

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Evangel University

BTH 538 The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

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Fall 2017
Wednesdays 2:00-4:45pm
for office hours see door schedule

COURSE SYLLABUS

MISSION STATEMENTS

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the Church and society globally.

The Assemblies of God Theology Seminary exists to shape servant-leaders with the knowledge, skill and passion to revitalize the church and evangelize the world in the power of the Spirit.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exegetical and biblical theological study of all the major references to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament with emphasis on the various aspects of the work of the Spirit in the lives of God's people. It will also show how these themes provide foundational support for Pentecostal doctrine and experience.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Describe the major aspects of the Old Testament teaching on the Holy Spirit including discussion of the exegesis of the major passages.
2. Explain how the Old Testament provides foundational support for Pentecostal experience and doctrine.
3. Relate the working of God's Spirit in the lives of Old Testament people to His working in the student's life today and the life and mission of the church.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Cotton, Roger D., ed. *BTH 538 The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament Handouts and Readings, 2017*, in 2 vols. Springfield, MO: (posted electronically) at AGTS, Evangel University.

Firth, David G. and Paul D. Wegner, eds. *Presence, Power and Presence: The Role of the Spirit of God in the Old Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2011. ISBN 9780830839575

Hildebrandt, Wilf. *An Old Testament Theology of the Spirit of God*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995. ISBN 1565630513

Horton, Stanley M. *What the Bible Says About the Holy Spirit*. Rev. ed. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2005. ISBN 0882433598

Recommended:

Wright, Christopher J. H. *Knowing the Holy Spirit Through the Old Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006. ISBN 0830825916

For information of textbook pricing, go to <http://www.bkstr.com/evangelstore/home>.

BASIC OUTLINE

1. Doing Biblical Theology and the word for spirit, *ruach*.
2. Genesis and Poetry Books—The Spirit in creation and guiding and sustaining people.
3. Exodus-Nehemiah—The Spirit empowering ministry, especially leadership and prophetic ministry.
4. Isaiah-Malachi—The Spirit in prophecy, especially the Messiah and eschatology.
5. Comparison of the work of the Spirit in the Old Testament and the New

Note that we may be attending chapel for part of a class, as assigned.

METHODOLOGY

Lecture, discussion, readings, exegetical research and writing.

The professor will use both the Portal and Course Commons to provide the course handouts and other documents.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance is expected. Please talk to the professor about your absences.

1. Be prepared for each class to discuss the Scriptures and readings assigned. You are expected to **read** the appropriate material in Hildebrandt, Firth, and Horton, as well as in the Handouts for each class and finish them by **December 6**, on which date an accountability sheet, supplied in class, must be turned in.
2. **Turn in on September 13** your choice of a topic/sub-theme of the Spirit of God in the OT for the research project in #4 below. Some suggestions are listed on a page in the handouts. You should have at least one major passage in mind that deals with your topic and from it you must **choose one of the Hebrew words** you will need to study. For that word, **turn in:** a) the English letters for it; b) the first and last OT references where that Hebrew word is used (instructions will be given in class and there are handouts on doing word studies); and c) the volume and page number of the article on that Hebrew word in NIDOTTE (*New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*).
3. Turn in a **4-6 page essay on October 4**, on Peter's use of Joel 2 in Acts 2 and the Pentecostal understanding of it. The instructions will be provided on the portal and in class. Most of the readings are in the book of handouts and readings.
4. **Present in class on or before December 6**, as scheduled in class with the professor, a **detailed outline** of your researched study of your chosen topic/sub-theme, from #2, above. This is to be an exegetical, Biblical-theological, study for teaching in the church, with strong application for God's people today. The topic/theme should be one that you have a strong interest in and will benefit your ministry. This study must demonstrate good interpretive method including the following **to qualify for an A grade** (also see handouts about method and tools):
 - A. Concordance work, mainly focusing on key Hebrew words, which uncovers all the major passages on the theme/topic in which the key Hebrew words used. Then, good word study analysis of the concepts expressed by them, including reading the articles on those words in the literature, especially in *NIDOTTE*.
 - B. Quick but accurate exegetical analysis of the meaning of each important passage on the theme in the context of the message of that book, taking into account the ANE background, using the *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, biblical encyclopedia articles and other background sources, and the best, scholarly, exegetical, commentaries on each passage (usually about 3 or so on significant passages; see the list in the handouts). Do your own analysis first before reading the scholars' opinions.
 - C. Research in scholarly studies both books and journal literature. At least one scholarly journal article related to the theme is required for an A grade. Any scholarly books that touch on the topic/theme should be checked for helpful insights, including books on the Holy Spirit in the OT (at least two besides the textbooks for an A grade), and at least three O. T. theologies such as: Davidson, Eichrodt, Payne, Von Rad, Martens, Dyrness, Kaiser, Goldingay, and Waltke (see Bibliography and library reserve books, also Checklist of Resources in the handouts).
 - D. Drawing conclusions on what God is teaching on the topic/theme, through the various passages of the Scriptures, in terms of principles which can be applied to the lives of Christians today. The analysis should comment on any progressive revelation.

