

BSOT8302 OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH



New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
Winter Trimester 2017

Dr. R. Dennis Cole

Professor of Old Testament Hebrew and Archaeology

Office: Dodd Faculty 201

Phone: 504-282-4455 ext. 3248

Email: rdcole@nobts.edu

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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is **Characteristic Excellence**

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Servant Leadership, Spiritual Character Formation, Worship Leadership.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will entail a thorough study of selected texts of the Book of Jeremiah, with comparison of modern translations, and a study of the historical and cultural situation in the which the prophet spoke the message from the Lord. Students will develop principles for Christian living, preaching, teaching, and pastoral counseling.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prior to Seminar Meeting

A. Reading

1. **Read** the entire book of Jeremiah twice in two different modern translations, such as the *NRSV*, *NASB*, *NKJV*, *ESV*, or *NLV*.
2. *The Book of Jeremiah* by J. A. Thompson. NICOT, (Eerdmans, 1980).
3. **One of:**
 - Jeremiah*, R. E. Clements, Interpretation (John Knox, 1988)
 - Jeremiah, Lamentations*, John Guest, The Communicator's Commentary
 - Jeremiah, Lamentations*, F.B. Huey, NAC (B&H, 1993)

B. Book Review (Choose ONE for class presentation, 3–5 pages)

1. *Jeremiah, Prophet Under Siege*, J.M. Efirm (Judson Press, 1979)
2. *A Prophet to the Nations: Essays in Jeremiah Studies*, eds. L.G. Perdue & B.W. Kovacs (Eisenbrauns, 1984) chs. 2,10-11,13,16,18
3. *Prophecy and Religion: Studies in the Life of Jeremiah*, John Skinner (Cambridge, 1955)
4. *Order Amid Chaos: Jeremiah as Symbolic Tapestry*, Louis Stulman (Sheffield, 1998)
5. *The Prophetic Persona: Jeremiah and the Language of the Self*, Timothy Polk (Sheffield/JSOTS 29, 1984)

C. General Background Papers (12-15 pages)

Each student is required to write a background paper of no less than 12 pages, inclusive of bibliography. The student may choose one of the topics below (one student per topic), first choice upon e-mail to rdcole@nobts.edu . these will be presented during the two days of class.

1. The Life and Times of Jeremiah
2. The Influence of Hosea upon the Ministry of Jeremiah
3. Jeremiah's Concept of the Word of the Lord
4. Repentance and Forgiveness in Jeremiah
5. Jeremiah and the Reforms of Josiah
6. The New Covenant in Jeremiah
7. The Prayer Life of Jeremiah
8. Jeremiah's Teaching on the Heart of Man
9. The Temple Sermon and Israel's Concept of Religion
10. Jeremiah's Concept of God
11. Jeremiah and the False Prophets
12. Jeremiah as a Preacher of Judgement
13. Jeremiah and the Teaching of Jesus of Nazareth
14. Individual Responsibility in Jeremiah
15. Idolatry Polemics in the Book of Jeremiah
16. Jeremiah's Doctrine of Sin
17. The Doctrine of Inspiration and Revelation in Jeremiah
18. Jeremiah's Role as Prophet to the Nations
19. Messianic Thought in Jeremiah
20. Jeremiah as a Prophet of Hope
21. The Use of Symbolic Acts in Jeremiah

Post-Seminar Meeting Assignment: Exegetical and Homiletical Paper

Each student is required to write an exegetical and homiletical paper of no less than 20 pages, inclusive of bibliography, on a portion of Jeremiah, chosen in consultation with the professor. The exegetical paper should also include a detailed Sermon Outline based upon the passage. The paper should be written according to Turabian style. The Bibliography should consist of a minimum of 10 entries, and periodical literature should be included.

EVALUATION

Background Paper	30%
Book Review	20%
Exegetical Term Paper	30%
Reading & Class Participation	20%

COURSE SCHEDULE

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

SESSION I Jan 23

Mon 1-5

Course Introduction.

Jeremiah Among the Prophets

NICOT p.3-9, 81-85.

Historical Setting Jer. 1, 52; 2 Kings 21-25, 2 Chronicles 33-36;

NICOT p. 9- 27.

Call of Jeremiah Jer. 1:1-19

NICOT p. 139-158.

SESSION II Jan 23

Mon 6-9

Indictment of Israel Jer. 2:1-37

NICOT p. 159-87.

Plea for Repentance Jer. 3:1-4 4:4

NICOT p. 187-217

Judgment Announced Jer. 4:5-6:30

NICOT p. 217-71.

Temple Sermon Jer. 7:1-8:3; 26:1-24

NICOT p. 271-96, 521-28.

SESSION III Jan 24

Tues 8-11

Ruin of Judah Jer. 8:4-9:26; 10:17-25

NICOT p.296-322; 332-39.

