

OTHB6307 Hebrew Exegesis: Book of Numbers

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Spring 2019
3 Hours
200-320pm

Seminary Mission Statement:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill The Great Commission and The Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Course Description:

This course combines an overview of the Book of Numbers and its place in the Pentateuch with an in-depth analysis of selected portions of the Hebrew text. Primary attention will be given to the grammatical, literary, historical, and theological features of the text. The study will include a discussion of the process leading to hermeneutical goals of teaching and preaching.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course the student will have demonstrated a proper knowledge of and an ability to use effectively the Hebrew text of the Book of Numbers in study, teaching and preaching. The student will be able to:

1. Analyze the overall literary structure and content of the Book of Numbers.
2. Discern the major theological themes and critical issues in Numbers.
3. Translate effectively the Hebrew text of the Book of Numbers.
4. Comprehend the Hebrew syntax and literary style of selected portions of the Book of Numbers

NOBTS Core Values Addressed in This Course

Doctrinal Integrity: Knowledge and Practice of the Word of God

Characteristic Excellence: Pursuit of God's Revelation with Diligence**

Spiritual Vitality: Transforming Power of God's Word

Core Value Focus for 2018-19 Doctrinal Integrity: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

Textbooks:

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia.

The Book of Numbers by R. Dennis Cole, NAC (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000).

Numbers by David L. Stubbs (Grand Rapids, Baker, Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible, 2009).

Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance, translations, and Discussion Board (incl. article critique) (25%).
2. Literary & Structural Analysis of Numbers Passage
Due March 26 (15%)
3. Mid-Term Translation Exam **March 14** (25%)
4. Book Review **Due April 18** (10%)
5. Exegetic research paper **Due Friday, May 10, 2019** (25%)
Due date 8 May for graduating seniors.

Article Critique– Write a 5 page critique of the interpretation of the large numbers in the Book of Numbers, based upon your analysis of the recent articles of David Fouts, “A Defense of the Hyperbolic Interpretation of the Large Numbers in the Old Testament” *JETS* 40.3 (1997), 377-87 and Colin Humphreys, “The Number of People in the Exodus from Egypt: Decoding Mathematically the Very Large Numbers in Numbers I and XXVI.” *Vetus Testamentum* 47 (1998), 196-213.

Weekly Translation Submission

Translations of the given passages in the Book of Numbers listed in the Course Schedule shall be submitted on Blackboard each week, due by Sunday night on the given week. Verb parsings and analysis of textual notes are detailed in the given weekly UNIT as outlined in Blackboard. The translations shall have a verse by verse mechanical/rote literal translation, with the verb parsing and textual note discussion under the given verses requested. The submission will conclude with a dynamic equivalence translation of the entire passage (verses listed).

Exegetical Research Paper

Each student is to write an exegetical research paper (~15–20 pages) on a section of the Book of Numbers (approx. 10–20 verses). The student will submit to the professor by **February 5** their choice of a portion (definable pericope) from the Book of Numbers for the semester exegetical project.

The first submission is the "Literary and Structural Analysis" of the selected passage on March 26, and the final Exegetical Paper on May 10.

Suggested Exegetical Research Paper Topics:

A Balaam Oracle Levites 8:5-26 15:22-31 12:1-16
16:41-50 21:4-9 25:1-18 30:1-16
Numbers 34 and the Borders of the Promised Land

Other passages may be chosen in consultation with the professor.

The paper will include the following elements:

OUTLINE

Introduction – To the passage (not the entire biblical book) including the historical and cultural setting, important biblical background material, etc.

Translation – Your own translation, having the following quality goal: the precision of the *NASB* or the *NKJV*, with the readability of the *NIV* or *ESV*.

Textual Footnotes: Address the issues in important text critical notes, as well as any key words which you have translated in a nuanced manner.

Exegetical Outline – Provide an exegetical outline of the chosen passage, with at least one but no more than two sub-levels. Option: Structural Analysis Outline.

Exegetical Notes and Discussion – Explicate the meaning of the text, highlighting words studies, structural elements, pertinent background material.

Homiletical Outline – Assuming you will be teaching or preaching from this material, provide an outline of your presentation, including Title, Theme or Key Point, Outline with one sub-level, Conclusion.

Course Schedule:

Preview: Look for occurrences of "רָבִיעַ יְהוָה" and "מֵאֵלֶיךָ יְהוָה"
& Related usage of the following verse and its abbreviated forms:
.Wc[; yKi hv²`moAta, hw:YhyÒ hW:xi rv, Ûa} lkoYK]á
la«Dr:c]yI ynEB] WcÁ[}Y"ÊYw" 1.54

Week I January 22 - 24 Course Introduction
Translate Num 1:1-54 (lot of repetition!) **Israel's Military Census**
Numbers Introduction cont. **Submit Num. 1:1-5, 48-54**

- Week II January 29 - 31 Purity Laws**
 Translate Num 5:1-31 **Submit Num. 5:1-10, 11-15, 29-31**
Article Critique Due Jan 31
- Week III February 5 - 7 The Nazirite Vow & Priestly Blessing**
 Translate Num 6:1-27 **Submit Num. 6:1-12, 21-27**
- Week IV February 12 - 14 2nd Passover and Journey Preparation**
 Translate Num 9:1-23 **Submit Num. 9:1-14, 18-21**
- Week V February 19 - 21 The Journey Begins / Then Rebellion**
 Translate Num 10:11-11:3
Submit Num. 10:11-17, 29-35, 11:1-3
- Week VI February 26 - 28 The Spies & Their Report**
 Translate Num 13:1-33 **Submit Num. 13:1-3, 16-33**
- Week VII March 5 Mardi Gras - No Classes**
March 7 Translate Num 14:1-38 Israel Rejects the Promised Land
Submit Num. 14:1-12
- Week VIII March 12 Israel's Rejection of the Land**
 Translate Num 14:1-38 **Submit Num. 14:13-24**
March 14 MID TERM – TRANSLATION EXAM
- Week IX March 17 - 24 SPRING BREAK WEEK**
- Week X March 26 - 28 Redemption Hope & Instructions**
 Translate Num 15:1-41
Submit Num. 15:1-7, 17-21, 32-36, 37-41
- Week XI April 2 - 4 Korah Rebellion**
 Translate Num 16:1-35 (Heb) **Submit Num. 16:1-14, 31-35**
- Week XII April 9 - 11 Aaron's Budding Rod**
 Translate Num 17:16-28 (Heb) **Submit Num. 17:16-28**
- Week XIII April 16 - 18 Red Heifer Sacrifice for Purification**
 Translate Num 19:1-22 **Submit Num. 19:1-13, 21-22**
- Week XIV April 23 - 25 More Rebellions**
 Translate Num 20:1-13 **Moses & Aaron's Rebellion**

Translate Num 21:1-9 **Bronze Serpent**
Submit Num. 20:1-13; 21:1-9

Week XV April 30 - May 2 Hiring of Balaam & His Donkey
Translate Num 22:1-35 **Submit Num. 22:1-14, 22-35**

Week XVI May 7 - 9 Balaam Oracles
Translate Num 24:10-19 **Submit Num. 24:10-19**
Paper Presentations

Week XVII May 7 - 9 Finals => Paper Presentations

Translate Num 24:10-19
Paper Presentations

Week XVII May 7 - 9 Finals => Paper Presentations

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