



BOT 941 – Studies in the Prophetic Writings: Isaiah

June 11–15, 2018

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a PhD level course on the book of Isaiah. It features an in-depth study of the message, theology, and critical study of the canonical text of Isaiah. – 4 hours.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Interact with and contribute to the critical study of the book of Isaiah.
2. Evaluate the usefulness and validity of various critical approaches to the study of Isaiah and the Old Testament prophets.
3. Read the text of Isaiah in light of its eighth century context.
4. Interpret the book of Isaiah, and other prophetic literature, using accepted hermeneutical and critical methodologies.
5. Employ the message of the book of Isaiah more effectively in preaching and teaching.
6. Know Christ better through the message of Isaiah and the prophetic writings of the Old Testament.

III. COURSE MATERIALS

A. Required Texts

Conrad, Edgar. Reading Isaiah. Overtures in Biblical Theology. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991. ISBN 978-1592440276

Goldingay, John. The Theology of the Book of Isaiah. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0830840397

Ma, Wonsuk. Until the Spirit Comes: The Spirit of God in the Book of Isaiah. JSOT Supplement Series 271. New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2009. ISBN 978-0567136251

Melugin, Roy F and Marvin A Sweeney, eds. New Visions of Isaiah. JSOT Supplement Series 214.

Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006. ISBN 978-1589832398

Childs, Brevard S. *Isaiah, a Commentary*. Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001. 978-0664221430 Melugin, Roy F and Marvin A Sweeney, eds. *New Visions of Isaiah*. JSOT Supplement Series 214. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006.

Childs, Brevard S. *Isaiah, a Commentary*. Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Periodicals (Provided on Course Commons)

Gitay, Yehoshua, “Reflections on the Study of Prophetic Discourse: The Question of Isaiah 1:2 – 20.” *Vetus Testamentum* 33 (1983): 207–221.

_____. “Prophetic Criticism—‘What are they Doing?’ The Case of Isaiah—A Methodological Assessment.” *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 96 (2001):101-127.

Hays, Christopher. “The Book of Isaiah in Contemporary Research.” *Religion Compass* 5 (2011): 549–566.

Lessing, Reed. “Orality in the Prophets.” *Concordia Journal* 29 (2003): 152–165.

Merrill, Eugene. “The Literary Character of Isaiah 40-55, Part 1: A Survey of a Century of Studies on Isaiah 40–55.” *Biblioteca Sacra* 144 (1987): 24–43.

_____. “The Literary Character of Isaiah 40-55, Part 2 (of 2 parts): Literary Genres in Isaiah 40–55.” *Biblioteca Sacra* 144 (1987): 144–156.

Muilenburg, James. “Form Criticism and Beyond.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 88 (1969): 1–18.

Raabe, Paul R. “Look to the Holy One of Israel, All You Nations: The Oracles about the Nations Still Speak Today.” *Concordia Journal* 30 (2004): 336–349.

Tomasino, Anthony. “Isaiah 1:1–2:4 and 63–66, and the Composition of the Isaianic Corpus.” *Journal of the Study of the Old Testament* 57 (1993): 81–98.

Read the following historical background passages from the Scriptures:

- *Uzziah* - 2 Kings 14:21-22; 15:1-7a; 2 Chron. 26:1-23a
- *Jotham* - 2 Kings 15:7b, 32-38a; 2 Chron. 26:23b - 27:9
- *Ahaz* - 2 Kings 15:38b - 16:20a; 2 Chron. 27:9b - 28:27a
- *Hezekiah* - 2 Kings 16:20b; 18:1 - 20:21; 2 Chron 28:27b - 32:33

Read pages 360 – 437 in Miller, J. Maxwell, and John H. Hayes. *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah*. 2d ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.

B. Recommended Texts

Commentaries:

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Isaiah 1-39: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Anchor Bible Commentary 19. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

Delitzsch, Franz. *Isaiah*. Volume 7 in *Commentary on the Old Testament*. By C. F. Keil and Franz Delitzsch. Trans. James Martin. Reprint, Eerdmans, 1978.

