

COURSE SYLLABUS

The United Monarchy

Course Lecturer: John J. Davis, ThD, DD
President and Professor Emeritus at Grace Theological Seminary

Course Description

Why did Israel, the people of God, desire a human king? Why did God grant that desire? This course answers these and other important questions raised in the united monarchy as recorded in 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Kings 1-11. Special emphasis is placed on archaeology, history, and theology. The course also considers parallel passages found in Chronicles and Psalms and focuses on Iron Age discoveries in Palestine as they relate to the biblical text. Dr. Davis examines the success and failures of Saul, David, and Solomon and gleans practical truths from their lives.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Acquire a competent working knowledge of the contents of the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Kings 1-11 with respect to theological themes, historical developments, personality profiles, and archaeological problems.
- Have a basic understanding of the events surrounding the rise of the monarchy in ancient Israel.
- Arrive at fresh insights about practical Christian living as illustrated by the lives of godly saints who lived during that era.

Course Lecturer



John J. Davis, ThD, DD

Education:

- Postgraduate work at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and the Near East School of Archaeology in Jerusalem
- Trinity College, DD
- Grace Theological Seminary, MDiv, ThM, and ThD
- Trinity College, BA

Teaching Career:

- Professor Emeritus, Grace Theological Seminary
- President, Grace Theological Seminary (1986-1993)

- Executive Vice President, Grace Theological Seminary (1976-1982)
- Director of Admissions, Grace Theological Seminary (1972-1976)
- Executive Dean, Near East Institute of Archaeology in Jerusalem, Israel (1970-1971)
- Old Testament and Hebrew Professor, Grace Theological Seminary (1965-2003)
- Instructor in Biblical Archaeology, Grace Theological Seminary (1963-1965)
- Baseball coach, Grace Theological Seminary (1962-1964)
- Visiting professor or lecturer at more than 20 schools, including Concordia Seminary, Covenant Theological Seminary, and Talbot School of Theology

Other Career Highlights:

- Activity in ministry or archaeological work in 44 countries, including Albania, Hungary, Korea, and Singapore
- Ordained in the Grace Brethren Church in 1962
- Pastor of various churches
- Senior Supervisor of Archaeological Digs in Israel and Jordan for nearly 30 years
- Member of several organizations including the Evangelical Theological Society and the Near East Archaeological Society

Publications:

- Numerous journal articles and book publications, including *Paradise to Prison, Moses and the Gods of Egypt, Biblical Numerology*, and *Conquest and Crisis: Studies in Joshua, Judges, and Ruth*
- Translator and contributor to the *NIV Study Bible*
- Writer for a regular column called “Outdoor Scene” in the *Warsaw-Times Union Newspaper* for over 30 years

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Davis, John J. *The Birth of a Kingdom*. Winona Lake, IN.: BMH Books, 1970, or

_____ and John C. Whitcomb. *Israel: From Conquest to Exile*. Winona Lake, IN.: BMH Books. (The material in *The Birth of a Kingdom* is contained in *Israel: From Conquest to Exile*, which is a single volume of several books written by the authors on Old Testament history.)

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Assessment and Requirements

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

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.