

Institute for Christian Studies
School of Continuing Education

Course: The Historical Books of the Old Testament

Instructor: The Rev. Christopher E. Brathwaite

Please mail assignments to:

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Course objectives:

1. To become acquainted with the story of Israel's origins and existence as narrated in Joshua through the books of the Chronicles (the Historical Books).
2. To grow in our understanding of the Holy Scriptures by examining the structure, plot, context, audience and theme of each of the Historical Books.
3. To hear God's Word speaking to us today through the Historical Books of the Old Testament.

Course strategy:

We will look at each of the books, Joshua through Second Chronicles, to gain an understanding of when and why it was written.

We will answer these questions:

- What are the Historical Books?
- Where do they fit into history?
- Who wrote them?
- Why were they written?
- How is God revealed in each of the books?

We will focus on specific passages within each book in conjunction with external resources, helping to create a framework for the Old Testament Historical Books.

We will look at how these books apply to our own lives and the world around us.

Required reading:

Interpreting the Historical Books - An Exegetical Handbook, Robert M. Howard, Jr - Editor, (2006) by Robert B. Chisholm, Jr., ISBN # 9 780825 427640

Prior to class, each student is required to read: Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles. These books span about 800 years of history. Your familiarity with the books will help to make the class time more productive.

Required assignment following class:

All students must answer seven questions, one from each book from the list of questions that will be distributed in class or write a paper of no less than 5 pages on the destruction of the northern kingdom.

- Each answer must be between ½ and one page in length (double spaced).
- Answers must include appropriate Scripture references (book, chapter and verse).
- The question must be included with each answer and the name of the student is required on each page.
- All assignments are due to within 30 days of the class.
- Assignments must be typed; no hand-written assignments will be accepted.
- Assignments can be submitted by:
 - Regular postal service anytime up to 30 days following class or
 - E-mailed as a Microsoft Word document up to 20 days following the class. This will allow ample time for the assignment to be mailed if the instructor is unable to receive or to open the document.
- Keep a copy of the assignment.
- It is ICS policy that no credit will be given for assignments received after the due date.
- Include a self-addressed and stamped (correct postage) envelope if you would like to have your assignment returned.

Schedule of the Day

9:10-9:30.....Prayer

Housekeeping: Bathrooms – Go over schedule for the day

Introductions: Each person – 2 minutes

Course Overview: The Historical Books of the Old Testament

BEGIN CLASS

9:30 – 10:30Joshua

10:30 – 10:40**Break**

10:45 – 11:30The Big Lie (Rehab)

11:30 – Noon.....Judges

Noon – 12:45.....**Lunch**

12:45 – 1:30 1 & 2 Samuel

1:30 – 2:15 1 & 2 Kings

2:15 – 2:30**Break**

2:30 – 3:00 1 & 2 Chronicles

3:00 – 3:25 2 Corinthians 3