Horton, Stanley M. *Isaiah: A Logion Press Commentary*. Springfield, MO: Logion Press, 2000.

Oswalt, John N. *The Book of Isaiah, Chapter 1-39*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

_____. *The Book of Isaiah, Chapter 40-66*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Pieper, August. *Isaiah II: An Exposition of Isaiah 40-66*. Trans. Erwin E. Kowalke. Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishers, 1980.

Sweeney, Marvin. *Isaiah 1–39 with an Introduction to Prophetic Literature*. FOTL 16. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Westermann, Claus, *Isaiah 40-66*. Old Testament Library. Translated by David M. G. Stalker. Westminster, 1969.

Wilberger, Hans. *Isaiah 1–12: A Continental Commentary*. Trans. Thomas H. Trapp. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. 1991.

_____. *Isaiah 13–27: A Continental Commentary*. Trans. Thomas H. Trapp. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. 1997.

_____. *Isaiah 28–39: A Continental Commentary*. Trans. Thomas H. Trapp. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 2002.

Young, Edward J. *The Book of Isaiah*. 3 volumes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION

Pre-Session

A. Reading Assignments. Prior to the class students will read all the books and articles listed under “Required Reading” above (with the exception of the commentary by Childs, which is for reference purposes). You will certify at the beginning of the class session in June that you have done this reading.

B. Papers. Students will write two 2,000 word papers, which will be presented in class. Paper topics will be selected from a list provided by the professor. Each of the papers must come from

a different part of the class outline. You should notify the professor of your selection of topics as soon as possible (medinav@evangel.edu, 417 849-9826). Topics will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. You may write on a topic not found on the list if you get permission from the professor first.

These papers will be due April 6, and May 6 respectively. Please submit them by email in both MSWord and PDF formats. They will be processed through Turnitin.com.

Topic List

Biblical criticism and historical background of the book of Isaiah

1. Authorial or redactional unity of Isaiah?
2. The use of rhetorical criticism in the study of the Old Testament prophets.
3. The current state of the source-critical theory of the composition of Isaiah.
4. Literary critical approaches to the study of Isaiah.
5. Comparison of the text of DSS Isaiah and MT Isaiah.
6. Is Trito-Isaiah still a viable hypothesis?
7. Strengths and weaknesses of a reader-oriented approach to Isaiah.
8. Isaiah's *Denkschrift*.
9. Conservative defense of the unity of Isaiah.
10. Israel and the Assyrian empire.

Theology and Themes from Isaiah

1. Isaiah and the nations
2. Isaiah and monotheism
3. The Holy Spirit in Isaiah
4. The theme of trust/waiting in Isaiah
5. God's plan for Zion
6. Prayer and praise in the book of Isaiah.
7. The theology of the remnant in Isaiah
8. The holiness of God in Isaiah
9. The sovereignty of God in Isaiah
10. Isaiah's use of wisdom motifs.
11. Isaiah's eschatological vision
12. Isaiah's use in the New Testament
13. Isaiah's creation theology

Isaiah 1-39

1. The significance of Isaiah's oracles against foreign nations (chapters 13-23).
2. Who is the son of Tabeel (Isa 7:6)?
3. The Interpretation of the Immanuel prophecy (Isa 7:14).
4. Why is the account of Isaiah's call located in chapter 6 and not at the beginning of the book?
5. What role does the hardening motif play in the message of Isaiah (Isa 6:9-10)?
6. Isaiah 13 – 14—what does Babylon have to do with 8th century Judah?
7. The role and function of Isaiah's Apocalypse (24 – 27).
8. Isaiah's *hōy*/woe oracles (study of *hōy* oracles in general and the meaning of the word *hōy*).

