

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Degree Completion Program
BOTD 538 - Studies in the Prophetical Books: Jeremiah

Mark A. Jenkins
ph.: 833-2551 x1121
e-mail : mjenkins@cbcag.edu

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An expositional study of the book of Jeremiah and his message within its cultural milieu. Emphasis of this course will be on delivering the message of Jeremiah to a 21st century audience.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this class is to help the student understand the prophecy of Jeremiah in its socio-historical context and apply its theological truths to the modern Christian. In achieving this goal, the student will be led to examine the following concerns throughout the course:

- A. General Concerns
 - 1. Understand Old Testament Prophecy and role of the prophet.
 - 2. Distinguish the place of Jeremiah in light of other Israeli prophets.
- B. Ongoing Textual Concerns
 - 1. Grasp the principal messages of Jeremiah.
 - 2. Grasp the role played by Jeremiah against the historical backdrop of the final years of the Judean Monarchy
 - 3. Appreciate the prophet's use of literary devices to propel his message.
 - 4. Apply exegetical research skills to develop in-depth understanding of a select portions of Jeremiah's prophecy.
- C. Interpretive Concerns
 - 1. Develop diverse, yet practical, avenues of exposition exhibiting sound hermeneutical principles ready for immediate implementation.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Huey, F. B. *Jeremiah Lamentations. The New American Commentary.* Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993.

Bible, New International Version

On Reserve:

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *A History of Prophecy in Israel: From the Settlement in the Land to the Hellenistic Period.* Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.

Perdue, L. G., and B. W. Kovacs, eds. *A Prophet to the Nations: Essays in Jeremiah Studies.* Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1984.

Bright, John. *Jeremiah. The Anchor Bible*. New York: Doubleday, 1965.

METHODOLOGY

1. Lecture will serve as the primary structure for topics presented in class.
2. Lecture is intended to foster rich discussion.
3. Small group discussion will be used for various issues.
4. Students will be afforded the opportunity for short presentations concerning application of the message of Jeremiah.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. A 3-page summary of issues relating to date, authorship, and structure of Jeremiah. The student should be as concise as possible. For this and all written assignments, work should be double-spaced in Times New Roman (or equivalent) 12 pt type. Writing style should be based on the 6th edition of Turabian.
2. A 2-page summary of material in Blenkinsopp dealing with the broad theme of Old Testament prophecy.
3. A Christian Education lesson plan aimed at a particular age group (elementary to adult). Lesson plans should include an outline of the session, evidence of exposition and application, and any visual aids that will be used (overheads, PowerPoint outlines, flannel-graph items, etc.). The outline should be extensive enough to suggest that the student has grasped the historical and social issues in the text. There is no length requirement, but it should reflect the amount of material that can realistically be covered in a 50 minute time period. Text parameters for this assignment will be a periscope of your choice from Jeremiah 7-15
4. A lecture geared toward the college classroom. Lecture should include learning objectives, a formal outline of your lecture including historical and background information, discussion and/or small group questions, and at least five questions that could be used on an examination. As a point of departure from the C.E. lesson plan, your lecture should include evidence exegetical interest, critical concerns, scholarly opinion, and discussion of application. There is no length requirement, but it should also reflect the amount of material that could realistically be covered in a 50 minute time period. Text parameters for this assignment will be a periscope of your choice from Jeremiah 16-29.
5. A short sermon. This assignment will be delivered orally and will be limited to 10 minutes. Your sermon should follow all of the guidelines of sound hermeneutical content and homiletical style. (I know that you can preach for 40 minutes, I want to see if you can say anything in 10!). You will be required to turn in a formal "script" of your sermon, which should include an introduction, reading of the text, exposition, illustration, and application. The length of this assignment should reflect a script that could be delivered in a 10 minute time frame. Text parameters for this assignment will be a passage of your choice from Jeremiah 30-39. Keep in mind that you should choose the size of your passage based the amount of exposition that you could realistically do in 10 minutes.
6. An exegesis paper of 8-10 pages will be required on a passage of your choice from Jeremiah 40-52. The 6th edition of Turabian should be used as a manual for style. You are free to use the reference style of choice, as long as it is sanctioned by

Turabian. You should use a minimum of 10 sources and include a bibliography. Grading of this paper will be as follows: 1) 70% content, 2) 10% scholarship, 3) 10% grammar, and 4) 10% style.

