

St. Andrew Academy

The Power of the Prophets: from Moses to Jesus

Winter 2007

Monday evenings

Class Times: Monday evenings
6:45 – 7:00, gathering time
7:00 – 8:30, class time

Class Dates: 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5

Instructor: Scott L. Engle, Ph.D.

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You can find the syllabus and other course materials at Academy's website:

www.standrewacademy.org. Simply go to the "Scott's Academy Classes" and you'll find the link to the materials for this class.

IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER, CHECK THE ACADEMY'S WEBSITE, WHERE I'LL POST ANY CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS. If we have to cancel a class, we'll simply reduce the class to seven weeks and I'll modify the lectures so we can get back on schedule. If we have to cancel two or more classes, then we'll extend the class further into March.

Course materials:

The set of weekly worksheets and the set of overhead handouts for each week

A study Bible – here is some info on NRSV study Bibles.

- *The Access Bible: An ecumenical learning resource for people of faith*, 1999, Oxford University Press. This is a basic entry-level study Bible. The book introductions are not at all intimidating and the study notes are largely embedded in the text. This study bible also includes a simple glossary of key biblical terms, maps, tables of weights and measures (what is a cubit?!), and a concise concordance. (A concordance shows the various verse locations for key words in the Bible. For example, the concordance in this study Bible includes six verses where the word "help" can be found.)
- *The Interpreter's Study Bible*, 2003, Abingdon Press. The notes emphasize the contextual meaning of the text and its pastoral application. In terms of being "scholarly" it is somewhere between the *Access Bible* and the *New Oxford Annotated*.
- *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, Third Edition, 2001, Oxford University Press. This is a somewhat more advanced study Bible with much more in the way of notes, helps, and essays than are available in the *Access Bible*. The study notes are extensive and are embedded in book outlines at the bottom of each page. There is an index to the study materials (notes and essays), as well as a concise concordance and maps. This Bible also contains several essays on topics ranging from the history of the Bible's development to important cultural contexts of the Bible. There are also various timelines, tables of weights and measures, comparisons of parallel texts, and more.
- *The Harper Collins Study Bible*, Revised and Updated, 2006. This is a new version of this study Bible. It is very similar to the *Oxford Annotated Bible*. The emphasis is on historical, geographical, and literary context.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to Israel's great prophets, culminating in Jesus Christ. Simply put, the prophets of Israel were those men and women who spoke for God. In some cases, they spoke through their words – or, more aptly put, through God's Word. But at other times, they spoke through their actions. We will begin with Moses and then proceed to look at Israel's story through the words and lives of Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah, and more. We will learn how the prophets came bearing word of judgment upon Israel, ever calling God's people back to Yahweh. But we will also see how some of the prophets looked past the seemingly unavoidable destruction to the day when God would again reign as king of his people. We will seek to better understand what it means to refer to Jesus as an apocalyptic prophet, announcing the arrival of the last days. Finally, we will consider how it is in that we can find ourselves in these stories and the writings of the prophets.

Learning Objectives

Those who complete this course should be able to:

1. Outline the story of Israel in the Old Testament.
2. Identify and appreciate the different roles and approaches of the various prophets. This is a diverse group. We seek to gain a better appreciation for the work of Israel's prophets.
3. Better appreciate the historical, geographical, and cultural contexts in which the prophets worked, as a means of better understanding their words and actions.
4. Describe the main themes of the prophets and how they were influenced by the key events in Israel's history.
5. Explain what we mean when we call Jesus a prophet and what made him different from all the prophets who preceded him. Indeed, we will seek to understand how it is that Jesus was the fulfillment of Israel's hope.
6. Gain a deeper understanding of how we can use the writings of the prophets to further our discipleship.

Expectations

To get the most out of this class, you should attend every meeting and be prepared to devote at least a couple of hours each week to the assignments. I suggest that you devote a half-hour each day, rather than doing the reading and the worksheet at one sitting. This class can be a good means of building a daily "Bible habit" that can sustain and enrich our lives and our congregation. The weekly worksheets are designed to help you build a daily habit.

I hope you will bring to class all the questions and uncertainties about the prophets that have puzzled you. We won't necessarily be able to answer them all, but I want the class to be responsive to your needs, while still ensuring that we cover most of the material in the syllabus.

We expect you to enjoy the class and we will do all we can to exceed your expectations!

Schedule of Class Activities
The Power of the Prophets: from Moses to Jesus
 Winter 2007 – Monday Evening

Class Date	Topic	Chapter Assignments/Worksheets
1/15 (#1)	Introduction to the class Prophets? A peek ahead: ~ The five stages of life ~ Israel's birth, life, death, life after death, and resurrection! Moses	Moses and the formation of God's people
1/22 (#2)	Samuel The Birth of the Kingdom of Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 2 – <i>The Birth of the Kingdom of Israel</i>
1/29 (#3)	Elijah and Elisha The life of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 3 – <i>The Age of Kings</i>
2/5 (#4)	Amos, Hosea, and Micah First Isaiah (what?!!) The death of Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 4 – <i>The Death of the Kingdom of Israel</i>
2/12 (#5)	Jeremiah Ezekiel The death of Judah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 5 – <i>The Death of Judah and Jerusalem</i>
2/19 (#6)	Second Isaiah (what?!!) Zechariah Malachi Israel's Life after Death – (Have they truly returned from exile?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 6 – <i>Israel's "Life after Death"</i>
2/26 (#7)	Jesus, an apocalyptic prophet! The restoration – the resurrection!! – of Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 7 – <i>Jesus and the Resurrection of Israel</i>
3/5 (#8)	Prophets, prophecy, and the Christian Church The fascination with Daniel and Revelation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Worksheet for Week 8 – <i>Prophets, Prophecy, and the Church</i>