9. The role and function of Isaiah 36 – 39, Isaiah’s account of Sennacherib’s invasion of Judah, in the book of Isaiah.
10. The role and significance of Hezekiah in the book of Isaiah.
11. Is chapter 33 the center of the book of Isaiah?
12. Who or what is the dragon, Leviathan, in Isaiah 27:1, and what is his significance for the message of Isaiah 24-27?
13. The role and function of Isaiah 34 – 35, twin prophecies about Edom and Israel, in the book of Isaiah.
14. Prophecies about new rulers in Isaiah 2–12.
15. Why does Isaiah 1 - 12 end with a hymn?

Isaiah 40–66

1. Isaiah’s oracles about Cyrus.
2. The Servant of Yahweh in Isaiah 40 – 66—identity? Individual or collective? Messianic?
3. The Messiah in Isaiah 40–66.
4. Isaiah’s taunt against Babylon.

Papers must include a title page, footnotes, and a bibliography. Your bibliography should reflect thorough research and include only scholarly materials.

- The paper should *demonstrate* a basic understanding of how your subject matter affects interpretation of the Isaiah, especially from an Evangelical perspective.
- The shorter (2,000 word) papers should also make use of at least **five academic sources**. Only scholarly sources, books, and periodicals may be acceptable (no Study Bibles, sermons, devotional commentaries or other such materials, English dictionaries, or popular sources such as Wikipedia, etc.).
- Your paper should reflect an ability to engage the text in the original languages.
- The paper should use proper and consistent footnote format, and be written in Turabian/SBL (Society of Biblical Literature) format.
- Your papers will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

You will submit your papers by email in both “pdf format” and Microsoft Word format. They are due by midnight on the following dates—**April 6, May 11**. *If, for some reason, your paper will not be on time, you must email me ahead of time and tell me why.*

- **One important note here: you will be presenting your paper to the rest of the class during our time together in “seminar” style.**
- You may read your entire paper or summarize the important aspects of your research, and the important bibliography on the subject matter.
- We will allot about 30 minutes for each presentation, which will include a question and answer session.
- I will post copies of all papers on Course Commons, and you will read your classmates’ paper and be prepared to interact with them in class.

The papers you write for this class are to be ***doctoral-level work*** in every respect. Poorly written, poorly edited, poorly or inconsistently formatted documentation, footnotes on the wrong page, and/or failure to interact ***meaningfully*** with important scholarly sources will result in lower grades.

C. *Book Reviews*. Students will also write read the books by Conrad, Goldingay, Ma, and Melugin and write a 1,000 word review on each of them. Your book reviews will be shared with the class for discussion purposes. These papers are to be reviews, not reports. You may use the first page for purposes of summary and general introduction, the rest of the paper should be your critique of the author's ideas. Use to last paragraph or so to indicate whether or not you would recommend that book and to whom.

Book reviews are due **June 5, 2018**.

- Book reviews should use a 12 pt. Times New Roman Font.
- Use one-inch margins all around.
- Use parenthetical references for page and Scripture citations.
- If you cite any source beside the book, you should footnote it.
- The only heading your need is the bibliographic citation for the book.
- Paper should have a title page.
- Make sure your paper has page numbers.

D. *Translation*. Students will translate from the Hebrew Isaiah 1:1–2:5 and 6:1–13.

In-Session

A. *Translation*: In addition to the passages listed above, the following passages will be translated from the Hebrew text during the week that class is in session. Be prepared to translate in class and to discuss your translation.

- Isaiah 30:1–33
- Isaiah 40:1–31
- Isaiah 52:13–53:12
- Isaiah 61:1–11

B. *Preparation for and Participation in Class*. Student participation is a *very* important aspect of this class. Participation includes all of the following:

- Regularly demonstrating that you have read the material on the subject under discussion by making helpful comments and asking relevant questions, being attentive and engaged in class.
- Mastery of the topic of your papers and the ability to field questions during your presentation.
- Familiarity with the papers of other students and providing meaningful/helpful feedback.