7. A grade will be assessed for participation. Participation will be based on attendance and how much you are “engaged” in the class experience. Discussion is encouraged. Please talk to the professor about any absences
8. A grade will also be given for completion of reading assignments.

COURSE OUTLINE

SESSION 1

The goal of session 1 is to address the general concerns of *Introduction to Prophecy* and *Introduction to Jeremiah*. In addition, chapters 1-6 of Jeremiah will be discussed with emphasis on objectives as they pertain to the *Ongoing Textual Concerns* as outlined above.

Read:

1. Blenkinsopp, 20-77.
2. Huey 19-46: Introduction to Jeremiah, pp. 19-45.
3. Huey 47-102: Commentary on Jeremiah 1-6, pp. 47-102.
4. John Bright, “The Date of the Prose Sermons of Jeremiah,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 70, 1951: 15-35.

Turn In:

1. A three page summary of authorship and structure issues in Jeremiah, including a personal position with reasons for your belief. (Give references where applicable).
2. A two page summary of the reading in Blenkinsopp.

In Class

1. Introduction to the course and review of syllabus
2. Introduction to prophesy in the Old Testament
3. Introduction to Jeremiah
 - Small Group discussion concerning authorship
4. The Call and Visions of Jeremiah
5. Warnings of judgment from Jeremiah’s early Ministry
 - Small Group discussion of the nature of Idolatry

Session Objectives

Upon completion of this session, you should be able to:

1. Understand Old Testament Prophecy and role of the prophet.
2. Distinguish the place of Jeremiah in light of other Israeli prophets.
5. Grasp the principal messages of Jeremiah 1-6.
6. Grasp the role played by Jeremiah in his early years of ministry under Josiah.
7. Appreciate the prophet’s use of literary devices to propel his oracles in chapters 1-6.
8. Apply exegetical research skills to develop in-depth understanding of the prophetic oracles of chapters 1-6.

SESSION 2

Goals: to facilitate the understanding of various elements in Jeremiah 7-15. Focus will remain on *Ongoing Textual Concerns* to foster sound hermeneutical techniques in preaching and teaching Jeremiah.

Read:

1. Huey, 103-164.
2. Blenkinsopp, 153-169.
3. Gerhard Von Rad, "The Confessions of Jeremiah," in *A Prophet to the Nations: Essays in Jeremiah Studies*, L. G. Perdue and B. W. Kovacs, eds. (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1984): 339-48.

Turn In: C. E. Lesson Plan. (See Course Requirements)

In Class:

1. Jeremiah's Temple Sermon
 - Small group discussion concerning faith in the Temple and its implications for Christians
2. Idolatry and messages of warning
3. Jeremiah's "Confessions"
 - Small group discussion on implications of "Lament" poetry
4. Broken Covenant
5. Unavoidable catastrophes
 - Small group discussion - application

Session Objectives

Upon completion of this session, you should be able to:

1. Grasp the role played by Jeremiah in the middle of his ministry under Jehoiakim.
2. Appreciate the prophet's use of literary devices to propel his oracles in chapters 7-15.
 - Know the significance of the Temple Sermon.
 - Understand the uniqueness of Jeremiah's "confessions."
3. Apply exegetical research skills to develop in-depth understanding of the prophetic oracles of chapters 7-15.
 - Adequately exposit a logical passage of scripture for use in a Christian Education lesson.

SESSION 3

Goals: to facilitate the understanding of various elements in Jeremiah 16-29. Focus will remain on *Ongoing Textual Concerns* to foster sound hermeneutical techniques in preaching and teaching Jeremiah.

