



**Los Angeles District Training Center**  
**SYLLABUS: BIB-3013 - HEBREW PROPHETS**  
Fall Term, 2001

New Life Church of the Nazarene, 10650 Reseda Blvd., Northridge, CA 91326-3131  
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**INSTRUCTOR:**

Charles W. Smith, D.Min.  
3 Semester Hours Credit

Northridge New Life Church of the Nazarene  
Tuesday 6:00 to 10:30 p.m.

**COURSE SCHEDULE/OUTLINE**

- September 18 Introduction to Studying the Old Testament; Introduction to Studying the Bible; Introduction to the Prophets.  
25 Neo-Assyrian Period - Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Micah  
October 2 Neo-Assyrian Period - Isaiah; Neo-Babylonian Period - Zephaniah, Habakkuk  
9 - **No Class** (Pastor's & Wives Retreat)  
16 **Paper due (9-15 pages):** an exegetical study of a passage from one of the prophetic writings.  
23 Neo-Babylonian Period - Jeremiah, Nahum, Ezekiel, Obadiah  
30 Persian Period - Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah, Joel,  
November 6 - Persian Period - Malachi, Lamentations  
13 - **No Class** (COMDEX)  
20 Overview. **Paper due (2 pages):** a detailed sermon outline developed on the basis of the exegetical study.  
27 Last Class and Final Exam. **Paper due (2 pages):** a chart containing information about each prophet. **Final Exam.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

"An exegetical study focusing on the historical, literary, and theological dimensions of the prophetic books in the Old Testament." (College Catalog, page 81). Prerequisites: Intro to the Old Testament and Biblical Interpretation.

During the course the student will be exposed to the lives, times, and characteristics of the sixteen writing prophets of the Old Testament. Although knowledge of the books is an essential component of the course, the major emphasis will be upon understanding how to exegete the books and transform the exegesis into exposition. Important consideration will be given to the application of these prophetic messages in the New Testament and to modern times.

**COURSE ASSUMPTIONS:**

As a part of the course offerings of Nazarene Bible College, this class aligns with the mission of the college. Central to that mission is the preparation of adults for ministry -- usually first-time ministry. All course work, lectures, projects, etc., will focus on entry-level praxis of ministry. Although it is recognized that some students taking this course may have pastoral experience, others will not. Therefore, we will all start together at "ground zero." If some information seems overly simplistic for the experienced, your insights will assist others who are in the beginning stages of their learning curve.

**TEXTS:** Bullock, C. Hassell. An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books. Moody Bible Institute, 1986.

A Student's Guide to Exegetical Work. NBC internally published document, 1998.

**Recommended Reading:** Bright, John. Kingdom of God. Series A. Rev. ed. Abingdon Press, 1980.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The following are competencies for Ordination Course of Study which are achieved by this course: Ability to identify the basic thrust of each major section of the Old Testament.

At the conclusion of the course, the disciplined, serious student will be able to:

1. Explain the theological purpose of the Old Testament in general and the prophets in particular.
2. Identify the three major historic periods that comprise the approximate 350 years during which the prophetic books were written.
3. Comprehend the chronological order of the prophetic writings and the relationship of the prophetic books to the Biblical historical books.
4. Articulate the authorship, date, context, and basic content of each prophetic book.
5. Recognize the theological and practical issues of each book.
6. Develop the ability to conduct in-depth, intensive exegetical studies of the Hebrew prophets.
7. Achieve an appreciation for the fact that God-called prophets of the Old Testament era were persons just like us who were attempting to find God's will for their lives.
8. Master the technique of moving from exegesis to exposition.

### **SPECIAL COURSE INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Avoid the serious offense of plagiarism by simply referencing all quotes and ideas that come from any source other than you.
2. We understand that a spouse or friend may assist you with a paper by proofreading it for grammar and content. However, to allow another party to virtually (no pun intended) "do the assignment for you" is unacceptable.
3. The student is encouraged to read ahead as necessary in order to be prepared for each week's discussion. "Scan" read when needed. This does two things for you. It gives you a passing acquaintance with the material overall, and it helps you to decide which areas you need to focus on for a more detailed study effort.
4. Each student will work on three projects during the six weeks of the course. One will be an exegetical study of a passage from one of the prophetic writings, the second will be a detailed sermon outline developed on the basis of the exegetical study, and the third will be a chart containing information about each prophet. At times indicated in the syllabus you will be expected to report on the progress you are making with the projects.
5. By the sixth day of each session, students will be required to submit a brief summation of the most significant aspects of that week's seminar.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

One will be an exegetical study of a passage from one of the prophetic writings, the second will be a detailed sermon outline developed on the basis of the exegetical study, and the third will be a chart containing information about each prophet.

1. Read thirteen of the sixteen prophetic books in their entirety. Read the following sections from the longer prophecies: Isaiah 1-4, 6, 9-11, 21, 37, 40, 43, 51, 55, 59, 61, 66; Jeremiah 1-5, 13, 15-16, 20, 23, 25, 29, 33, 37, 52; Ezekiel 1-3, 8-10, 12, 13, 22, 33, 37, 40, 48.
2. Utilize the textbook as a SUPPLEMENT to course lectures. Scan the material prior to the seminar to facilitate discussions. You will not be expected to “digest” the text.
3. Develop a seven column chart showing the name of the prophet; the date of the writing; the home and Nation of the prophet; the prophet’s occupation; the destination of the prophecy (who were the hearers?); the historical, political, and religious occasion of the writing; and the message of the book. The chart must be submitted by the end of the course, November 27.
4. Choose a passage from a prophetic book of your choice on which to conduct an exegetical study. The study must follow the standard NBC format and should be 9-15 pages long. The passage must be at least five verses in length. The completed assignment is due October 16.
5. On the basis of your exegetical study, develop a detailed sermon outline for a message that can be preached in your current church or in a future assignment. The outline is due November 20.
6. The course will conclude with a 100 point final exam that will be taken entirely from lecture materials.

## **GRADING PROCEDURE:**

You will be given points for each assignment and for participation in the course. Your grade will be based upon the following:

Attendance and participation in dialogue with classmates and the instructor. 25 points possible each week	200 points
Weekly Scripture readings. 20 points possible each week	160 points
Exegetical Study	240 points
Sermon Outline	150 points
Chart	150 points
Exam	<u>100</u> points
Total Possible Points	1,000 points

Persons accumulating 900 or higher will receive an A for the course  
Persons accumulating 800-899 points will receive a B for the course  
Persons accumulating 700-799 points will receive a C for the course  
Persons accumulating 600-699 points will receive a D for the course  
Persons accumulating less than 600 points will fail the course

NOTE: If you complete the assignments on time (exegetical study, chart, and the sermon outline) and if that assignment meets the specifications outlined in this syllabus, the base grade will be a "B" or 85% of the points possible. To receive an "A" on an assignment, it must be superior (see catalog description of "A" work) in content, grammar, punctuation, etc.