

COURSE SYLLABUS

Understanding the Old Testament

Course Lecturer: Bruce K. Waltke, ThD, PhD
Distinguished Professor of Old Testament at Knox Theological Seminary

Course Description

The Old Testament is often viewed as antiquated, mysterious, and even irrelevant. In this course, Dr. Waltke shows how Old Testament theology is pivotal to the universal goal of redemptive history: the rule of God and the establishment of God's kingdom in all the earth. The course tracks salvation history as it appears in nearly every book of the Old Testament, and shows the vital relationship of the Old Testament to the New. Throughout the course, Dr. Waltke applies the doctrines of kingdom and salvation to the Christian life.

Course Objectives

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

- Analyze the theological universal goal of the Old Testament as it relates to the theme of salvation history.
- Discuss the books of the Old Testament in light of their contribution to salvation history.
- Develop an awareness of the history surrounding the message of the Old Testament.
- Correlate the salvation history of the Old Testament with the New Testament doctrines of kingdom and salvation.
- Be familiar with the relevant resources on Old Testament theology.
- Value the Old Testament as the key to understanding God's plan for His people.
- Apply the principles from the Law, Prophets, and Writings to life and ministry.

Course Lecturer



Bruce K. Waltke, ThD, PhD

Education:

- Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, postdoctoral fellow
- Harvard University, MA and PhD
- Dallas Theological Seminary, ThM and ThD
- Houghton College, AB

Teaching Career:

- Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, Knox Theological Seminary
- Professor Emeritus, Regent College in Vancouver (beginning in 1976)
- Professor, Reformed Theological Seminary (1996-2010)
- Professor, Westminster Theological Seminary (1985-1991)
- Professor, Criswell Bible Institute (1970-1976)
- Professor, Dallas Theological Seminary (1958-1976)
- Visiting professor/guest lecturer at institutions around the globe, including Bethel Seminary, Columbia International University, Covenant Theological Seminary, Denver Seminary, Geneva Bible College, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Vancouver School of Theology, Western Seminary, and Wheaton College

Other Career Highlights:

- Recognized as one of the preeminent scholars in Old Testament Studies
- Speaker at numerous Bible conferences across the United States and Canada
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- Campus Crusade for Christ
- Area field supervisor at excavations at Tel Gezer, Israel
- Leader of several field study trips to the Middle East and the classical world
- President, Evangelical Theological Society (1975)
- Helped in the translation and production of over a dozen versions of the Bible, including the *New American Standard Bible*, *The New Geneva Study Bible*, and the *New International Version*
- Honorary member of the committee responsible for *Today's New International Version*

Publications:

- More than 1,000 articles and several books, including *Knowing the Will of God*, *An Old Testament Theology* (which garnered an ECPA Christian Book Award in 2008), and *Genesis*, a book he coauthored with C. J. Fredricks (which won the Gold Medallion Award in 2002)
- The work *The Way of Wisdom: Essays in Honor of Bruce K. Waltke*, published by Zondervan in 2000 and edited by J. I. Packer and Sven K. Soderlund, honors Dr. Waltke's countless contributions to Christian scholarship.

Recommended Reading

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

- Arnold, Bill T., and Beyer, Bryan. *Encountering the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1999).
- Baker, David. *The Face of Old Testament Studies* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1999).
- Bright, John. *The Kingdom of God: The Biblical Concept and its Meaning for the Church* (Nashville: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1953).
- Dillard, Raymond B. and Longman, Tremper, III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994).
- Dumbrell, William J. *Covenant and Creation* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1984).
- _____. *The Faith of Israel: Its Expression in the Books of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1988).
- Hill, Andrew E. and Walton, John. *A Survey of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991).
- Longman, Tremper, III. *Old Testament Commentary Survey* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1991).
- Martens, E. A. *God's Design: A Focus on Old Testament Theology* (North Richland Hills, Texas: BIBAL Press, 1997).
- Vos, Gerhardus. *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing House, 1948).

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.