- E. The bibliography must list all sources consulted (not just cited) and articles by different authors within books (such as *NIDOTTE* and encyclopedias), must follow 17.1.8.2 in Turabian 8th ed.
5. **Turn in** concluding, synthesis **essays** (instructions to be given out in class) by noon, Friday, **December 8**, along with the accountability sheet, provided in class, for the readings in the course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting classes.

Cheating is defined as “intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise.” It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course.

Fabrication is “intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form.”

Plagiarism is “intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.”

One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator. Penalties may include restitution, an “F” on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension.—*AGTS Student Handbook*.

THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM

Be sure you do not distract other students in any way by how you use your computer or other devices during class sessions.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE

Students should use non-discriminatory language in all written and spoken communication in this class. For specific guidelines, see the Student Handbook at: http://www.agts.edu/community/student_handbook/2010studenthandbook.pdf

DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

As defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary at Evangel University is committed to the provision of reasonable accommodations for

students with disabilities. If AGTS students believe they qualify for accommodations, they should contact the AGTS Student Life Office, Room 218, telephone extension 8881.

FORM AND STYLE OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED TO ROGER COTTON

All work for me must be typed, double spaced, with one-inch margins and the right margin NOT justified, and be proof-read. Never turn in work that uses the back side of the paper as well as the front. Your writing should demonstrate good, formal, clear, writing style (see handouts and Strunk and White or *Getting the Words Right* by Cheney). If the student needs coaching on how to improve their writing they should go to the Write-Place, on the EU campus. The format should follow Turabian 8th edition. I especially want signed articles in books such as encyclopedia articles, word studies, and other multi-author works to be listed according to 17.1.8.2. Not following this could cost the student a full grade. When you need to cite a source you may choose which one of the three citation methods in Turabian you prefer to use: foot notes, end notes, or parenthetical. For assignments with specific readings, no bibliography is needed unless you want the professor to know about *additional* reading you did. If you need to cite a source that was assigned, just put the last name in parentheses with the page number. The length of written assignments may exceed the limit by up to 25%. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date or the grade begins to drop (see above for late work). If you do not have an assignment finished when it is to be discussed in class you must leave the class during the discussion of the assignment. Put the following information at the top of the first page or on a title page: Name, assignment, course, my name, date. **Do not** put anything but the page numbers at the top of the other pages. No title page is needed for work under 4 pages. Do not use a cover, just staple it. I recommend using the program *Grammarly*, and using an editor if necessary, to bring your English style up to the appropriate quality. Unless otherwise instructed, you may always turn in your work by e-mail (cottonr@evangel.edu).

GRADING

Reading of textbooks, handouts, and other assigned readings, and class participation	10%
Essay on Pentecostal understanding of Joel 2-Acts 2	22%
Researched theme paper	40%
Concluding essays	28%

Note: Students need to retain extra copies of all work submitted until the work has been graded and recorded.

Late work may be penalized 1 point per day late using a 12 point scale (12 = A, 1 = F).

Students are expected to complete all course work in a timely fashion as specified in this syllabus. A grade of I (Incomplete) may be granted at the discretion of the professor for extenuating circumstances upon the presentation of the Incomplete Grade Request form: <http://www.agts.edu/academics/forms.html>. The approved Incomplete request will extend the due date for up to ninety days, may include a grade reduction, and will be assessed a grade

change fee. Students may not register for courses in a new term if carrying more than two IP or I grades.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Roger D. Cotton, Th.D., March 2017.