Idolatry of Judah Jer. 10:1-16

NICOT p. 323-332.

Broken Covenant Jer. 11:1-12:17, 17:1-18

NICOT p. 339-62, 416-31.

Laments over the Nation Jer. 14:1-15:9

NICOT p. 375-91.

SESSION IV Jan 24

Tues 1-4

Jeremiah and the Kings of Judah Jer. 21:1-23:8

NICOT p. 465-92

Jeremiah and Jehioakim Jer. 35:1-36:32 *NICOT* p. 614-29.

Jeremiah and Zedekiah Jer. 34:1-22; 37:1-38:28

NICOT p. 605-13, 629-43.

Messianic Hope & New Covenant

Book of Consolation: Restoration & New Covenant

Jer. 30:1-31:40 *NICOT* p.551-604.

SESSION V Jan 24

Tues 1-4

Confessions Jer. 15:10-16:21; 18:18-23; 20:7-18

NICOT p.391-416, 439-43, 456-64.

Symbolic Acts Jer. 13:1-27;18:1-17; 19:1-20:6; 24:1-25:38

NICOT p. 362-75, 391-416, 431-56, 506-20.

SESSION VI Jan 25

Wed 8-11

Jeremiah vs. False Prophets Jer. 21:1-23:40

NICOT p. 465-506.

Jeremiah vs. False Prophets cont'd Jer. 27:1-29:32

NICOT p. 528-50

SESSION VII Jan 25

Wed 1-4

Fall of Jerusalem Jer. 39:1-18, 52:1-34

NICOT p.643-649, 772-784.

Jeremiah after Jerusalem's Fall Jer. 40:1-45:5

NICOT p. 650-84.

Oracles vs. Foreign Nations Jer. 46:1-50:64

NICOT p. 685-771.

**Old Testament Exegetical Studies: Jeremiah
Selected Bibliography**

Histories

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 3rd. Edition. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1959, 1983.

Bruce, F.F. *Israel and the Nations*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1963.

Merrill, Eugene. *A Kingdom of Priests: A History of the Old Testament Israel*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968.

Oesterley, W.O.E. and Theodore H. Robinson. *A History of Israel*. Vol. I. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1932.

Commentaries

Allen, Leslie C. *Jeremiah: A Commentary*. Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.

Bennett, W.H. *The Book of Jeremiah: Chapters XXI-LII*. The Expositor's Bible. Edited by W. Robertson Nicoll. New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1980.

Berrigan, Daniel. *Jeremiah: The World, The Wound of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.

Binns, L.Elliott. *The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah*. Westminster Commentaries. Edited by Walter Lock and D.C. Simpson. London: Methuen and Company, Limited, 1961.

Blank, Sheldon H. *Jeremiah: Man and Prophet*. Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 1961.

Brueggemann, Walter. *A Commentary of Jeremiah: Exile and Homecoming*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Bright, John. *Jeremiah: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. The Anchor Bible. 2nd ed. Garden City, New York: Double Day and Company. Inc., 1974.

Brown, Charles Rufus. "The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah." *An American Commentary on the Old Testament*. Ed. by Alvay Hovey. Philadelphia: American Baptist Pub. Society, 1907.

Calvin, John. *Commentaries on the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah and the Lamentations*. Translated and edited by John Owen. Reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1950.

Dearman, J.A. *Jeremiah/Lamentations*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997, 2002.

Douglas, George. *The Book of Jeremiah with Introduction and Notes*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1903.

Driver, S.R. *The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah*. 2nd ed. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1908.

