

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# Old Testament Basics

Course Lecturer: Sid Buzzell, PhD

## Course Description

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Many people are curious about the Old Testament but may lack an understanding of how it fits together. In this course, Dr. Sid Buzzell will provide a simple overview of this enduring and influential part of the Bible and examine spiritual insights that speak to our hearts today. We hope that this short course will whet your appetite for further study in the Old Testament.

Special Note: Dr. Buzzell would like to thank Dr. Howard G. Hendricks, professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, for his insights into the Old Testament and the impact it made on Dr. Buzzell's teaching of this course.

## Course Objectives

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

- Describe what the Old Testament teaches us about God's character.
- Understand why the Old Testament books are placed in the order that they are and identify the categories of books contained within the Old Testament.
- Explain the characteristics of each of the categories of books in the Old Testament.
- Identify the four eras (or periods) into which the Old Testament is divided.
- Understand the general narrative flow and major events in Old Testament history.
- Describe the important people in the Old Testament and their contribution to Old Testament history.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the authors of the Old Testament books, their purpose, and the context in which they were writing.
- Know the characteristics of Hebrew poetry and gain a deeper understanding of wisdom literature.
- Understand the context of the Prophets and summarize their collective eternal message.

## Course Lecturer

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*Sid Buzzell, PhD*

### **Education:**

- Michigan State University, PhD
- Dallas Theological Seminary, ThM
- Philadelphia College of the Bible, BS

### **Teaching Career:**

- Academic Dean, Christian University GlobalNet
- Dean of the School of Theology, Academic Vice President, and Professor of Biblical Exposition and Leadership, Colorado Christian University
- Academic Dean and Professor of Pastoral Theology, Biblical Theological Seminary (1995-1997) and Conservative Baptist Seminary (1993-1995)
- Director of Christian Leadership Program and Professor of Management and Leadership, Colorado Christian University (1992-1993)
- Assistant Professor, Dallas Theological Seminary (1974-1982)
- Adjunct Professor, Denver Seminary, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and Eastern College
- Trainer and teacher of leaders across Europe, Asia, and Africa, with extensive work in Austria, China, Indonesia, and Poland

### **Other Career Highlights:**

- Founding and senior pastor at several churches nationwide
- Ordained at the Billings Bible Church in Billings, Montana (1998)
- Ethics lecturer for Russian military officers at the Russian Humanitarian Academy in Moscow for the World International Military Conference (1993)
- Dallas Area Director, Christian Medical Society (1973-1979)
- Staff, Word of Life Inn fellowship ministry
- Participant in numerous conferences in well-respected organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, The Navigators, the National Association of Evangelicals, and World Vision International

### **Publications:**

- Noted published author, with works including *Handbook to Leadership*
- Contributor to various biblical commentaries such as the *Bible Knowledge Commentary* and *Learning from Sages*
- General editor and a contributor to *The Leadership Bible* and *The Promise Keepers Bible* both by Zondervan Publishing

## 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.
  - **Reading:** Suggested readings that will supplement your learning.
  - **Lectures:** 10-20 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.