

## ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### BTH 640 Special Studies in Biblical Theology: Principles of Prophetic Ministry

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Summer I, 2003

#### *COURSE SYLLABUS*

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A inductive analysis and exposition of key Old and New Testament texts related to the prophecy. This course will seek to explore the nature, role and function of the prophetic ministry. Comparisons and contrasts will be noted for the purpose of establishing both elements of continuity and discontinuity between the testaments. Emphasis will be given to the analysis of the NT charismatic gift and ministry of prophecy and establishing guidelines for evaluating current modern expressions.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

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

##### *Cognitive:*

1. Identify and define the key biblical terms for prophets and prophecy in both the Old and New Testaments.
2. Discuss the role and function of biblical prophets during various periods of Israel's history and in the Church.
3. Describe some of the characteristics that belong to the moral-spiritual nature of a biblical prophet.
4. List and describe the basic kinds of prophecy we find in the Bible and their characteristics.
5. Explain how prophecy compares pre- and post- Pentecost, discussing elements of continuity and discontinuity.
6. List several criteria for the evaluation of both Old and New Testament prophecy and discuss how the believing communities of Israel and the Church were to judge and identify the true and spurious prophets and prophecy.

##### *Skills:*

1. View a biblical text with a sensitivity to the historical process and progress of revelation as presented in the biblical canon, taking note of "antecedent scripture/and theology," known to the author.
2. Analyze a prophetic oracle with respect to its receptor culture and audience.
3. Expound a prophetic text to extract relevant principles to guide our evaluation and participation in the NT charisma of prophecy.

##### *Attitudes:*

1. Understand more profoundly the importance of the prophetic function to the people of God in

all ages.

2. Appreciate the prophetic identity of the New Covenant people of God and how Pentecost birthed that reality.

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

#### ***Required:***

Grudem, Wayne. *The Gift of Prophecy in the New Testament and Today*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1988.

Sailhamer, John H. *Biblical Prophecy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishers, 1998.

#### ***Recommended:***

Evans, C. A. and S. E. Porter, ed.s. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Hawthorne, G. F. and R. P. Martin, ed.s *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

- I. Prolegomena: Definitions, Distinctions and Preliminary Issues
- II. Prophecy: Old Testament Analysis
  - A. Prophecy in the Pentateuch
  - B. Prophecy - the Non-writing Prophets
  - C. Prophecy- the Writing Prophets
- III. Prophecy: New Testament Analysis
  - A. Prophecy - the Gospels
  - B. Prophecy - Acts and the Epistles
- IV. Synthesis: Developing Guidelines for the Contemporary Charismatic Experience

### **METHODOLOGY**

This course will seek to meet its objectives through:

1. Class lectures
2. Guided classroom discussion of issues related to assigned reading, lectures and class assignments.
3. Individual reading, research and writing.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Attendance at all class sessions is expected. Whenever possible absences should be announced beforehand to the professor. Excessive absenteeism (in the summers session - more than two classes) may result in a grade reduction.

2. Completion of all assigned reading in the course texts and Supplemental Readings List.
3. A critical book review of the Grudem text, 5-6 pages in length. See handout “How to Write a Critical Book Review.”
4. Inductive Research Reports (Individual and Group)
5. 2. The total number of possible points to be earned in the semester is 1000. Point totals at the end of the semester are tabulated and a grading curve plotted relative to the collective grade profile of the class.

\* *In addition to class attendance students are expected to have read the required reading in the texts for each class session and to show evidence of class preparation by actively participating in classroom discussion and asking appropriate questions.*

#### 6. Final Essay Exam

### **GRADING PROCEDURE:**

*NOTE: Because of the brevity of the summer session late work will not be accepted except in the case of emergency.*

#### 1. Grade Weights:

Class Participation *	10%	100 points
Critical Book Review	20%	200
Inductive Research Reports	30%	300
Investigative Research Essay	20%	200
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>	<u>200</u>
	100%	1000

2. The total number of possible points to be earned in the semester is 1000. Point totals at the end of the semester are tabulated and a grading curve plotted relative to the collective grade profile of the class.

\* *In addition to class attendance students are expected to have read the required reading in the texts for each class session and to show evidence of class preparation by actively participating in classroom discussion and asking appropriate questions.*

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph. D. April 14, 2003.