C. *Tentative Class Schedule*.

Class One – Introduction to the Study of Isaiah—History, and Critical Methodology

- Introductions
- Review of translation—Isaiah 1:1–2:5 and 6:1–1.
- Discussion of reviews of Melugin and Sweeney.
- Lecture

Class Two – Theology and Themes from Isaiah

- Review of translation—Isaiah 30:1–33.
- Discussion of reviews of Goldingay
- Presentation of papers
- Lecture

Class Three – Isaiah 1–39

- Review of translation—Isaiah 40:1–31
- Discussion of reviews of Conrad
- Presentation of papers.
- Lecture

Class Four – Isaiah 40–55

- Review of translation—Isaiah 52:13–53:12
- Discussion of reviews of Ma.
- Presentation of papers.
- Lecture

Class Five – Isaiah 56–66

- Review of translation—Isaiah 61:1–11
- Presentation of papers.
- Discussion of supplemental reading.
- Lecture

Post-Session

D. *Post-Session Research Paper.* Compose a post-session research paper on a topic to be pre-approved by the professor. This paper will be 8,000-10,000 words in length.

- Your topic can be in any of the areas that we have studied.
- Use Turabian/SBL (Society of Biblical Literature) style.
- Your paper must give evidence of being thoroughly researched well documented.
- No extensions without penalty.
- **It is due by August 1. Submit the paper by email in both Microsoft Word and Pdf formats by 11:59 pm on August 1.**

Summary of Assignments

- A. Book Reviews..... 100 points each
- B. Pre-Session Papers..... 200 points each
- C. Translation and Participation in Class Sessions..... 50 points each

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D. Post-Session Research Paper (due 8/9)..... 400 points

Total number of possible points..... 1400 points

Grade Scale

A+ (publishable level), 100; A, 99-93; A-, 92-90; B+, 89-87; B, 86-83; B-, 82-80; C+, 79-77; C, 76-73; C-, 72-70; D+, 69-67; D, 66-63; D-, 62-60; F, 59 or below.

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Commentaries:

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- Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Isaiah 1-39: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Anchor Bible Commentary 19. New York: Doubleday, 2000.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Isaiah 1–39*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998
- Childs, Brevard S. *Isaiah*. Old Testament Library. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Clements, R. E. *Isaiah 1–39*, New Century Bible. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.
- Delitzsch, Franz. *Isaiah in Commentary on the Old Testament 8*. 2 vols. Trans. James Martin. Reprint, Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978.
- Eusebius of Caesarea. *Commentary on Isaiah*. Edited by Joel C. Elowsky. Translated by Jonathan J. Armstrong. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2013.
- Friesen, Ivan. *Isaiah*. Vol. 11 of *Believers Church Bible Commentary*. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 2009.
- Gray, George Buchanan. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Book of Isaiah, I-XXXIX*. New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1983.
- Grogan, Geoffrey W. "Isaiah." In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, ed. Gaebelein, Frank E. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- Hanneman, John. *Isaiah thru Ezekiel: Understanding the Major Prophets*. Edited by Tremper Longman. Uhrichsville, OH: Barbour Pub, 2010.
- Horton, Stanley M. *Isaiah: A Logion Press Commentary*. Springfield, MO: Logion Press, 2000.
- Kaiser, Otto. *Isaiah 1-12*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.
- _____. *Isaiah 13–39*. 2d ed. Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1980.
- Leupold, H. C. *Exposition of Isaiah*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1976.
- Niskanen, Paul. *Isaiah 56-66*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2014.
- Oswalt, John N. *The Book of Isaiah, Chapter 1-39*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.
- Paul, Shalom M. *Isaiah 40-66: Translation and Commentary*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2012
- Pieper, August. *Isaiah II: An Exposition of Isaiah 40-66*. Milwaukee: Northwestern, 1979.