- Goldingay, John. *God's Prophet; God's Servant: A Study in Jeremiah and Isaiah 40-55*. Biblical Classics Library, 5. Carlisle, UK: Paternoster Press, 1994.
- Green, James Leo. "Jeremiah." *The Broadman Bible Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman, 1971.
- Harrison, R.K. *Jeremiah, Lamentations*. TynOTC. Downers Grove: IVP, 1981.
- Holladay, William. *Jeremiah 1-25*. Hermeneia. Fortress Press, 1986, 1989.
- Hyatt, James Philip. "The Book of Jeremiah: Introduction and Exegesis," *The Interpreter's Bible*, pp.777-1
- Keil, C.F. *The Prophecies of Jeremiah*. 2 vols. Translated by David Patrick. Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament. Reprint ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1951.
- Keown, G.; Scalise, P.; and Smothers, T. *Jeremiah 26-52*. WBC 27. Waco: Word, 1995.
- Laetsch, Theodore. *Bible Commentary: Jeremiah*. Saint Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1952.
- Leslie, Elmer A. *Jeremiah: Chronologically Arranged, Translated and Interpreted*. New York: Abingdon Press, 1954.
- Longman, Tremper III. *Jeremiah, Lamentations*. New International Biblical Commentary 14. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2008.
- Lundbom, Jack. *Jeremiah 1-20: A New Translation and Commentary*. Anchor Bible 21A. New York: Anchor Books, 1999.
- _____. *Jeremiah 37-52: A New Translation and Commentary*. Anchor Bible 21C. New York: Anchor Books, 2004.
- _____. *Jeremiah 21-36: A New Translation and Commentary*. Anchor Bible 21B. New York: Anchor Books, 2008.
- Martens, Elmer. *Jeremiah*. Believer's Church Bible Commentary. Herald Press, 1986.
- McKane, William. *Jeremiah 1:1-25. Jeremiah 2:26-52*. ICC. London: T & T Clark, 1986, 1996.
- Peake, A.S. *Jeremiah and Lamentations*. 2 vols. The New Century Bible. Edited by Walter F. Adeney. New York: Henry Frowde, 1910.
- Smith, George Adam. *Jeremiah*. Revision of fourth edition. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran and Company, Incorporated 1929.
- Streane, A.W. *The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, Together with the Lamentations*. The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. Reprint Edition. Cambridge: The University Press, 1952.
- Stulman, Louis. *Jeremiah*. AOTC. New York: Abingdon, 2005.
- Thompson, John A. *The Book of Jeremiah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament (NICOT). Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980.
- Welch, Adam C. "Jeremiah." *The Abingdon Bible Commentary*. EdS. Frederick Carl Eiselen, Edwin Lewis, and David G. Downey. New York: Abingdon Press, 1929.

Books

- Baughman, Harry F. *Jeremiah for Today*. Philadelphia: The Muhlenberg Press, 1947.
- Berrigan, Daniel. *Jeremiah: The World, The Wound of God*. Fortress, 1999.
- Birmingham, George A. *Jeremiah the Prophet*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1956.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Like Fire in My Bones: Listening for the Prophetic Word in Jeremiah*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.
- Calkins, Raymond. *Jeremiah the Prophet: A Study in Personal Religion*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1930.
- Carroll, Robert P. *From Chaos to Covenant: Prophecy in the Book of Jeremiah*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1981.

- Cole, Ronald Dennis. "The Idolatry Polemics in the Book of Jeremiah." Unpublished doctoral dissertation, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 1984.
- Efird, James M. *Jeremiah: Prophet Under Siege*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1979.
- Eiselen, Frederick Carl. *Prophecy and the Prophets in Their Historical Relations*. Reprint of the 1909 edition. New York: The Methodist Book Concern, 1916.
- Erdman, Charles R. *The Book of Jeremiah and Lamentations: An Exposition*. Westwood, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1955.
- Francisco, Clyde T. *Studies in Jeremiah*. Nashville, Tennessee: Convention Press, 1961.
- Gordon, T. Crouther. *The Rebel Prophet: Studies in the Personality of Jeremiah*. New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1932.
- Guillaume, Alfred, "Personal Religion." *Prophecy and Divination Among the Hebrew and Other Semites*. Pp. 334-361. London: Hodder and Stoughton, Limited, 1938.
- Hyatt, J Phillip. *Jeremiah: Prophet of Courage and Hope*. New York: Abingdon Press, 1958.
- Jefferson, Charles E. *Cardinal Ideas of Jeremiah*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1928.
- Kidner, Derek. *The Message of Jeremiah: Against Wind and Tide*. The Bible Speaks Today.
- Lofthouse, W.F. *Jeremiah and the New Covenant*. London: Student Christian Movement Press, 1925.
- Longacre, Lindsay B. *A Prophet of the Spirit: A sketch of the Character and Work of Jeremiah*. Reprint of the first edition. New York: The Methodist Book Concern, 1922.
- Morgan, G. Campbell. *Studies in the Prophecy of Jeremiah*. Reprint. London: Oliphants, Limited, 1955.
- O'Connor, Kathleen. *The Confessions of Jeremiah: Their Interpretation and Their in Chaptres 1-25*. Atlanta: SBL, 1988.
- Perdue, Leo G. and Kovacs, Brian W., eds. *A Prophet to the Nations: Essays in Jeremiah Studies*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1984.
- Robinson, H. Wheeler. *The Cross in the Old Testament*. Composite volume of three earlier works. London: Student Christian Movement Press, Limited, 1955.
- Ryken, Phillip Graham. *Jeremiah and Lamentations: From Sorrow to Hope*. Preaching the Word. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2001.
- Skinner, John. *Prophecy and Religion: Studies in the Life of Jeremiah*. Reprint of 1922 edition. Cambridge: The University Press, 1951.
- Stewart, Alexander. *Jeremiah the Man and His Message*. Edinburgh: W.F. Henderson, 1936. Reprinted, out of print.
- Welch, Adam C. *Jeremiah: His Time and His Work*. Reprint of 1928 edition. Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1951.
- Wood, Fred M. *Fire in My Bones*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1959.