Saturday, November 1.**

Week of November 3-8: Inductive Study of *Ruah* in the Pre-Exilic Major Prophets: Isaiah and Jeremiah.

**Due Saturday, November 8.**

#### **November 7-8: Summary of *Ruah* in the Later Historical Writings, Poetical Books, and Pre-exilic Major Prophets**

Week of November 10-15: Inductive Study of *Ruah* in the Exilic Prophets: Ezekiel and Daniel.

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**Due Saturday, November 15.**

Week of November 17-22: Inductive Study of *Ruah* in the Pre-Exilic Minor Prophets: Hosea to Zephaniah.

**Due Saturday, November 22.**

Week of November 24-29. Inductive Study of *Ruah* in the Post-Exilic Prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

**Due Saturday, November 29.**

Week of Dec 1-6: Work on summary paper and reading report.

**December 5-6 Summary of *Ruah* in the Exilic and Minor Prophets. *Ruah* in the Intertestamental Period (including the Dead Sea Scrolls; no studies due): Implications of the OT revelation of *Ruah* for the NT revelation of *Pneuma*.**

**December 12: Reading Report due.**

**December 19: Summary Paper due.**

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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