- Ridderbos, J. *Isaiah*. BSC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
- Seitz, Christopher. *Isaiah 1-39*. Interpretation. Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 1993.
- Shepherd, Charles E. *Theological Interpretation and Isaiah 53: A Critical Comparison of Bernhard Duhm, Brevard Childs, and Alec Motyer*. London, UK; New York, NY: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2014.
- Smith, Gary V. *Isaiah 40-66*. Vol. 15b of *The New American Commentary*. Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Pub, 2009.
- Sweeney, Marvin. *Isaiah 1-39 with an Introduction to Prophetic Literature*. FOTL. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- Tull, Patricia. *Isaiah 1-39*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys Pub, 2010.
- Watts, John D. W. *Isaiah 1-33*. (Also 34-66) WBC. Waco: Word, 1985.
- Westermann, Claus, *Isaiah 40-66*. OTL. Translated by David M. G. Stalker. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1969.
- Wilberger, Hans. *Isaiah 1–12: A Continental Commentary*. Trans. Thomas H. Trapp. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. 1991.
- _____. *Isaiah 13–27: A Continental Commentary*. Trans. Thomas H. Trapp. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. 1997.
- _____. *Isaiah 28–39: A Continental Commentary*. Trans. Thomas H. Trapp. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 2002.
- Young, Edward J. *The Book of Isaiah*. 3 volumes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965.

Special Studies

- Ackroyd, Peter. "Isaiah I-XII: Presentation of a Prophet" in VTSupplements 29 (1979):16-48.
- Bartelt, A. H. "Isaiah 5 and 9: In or Interdependence?" In *Fortunate the Eyes That See*. Edited by Beck, et. al. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- _____. *The Book around Immanuel*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1996.
- Begg, C. T. "Babylon in the Book of Isaiah." In *The Book of Isaiah*. Edited by J. Vermeylen. BETL 81, Leuven, 1989.
- Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *The Book of Isaiah: Enduring Questions Answered Anew*. Richard J. Bautch and J. Todd Hibbard, eds. Grand Rapids: Williams B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2014.
- Childs, Brevard. *Isaiah and the Assyrian Crisis*. London: S.C.M., 1967.
- Clements, Ronald. *Isaiah and the Deliverance of Jerusalem*. Sheffield, Eng.: Sheffield Academic Press, 1980.

- _____. "The Unity of the Book of Isaiah." *Interpretation* 36 (1982):117-129.
- Conrad, Edgar, *Reading Isaiah*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991.
- _____. "The Royal Narratives and the Structure of the Book of Isaiah." *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 41 (1988):67-81.
- Darr, Kathryn Pfisterer. *Isaiah's Vision and the Rhetoric of Rebellion*. Philadelphia: John Knox, 1995.
- Darrell L. Bock and Mitch Glaser, eds., *The Gospel According to Isaiah 53: Encountering the Suffering Servant in Jewish and Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 2012
- De Sousa, Rodrigo. *Eschatology and Messianism in LXX Isaiah 1-12*. New York, NY: T & T Clark, 2010
- Dumbrell, William J. "The Purpose of the Book of Isaiah." *Tyndale Bulletin* 36 (1985):111-28.
- Driver, S. R., and Neubauer, A. D. *The Fifty-third Chapter of Isaiah According to the Jewish Interpreters*. 2 Volumes. KTAV, 1969.
- Emerton, John A. *Genesis, Isaiah, and Psalms: A Festschrift to Honour Professor John Emerton for His Eightieth Birthday*. Edited by Katharine J. Dell, Graham Davies, and Yee Von Koh. Leiden; Boston, MA: Brill, 2010.
- Erlandsson, Seth. *The Burden of Babylon: A Study of Isaiah 13:2-14:23*. Gleerup, 1970.
- Evans, Craig. "On the Unity and Parallel Structure of Isaiah," *Vetus Testamentum* 38 (1988):129-47.
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- Høgenhaven, Jesper. "Prophet Isaiah and Judean Foreign Policy under Ahaz and Hezekiah." *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 49 (1990):351-54.
- Hom, Mary Katherine Y.H. *The Characterisation of the Assyrians in Isaiah: Synchronic and Diachronic Perspectives*. New York, NY: T&T Clark International, 2012.
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VII. AVAILABILITY

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Office hours: Please prearrange appointments with me by phone or email.