
St Albans Certificate in Theology

An Introduction to the Old Testament (Module 2)

Start Date	10 January 2012	End Date	20 March 2012
Day	Tuesday	Time	8.00 pm
Number of sessions	10	Half term (no session)	14 February 2012
Venue	Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans		
Tutor	Revd Dr Kevin Walton	Fee	£85 (£75 certificate)

Tutor Biography

Revd Canon Dr Kevin Walton is an Anglican Priest at St Albans Cathedral, where he is Canon Chancellor, with responsibility for Education, Welcome and Ecumenism. Previously, he served as a parish priest in the North East of England. His published doctoral research was in the story of Jacob in the book of Genesis, and the relationship between the presence and absence of God. He also studied at the Heidelberg in Germany. His approach to the Old Testament is shaped by the canonical approach and the interplay of historical-critical research and narrative approaches. He is also interested in the relationship of tradition and scripture, and aspects of ecumenical theology.

Course syllabus

Aims

1. To introduce the Old Testament as a whole.
2. To review the different parts of the Old Testament canon
3. To assist students in their appreciation of the ways in which they read the Bible.

Content

This course is an introduction to the study of the Old Testament, covering the broad sweep of the material, but rooted also in the study of a range of specific passages, paying attention to their genre, structure, purpose, theology and themes. Whilst attentive to the historical and critical issues of academic research, these issues will be applied to a better understanding of how Old Testament works as scripture.

Note

The following sample passages will be studied in some detail:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Genesis 1-3, 28:10-22

Exodus 3:1-15, Deut. 6:4-9, Joshua 24:1-28, 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Jeremiah 7:1-15, I Kings 22:1-28, Amos

I Kings 4:29-34, Proverbs 8:22-9:6, Psalms 1,6,96

Presentation of the course

The course is presented through lectures with group discussion.

Outcomes

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a knowledge of the content of the Old Testament
- appreciate and evaluate different ways the Biblical text is read
- show a greater consciousness of the assumptions they make in their own use of the Old Testament

Student assignments

Students are not required to complete any formal assignment or essay. However, if the course is being taken as a module in the St Albans Certificate in Theology a commitment to reading and pre-class preparation is expected, and students will be required to produce written assignments, to a total of 1500 - 2000 words.

Sample assignment topics

- What do you understand by the Torah? Illustrate with two or more passages.
- What is prophecy? Illustrate with a reference to two or more prophets.
- What is the significance of the Exile in the Old Testament and beyond?
- Study 3 or 4 of the following psalms: 1, 6, 8, 22, 23, 50, 51, 96, 122, 137. What images do each use? What emotions and experiences do they express? What settings do they presuppose? What do the psalms tell us about prayer?
(Note: speak to the tutor if you would like to base this question on other psalms.)
- Write a study of 3 or 4 Old Testament passages covered in the course (about 500 words each). Describe the form of the passage, its setting, its theological themes and purpose, and how the passage fits into the wider OT context.

If students choose a title that is not given above it must be discussed and agreed with the tutor first.

Students should attach to every assignment a signed and dated **statement of authorship**, stating that the work is their own and that they have read the StACCS guidance notes on plagiarism. This guidance and a statement of authorship can be downloaded from the Certificate page of the StACCS website.

Student participation

An Introduction to the Old Testament

All students studying for the certificate are expected to take an active part in this university-level course by handing in work for assessment to provide evidence of their learning on the course. Therefore, all students will be expected to:

- (i) attend at least two-thirds of the classes
- (ii) participate actively in class work
- (iii) undertake reading and assignments set by the tutor

The award of the certificate depends upon the satisfactory completion of the above in all six modules. The assignments will be assessed against the outcomes for the course and in line with the centre's assessment and moderation policies, monitored by NCFE.

Students are expected to make sure that their assignment is supported by appropriate referencing and that there is no danger their work could be suspected of plagiarism. They should familiarise themselves with the guidance on presentation and plagiarism issued by StACCS.

Reading and resources list

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Alter, R	<i>The Art of Biblical Narrative</i>	T&T Clark, 1981/Basic Book, 1991
Barton, John	<i>The Original Story: God, Israel and the World</i>	Darton, Longman and Todd 2004
Clines, DJA	<i>The Theme of Pentateuch</i>	JSOTS
Coggins, R	<i>Introducing the Old Testament</i>	Open University Press
Drane, John	<i>Introducing the Old Testament</i>	Lion 2000
Holdsworth, John	<i>SCM Study Guide to the Old Testament</i>	SCM Press 2005
Rendtorff, R	<i>The Old Testament: An Introduction</i>	SCM 1985

Website Addresses

www.christianstudies.org.uk

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