

COURSE SYLLABUS

Reading the Psalms

Course Lecturer: Knut Heim, PhD

Course Description

In this course, Dr. Knut Heim seeks to excite and motivate students to learn more about the Psalms in ways that will transform their lives. He will examine four very different Psalms, showing students how to read varying types of Psalms for all they are worth.

Course Objectives

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

- Explain why it is worthwhile for Christians to study the Psalms.
- Identify several literary devices and explain how they contribute to a Psalm's meaning.
- Look for new and imaginative ways to read the Psalms.
- Describe modern applications for four specific Psalms – Psalm 23, Psalm 103, Psalm 72, and Psalm 137.

Course Lecturer



Knut Heim, PhD

Education:

- University of Liverpool, PhD
- Free Theological University Gießen, MDiv

Teaching Career:

- Professor in Old Testament, Denver Seminary
- Tutor in Old Testament, The Queen's Foundation/University of Birmingham (UK)
- Tutor in Old Testament, Trinity College/University of Bristol (UK)

Other Career Highlights:

- Presbyterian, Methodist Church of the United Kingdom
- Member, The Society of Biblical Literature, the Institute of Biblical Research, The Society for the Study of the Old Testament (UK), and The Tyndale Fellowship (UK)
- Missionary, Operation Mobilization

Publications:

- *Like Grapes of Gold Set in Silver: An Interpretation of Proverbial Clusters in the Book of Proverbs; Poetic Imagination in Proverbs: Variant Repetitions and the Nature of Poetry; and Lady Wisdom: A Portrait Through Time (forthcoming)*
- Numerous articles and essays on all of the poetic books of the Hebrew Bible, as well as the book of Isaiah
- Article on Psalm 23 appeared in January 2016 volume of *Christianity Today*

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:** 10 to 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.