

I. Old Testament Bible

A. Course Description

Since the Old Testament comprises more than three-quarters of Scripture, proper preparation for the ministry necessarily includes having a basic knowledge of the contents of the Old Testament. Further, this knowledge of the Old Testament is essential for all following exegetical courses, not only those pertaining to the Old Testament, but also to the New.

B. Course Goals

1. General: Students will

- a. Engage in personal study and application of the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions and other theological devotional writings in their personal and public life.
- b. Understand the Old and New Testaments and be able to apply the Scriptures effectively to their own lives and the lives of others.
- c. Understand Lutheran doctrine and practice, and explain the same clearly and without defensiveness.
- d. Integrate their learning from study in the theological disciplines (biblical, systematic, historical and practical) in their life and work.

2. Specific: Students will

- a. Cultivate a remembrance of location of important and well-known passages of Scripture.
- b. Have knowledge of chief personages appearing on the pages of the Old Testament.
- c. Recognize principle cities and provinces of the Holy Land and the ancient world.
- d. Know the general flow of Old Testament history.
- e. Have a grasp of the structure of books and their doctrinal themes.
- f. See the Messianic "thread" throughout the Old Testament.

C. Possible Texts/Materials

1. Bethel Bible Study or Crossways Bible Study
2. Concordia Self Study Bible (NIV)
3. Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament, Irving L. Jensen, Moody Press, 1978.
4. Walter Maier III, Old Testament Bible Correspondence Course, CTS Printshop (the CTS DELTO course)

D. Possible Units of Instruction

Unit 1 - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers

Unit 2 - Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-15

Unit 3 - 1 Samuel 16-31, 2 Samuel (1 Chronicles), 1 Kings, 2 Kings (2 Chronicles)

Unit 4 - Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Obadiah

Unit 5 - Joel, Amos, Hosea, Jonah, Micah, Isaiah 1-39

Unit 6 - Isaiah 40-66, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah

Unit 7 - Lamentations, Ezekiel, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Unit 8 - Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

E. Competency Exam

All students, whether or not they have a formal course dealing with the contents of the Old Testament, must pass the synodical entrance-level competency exam with a 70% or better score in order to fulfill the requirements of this syllabus.