

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# Reading the Proverbs

Course Lecturer: H el ene Dallaire, PhD

## Course Description

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We may know that “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” but what does it mean to be wise, in a biblical sense? What value is there in thinking, behaving, and living wisely? And how do we achieve biblical wisdom? In this study of the book of Proverbs, find answers to these questions and more as you explore the vast treasures of wisdom preserved in this book, written centuries ago.

## Course Objectives

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

- Identify the literary genre, purpose, and authors of the book of Proverbs.
- Define biblical wisdom.
- Describe the organization and characteristics of the book of Proverbs.
- Explore other ancient near eastern proverbs, their similarities to biblical Proverbs, and what they tell us about the importance of biblical wisdom across generations and cultures.
- Explore the universal applicability of specific types of proverbs.
- Examine several key Hebrew words used throughout the book of Proverbs and discuss what we can learn from them.
- Gain an appreciation for the invaluable wisdom provided to us in the book of Proverbs.

## Course Lecturer

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*H el ene Dallaire, PhD*

**Education:**

- Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, PhD and MPhil in Hebrew and Cognate Studies (Comparative Semitics)
- Oral Roberts University, MA
- Ottawa University, BA
- Additional studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Jerusalem University College, McMaster University, and Western Pentecostal Bible College

### Teaching Career:

- Earl S. Kalland Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages, Denver Seminary
- Director of Messianic Judaism, Denver Seminary
- Director of Hebrew Language Instruction, Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion
- Faculty, Alliance Biblical Seminary, Philippines

### Other Career Highlights:

- Pastoral Ministry, Word Faith Christian Center in Vancouver, BC and Oakville, ON
- Ordained minister, Evangelical Church Alliance
- Member, Society of Biblical Literature, American Academy of Religion, and National Association of Professors of Hebrew
- Field test team, CoHeLeT project (Communicative Hebrew Learning and Teaching)

### Publications:

- Regular presenter of academic papers at professional conferences on biblical literature, the Hebrew language, and pedagogy
- Author of several books, including *Biblical Hebrew: A Living Language* and *The Syntax of Volitives in Biblical Hebrew and Amarna Canaanite Prose*
- Editor for *Where Shall Wisdom Be Found: A Grammatical Tribute to Professor Steven A. Kaufman* and *Devotionals from the Hebrew Bible*
- Contributor of numerous chapters and articles in books, commentaries, and journals, including “Judaism and the World to Come” in *A Case for Historic Premillennialism: An Alternative to “Left Behind” Eschatology*, “Ten Commandments”, “Wisdom”, “Law”, “Blessings”, “Covenant”, “Day of the Lord”, “Sacrifice” in *The Dictionary of Everyday Theology and Culture*, “Messianic Judaism from the 6th to the Early 20th Century AD: Textual Evidence” in *Chosen To Follow: Jewish Believers in Jesus through History and Today*, “Joshua and Israel’s Exodus from the Desert Wilderness” in *Reverberations of the Exodus in Scripture*, “Emotional Meltdown: Stuttering in Hebrew” and “Are You Blessed (baruch) or Blessed (‘ashrey)?” in *Devotions on the Hebrew Bible: 52 Reflections to Inspire & Instruct*, “Taking the Land by Force: Divine Violence in Joshua” in *Wrestling with the Violence of God: Soundings in the Old Testament*, “A Mixed Multitude: The Gentile Multitude inside the Modern Messianic Jewish Movement” in *Messiah Journal*, and “Anti-Semitic Supersessionism: The Sharp Words that Deepened the Divide” in *The Future Restoration of Israel*

## Course Methods

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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

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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:** 10-15 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.