Read:

1. Huey, 165-258.

2. P.R. Davies, "Potter, Prophet and People: Jeremiah 18 as Parable," *HAR* 11 (1987), 23-33. (Handout given in Session 2)

Turn In: College Lecture and Lesson Plan (See Course Requirements)

In Class:

1. Threats and promises
2. The potter's house
 - Small group discussion of Davies article.
3. Jeremiah's humiliation and despair
4. The failure of Judean kings and the Righteous king
 - Small group discussion: Divine Warrior
5. Judgment on Judah and the nations
6. Messages against and conflict with the false prophets
 - Small group discussion: false prophets
7. A letter to the Exiles

Session Objectives

Upon completion of this session, you should be able to:

1. Grasp the role played by Jeremiah toward the end of his ministry under Zedekiah.
2. Appreciate the prophet's use of literary devices to propel his oracles in chapters 16-29.
 - Recognize the use of object lessons in the potter's house narrative.
 - Be able to distinguish between the concepts of Yahweh as Divine Warrior and current concepts of "jihad" or "holy war."
 - Recognize the common prophetic "oracle against the nations" motif.
 - Understand the significance of Jeremiah's "letter."
3. Apply exegetical research skills to develop in-depth understanding of the prophetic oracles of chapters 16-29.
 - Adequately exposit a logical passage of scripture for use in college level classroom.

SESSION 4

Goals: to facilitate the understanding of various elements in Jeremiah 30-39. Focus will remain on *Ongoing Textual Concerns* to foster sound hermeneutical techniques in preaching and teaching Jeremiah.

Read:

1. Huey, 259-346
2. 25 pages from any resource on the Bibliography (for sermon preparation)

Turn In: A script of your Short Sermon. (See Course Requirements: include references).

In Class:

1. Sermon Presentations
2. Hope and restoration
 - A new Covenant
 - Jeremiah's purchase of a field.
3. Events and messages from 605 to the fall of Jerusalem.
 - Jeremiah's arrest
 - Fall of Jerusalem

Session Objectives

Upon completion of this session, you should be able to:

1. Grasp the role played by Jeremiah from 605 to the fall of Jerusalem.
2. Appreciate the prophet's use of literary devices to propel his oracles in chapters 30-39.
 - Recognize the use of object lessons in the Jeremiah's purchase of the field.
 - Be able to outline and understand the implications of Jeremiah's "New Covenant."
3. Apply exegetical research skills to develop in-depth understanding of the prophetic oracles of chapters 30-39.
 - Adequately exposit a logical passage of scripture in preparation and delivery of a short sermon.

SESSION 5

Goals: to facilitate the understanding of various elements in Jeremiah 40-52. Focus will remain on *Ongoing Textual Concerns* to foster sound hermeneutical techniques in preaching and teaching Jeremiah.

Read:

1. Huey, 347-440
2. 50 pages from any resource in the Bibliography (for Exegesis paper).

Turn In: Exegesis Paper (See Course Requirements)

In Class:

1. Gedeliah's governorship.
2. Jeremiah's flight to Egypt and his message.
3. Oracles Against the nations.
 - Small group discussion.
4. Events from the fall of Jerusalem to the release of Jehoiachin.
5. Theological themes in Jeremiah.
 - Small group discussion.

Session Objectives

Upon completion of this session, you should be able to:

1. Grasp the role played by Jeremiah after the fall of Jerusalem.

2. Appreciate the prophet's use of literary devices to propel his oracles in chapters 40-52.
 - Understand the function of the OAN in this section.
3. Apply exegetical research skills to develop in-depth understanding of the prophetic oracles of chapters 40-52.
4. Discuss the dominant theological themes of Jeremiah.
5. Adequately exegete the content of Jeremiah.

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. 3-page summary of authorship, etc	2.5 %
2. 2-page summary of Blenkinsopp	2.5%
3. C. E. Lesson Plan	15%
4. College Lesson Plan	15%
5. Short Sermon	15%
6. Exegesis	30%
7. Participation	5%
8. Reading Assignments	15%

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