

**The Institute for Christian Studies School
Of Continuing Education**
2011-2012

Course: Early and Late Prophets, Parts I and II

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Course Dates: October 15, 2011 and November 5, 2011

Course Objective: To acquire an understanding of the biblical prophet (the man, the message, and the method), and to apply that understanding to a selection of prophets through the class and the final project.

Required reading: The Prophets, Abraham Heschel, volumes I and II (combined) Prince Press.

Sessions and the readings: **(PLEASE NOTE; DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY Heschel's writing style; READ FOR THE POETRY AND THE PASSION, take what you can and leave the rest)**

1. Early and Late Prophets I—Discovering the Biblical Prophet
 - A. Understanding the mind of the Prophet (read Heschel, Volume I. Introduction and pages 3-26)
 - B. Hosea: the man, the message and the method (read Heschel, Volume I, pages 39-60)
 - C. Jeremiah: the man, the message, and the method (read Heschel, Volume I, pages 103-139.

2. Early and Late Prophets II—Discovering, (continuing)
 - A. Isaiah: the man, the message, and the method (read Heschel, Volume I, pages 145-158)
 - B. Project Workshop

Final Project:

Choose one of the following to read, explain, and expound. When explaining, express in your own fashion the main concepts Heschel wants us to know on the subject. When expounding, apply those ideas to your own life, or to the life of the Church. Your project may be presented as an essay, an original work of art, a collage, a scrapbook or an outline for teaching your own class on the Prophets. Choose either Heschel, Volume II: chapter 5, “meaning, Mystery, and Wrath;” or Heschel, Volume II, chapter 7, “Religion of Sympathy.”

The importance of this exercise is to view the Prophets in their own context, *as men of their times*, not from the New Testament backwards.

Project due date:

Project is due within one month from the date of the last class of Early and Late Prophets (December 4, 2011)

Project grades:

Each student completing the project will receive Notification of the Project’s acceptability and completion of the course for credit. I will comment on each project, but the final grades are simply, PASS or FAIL. The purpose of this project is to assist the student in applying biblical insights in his/her own life and ministry.

Other Reading to supplement the course:

Read the writing of the Early and Later Prophets, as found in the Old Testament.

Read Bernard Anderson’s, *Understanding the Old Testament*, (any edition), his section of the “Prophets”

Read Robert Bennett and O.C. Edwards’, *The Bible For Today’s Church*, 1979, pp.194-208, “How is God about to act in Israel’s Present?”

Read Thomas Cahill’s, *The Gifts of the Jews*, 1997, Talese/Doubleday, pp. 209-230.