

COURSE SYLLABUS

Genocide in the Old Testament

Course Lecturer: Richard Hess, PhD

Course Description

Have you or those you know ever struggled with your view of the God of the Old Testament? Is He a God of tender mercy and peace? Or is He a vengeful God of wrath and destruction? In this course, Dr. Richard Hess from Denver Seminary provides an in-depth exploration of the seemingly most violent parts of the Old Testament through analysis of biblical texts and historical artifacts. Discover what these pieces of Old Testament history reveal to us about God's true nature.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Discuss why the God of the Old Testament is not a God of destruction, but one of mercy and salvation.
- Explain what the story of the flood in Genesis reveals about God's true nature.
- Explain how the story of Joseph provides a context for the conquest of Canaan.
- Discuss, in detail, the conquests of Jericho and Ai, and what we know about these cities and the people who lived there.
- Explain the nature of the major battles fought in Canaan.
- Address the issue of non-combatants in the Canaanite cities destroyed by Joshua's army.

Course Lecturer



Richard Hess, PhD

Education:

- Hebrew Union College, PhD
- Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, MDiv and ThM
- Wheaton College, BA

Teaching Career:

- Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, Denver Seminary
- Lecturer in Old Testament and Hebrew, International Christian College in Scotland
- Reader in Old Testament, Roehampton University in London

- Lecturer at more than one hundred scholarly societies, universities, and colleges
- Postdoctoral research at universities in Chicago, Jerusalem, Cambridge, Sheffield, and Münster
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Fulbright, and Tyndale House (Cambridge) postdoctoral fellowships and grants

Other Career Highlights:

- Editor, *Denver Journal*
- Founder and editor, *Bulletin for Biblical Research's Supplemental Series*
- Editor, *Bulletin for Biblical Research*
- Member, Committee on Bible Translation for the *New International Version*
- Associate editor, *NIV Zondervan Study Bible*
- Worked on the *New International Version*, the *New American Bible*, the *Holman Standard Christian Bible*, the *English Standard Version*, and *The Common English Bible* translations of the Old Testament
- Editor, series of commentaries on the Septuagint
- Translated books of the Septuagint for Logos Bible Software

Publications:

- Author of several books, including *The Old Testament: A Historical, Theological, and Critical Introduction*; *Israelite Religions: A Biblical and Archaeological Survey*; *Amarna Personal Names and Names in the Study of Biblical History*; *Studies in the Personal Names of Genesis 1-11*, and commentaries on Leviticus, Joshua, and the Song of Songs
- Editor/co-editor of over 30 books
- In addition to several hundred book reviews and dictionary articles, Dr. Hess has published more than 100 scholarly articles in collected essays and journals such as *Biblica*, *Biblical Archaeologist*, *Bulletin for Biblical Research*, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, *Themelios*, *Tyndale Bulletin*, *Vetus Testamentum*, and *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*.

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in understanding, processing and applying the information learned in this course to your life. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Additional Resources**
Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, images, etc. that you can use to supplement your learning.

Course Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
 - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
 - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
 - **Lectures:** 15-minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
2. Responding to the discussion questions for each lesson.
3. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz and the Final Exam.
Quizzes and the Final Exam will cover the material presented in the lectures.