

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BTH 640 Specialized Studies in Biblical Theology:  
Old Testament Ethics

Roger D. Cotton

Summer II, 2002

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Course Description

A study of ethics as taught in each major section of the Old Testament with emphasis on the laws of the Pentateuch and how they relate to Christians today. Attention will be given to application of the principles to the ethical issues facing the church today.

### Course Objectives

Upon the completion of this course the student should be able to:

- 1) Derive ethical principles from Old Testament texts.
- 2) Discuss how the Old Testament laws and ethical teachings are to relate to the New Testament Christian today.
- 3) Describe the major ethical principles taught in the Old Testament.
- 4) Discuss the best solutions to the major ethical problems people have had with certain Old Testament accounts and instructions.
- 5) Make application of the principles taught in the Old Testament to the ethical issues facing the church today.

### Textbooks

#### Required

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. Toward Old Testament Ethics. Grand Rapid: Zondervan, 1983.

Wright, Christopher J.H. Walking in the Ways of the Lord: The Ethical Authority of the Old Testament. Downer's Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1995.

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### **Course Outline**

Mon	June 3	Doing OT Ethics
Tues	4	The Relationship of the Old Testament Law to the Christian
Weds	5	Holiness
Thurs	6	
Fri	7	Authority
Mon	10	
Tues	11	Life—Sacredness and Dignity
Weds	12	
Thurs	13	Life—Punishments and Justice
Fri	14	
Mon	17	Life—Social Involvement and the Needy
Tues	18	
Weds	19	Sexual Morals
Thurs	20	
Fri	21	Property and Truth
Mon	24	
Tues	25	Presentations
Fri	28	Final

### **Methodology**

Lectures, discussion, reading and researched writing assignments and class presentations.

### **Course Requirements**

Class attendance is expected; the seminary allows a maximum of three (3) class periods. Please talk to the professor about your absences.

1. Be prepared for each class to discuss any assigned readings.
2. Read the textbook by Wright, chaps. 1-4 by Tues, June 4; chaps. 5-7 by Weds, June 5; and chaps. 8-11 by Thurs, June 6. Finish the Kaiser textbook by the end of the course.
3. Write a 6-8 page (typed, right margin not justified) research paper on the ethical teachings of a particular OT book (outside the Pentateuch) or a large block of material within a large

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book. This should demonstrate good exegetical, biblical theological, handling of the Bible text as well as understanding of the ethical issues. For this paper and the other below be sure to list all sources consulted and follow Turabian 11.26 for material in a multi-author work. Use a title page and no cover, only staple it. The best sources in the following categories must be researched and show up in the bibliography for an A: Bible encyclopedias; word studies (NIDOTTE) and Dict. of Bib. Imagery; exegetical commentaries; OT theologies; and scholarly journals.

4. Write a 10-12 page (see all instructions from above) research paper on a current ethical issue from the pertinent Old Testament texts, approved by the professor. It should apply the principles taught in the Old Testament to the current questions. It must include at least a brief summary of the relationship to New Testament ethical teaching.
5. Write an essay exam on important principles and issues of OT ethics as discussed in class and the readings on the last day of class.

### **Grading Procedure**

Reading of the textbooks and class participation	10%
Final essay exam	15%
Paper on the ethical teaching of an Old Testament book or large section	30%
Paper on application of Old Testament teaching to a current ethical issue	45%

### **Bibliography**

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Crenshaw, James L., and John T. Willis, eds. Essays in Old Testament Ethics. New York: KTAV, 1974.

Davis, John Jefferson. Evangelical Ethics: Issues Facing the Church Today. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1985.

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**Specific Data**

Syllabus prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D., May, 2002.