



Course Name: The Torah: its Message and Application for Our Lives BSO522

Lecturer: Dr. Seth Postell

Day and time of course:

Monday, October 3 – December 19, 2022
16:00-19:00 (ZOOM)

Email: seth@biblecollege.co.il

School year: 2022-2023

Course Description

This course is a study of the Torah (Genesis–Deuteronomy) from a literary (“close-reading”) perspective with the goal of discerning the theological message of the book. Special emphasis is given to its macro-structure, narrative analogies, and the literary context of the legal materials within the book for the purpose of addressing the question of the believer’s relationship to the law today.

Course Goals

1. To show how a close reading helps us discern how individual passages in the Torah have meaning within the book as a whole
2. To show how a close reading of the Torah helps us make sense of the New Testament’s interpretation of the Torah, and more specifically, those passages in the New Testament that specifically address the believer’s relationship to the commandments of the Sinai Covenant
3. To show how a close reading of the Torah helps us discover the Messianism of the Torah, and how its Messianism serves as the foundation for the eschatology of the Prophets, the Writings, and the New Testament

Learning Outcome

1. Students will be better equipped for interpreting individual passages of Scripture in the context of whole books
2. Students will be more informed and better able to defend the New Testament’s interpretation of the Torah
3. Students will be better equipped to share their faith about Jesus from the Book of Moses

Course Structure

The lessons will be held through a Zoom format, consisting of lectures and interactive discussions between all participants. There will be 10 three hour (with breaks) Live zoom lectures. Recordings will be

available to registered students to watch multiple times during the time of the course and for six weeks after it ends. It won't be possible to download video lectures to personal PC.

We cannot ensure the quality of zoom recordings should technical failures occur. We highly encourage students to participate in all live lectures.

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Requirements and Grading

Bible Reading: Students are required to read the Torah in its entirety and report to the professor in writing the total percentage of completed reading by the last day of class: December 19, 2022.	30%
Books and Articles: Students are required to read all the books and articles in the "Main Texts" list and report to the professor in writing the total percentage of completed reading by the last day of class: December 19, 2022.	30%
Paper: Students are required to write a paper explaining and defending their views on Sabbath observance and/or the dietary laws in Leviticus 11. Do believers have to keep the Sabbath (dietary laws)? Yes, or no? Why? Students are expected to interact with the course lectures and readings and to defend their views by dealing with all the relevant passages from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. The paper must be 12-15 pages in length and written according to Turabian format (with a cover page, footnotes, and bibliography, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, double space). The paper is due on the last day of class: December 19, 2022.	40%
Total Grade	100%

Main Texts

1. Seth D. Postell, *Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2019)
2. _____, "Abram as Israel, Israel as Abram," *Tyndale Bulletin* 67, no. 2 (2016): 161-82
3. _____, "Numbers 25:5-9, 15-19: The Distant Star," in *The Moody Handbook of Messianic Prophecy*, ed. Michael Rydelnik (Chicago, IL: 2019), 285-307
4. _____, "Messianism in Light of Literary Strategy," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 177 (July-September 2020):329-50
5. _____, "Messianism in the Hebrew Bible," in *Messianic Jewish Orthodoxy*, ed. Jeffrey Seif (Clarksville, MD: Lederer Books, 2016), 106-69
6. John H. Sailhamer, *The Pentateuch as Narrative* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995), 1-79
7. _____, "Creation, Genesis 1-11, and the Canon," *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 10, no. 1 (2000):89-106
8. _____, John H. Sailhamer, "The Messiah in the Hebrew Bible," *JETS* 44, no. 1 (March 2001):5-23

3.10	Introduction to the Course, Compositional Analysis, Narrative Analogy	
10.10	<i>Feast of Tabernacles, no class</i>	
17.10	<i>Feast of Tabernacles, no class</i>	
24.10	The Macrostructure of the Torah, the Last Days, and the Messiah	
31.10	Genesis 1-11 and the Analogy to Israel	
7.11	Deuteronomy 30-34 and the Prophecy of Israel	
14.11	The Torah's Evaluation of the Sinai Experience: Before & After	
21.11	Blessing in the Seams of the Torah and the Messianic Hope (Gen 3, 49; Num 24)	
28.11	The Prophet Like Moses	
5.12	The Functions of the Law: Prosecuting Attorney, Tutor, Shadow	
12.12	The Functions of the Law: Theology, Love, Wisdom, Promise	
19.12	Messianic Jewish Identity and the Hebrew Roots Movement	

General Bibliography

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- בזק, אמנון. עד היום הזה. ידיעות אחרונות וחמד, תל אביב, 2013.
- גרסמן, יונתן. אברהם: סיפורו של מסע. ידיעות אחרונות וחמד, תל אביב, 2014.
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- זקוביץ, יאיר. מבוא לפרשנות פנים מקראית. אבן יהודה: רכס, תשנ"ב.
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- מזור, לאה. הקשר הדו-כיווני בין גן העדן והמקדש. שנתון לחקר מקרא והמזרח הקדום יג (תשס"ב), עמ' 5-42.
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- פונקמשטין, עמוס. פרשנותו הטיפולוגית של הרמב"ן. ציון מה, א (תש"ם), עמ' 35-59.
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